



## City of Dallas

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 6, 2006**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

### MINUTES

#### **Members Present**

James Mitchell, Chair  
Diane Benjamin  
Carol Barnett Davis  
Jon (Tad) Heimbürger  
Linda Sharp  
Keith Kwoh  
Sylvia Lagos  
Tom Peck  
Barbara Pittman  
Chris Schulz  
Mary Vogelson  
Mary Warner

#### **Members Absent**

Casie Pierce

#### **Public Present**

None

#### **Staff Present**

Peer Chacko, Development Services Department  
Patsy Mitchell, Interim Assistant Director, EHS  
Ahsan Khan, Manager, Food Protection & Education, EHS  
Lilia V. Gonzalez, Coordinator, EHS

#### **Minutes**

Mr. James Mitchell, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Environmental Health Commission to order at 9:05 a.m. The minutes from the February 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

#### **Alternative Development Planning**

##### **Peer Chacko, Development Services Department**

Mr. Peer Chacko informed the commission that the Development Services Department has been working on Forward Dallas! for about 18 months. A lot of effort has been made to get the word out. Forward Dallas! is a comprehensive planning process. It is considered a long range, citywide planning to guide growth and development. It established policies and an agenda of actions to move the City towards a desirable and sustainable future. A comprehensive plan could protect stable neighborhoods, retain Dallas' quality of life, revitalize and stabilize urban areas, and sustain growth to

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strengthen Dallas' tax base. Forward Dallas! has a broad public input through public surveys, interactive community and citywide workshops, and open houses. Mr. Mitchell asked that the conversation be continued and asked that materials be provided to the commission and once the commission members have had the opportunity to review the materials then ask that Mr. Checko return. Mr. Checko provided the commission with a copy of his presentation.

**Update of Food Inspection**  
**Ahsan Khan, Manager**

Mr. Ahsan Khan informed the commission that the Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER) with amendments to Chapter 17 Food Code was adopted on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The Decade Envision field inspection system was implemented the second week in January 2006. The Envision office system is presently being used. Mr. Khan stated that he is still working with CIS to update the website. He informed the commission of the new changes in the food code.

Mr. Khan informed the commission that the old software/hardware system required the field inspections to be manually completed and logged through the Legacy system. The new Decade-Envision software tracks inspections, generates inspection related reports, handles financial processes involved in permitting and tracking food establishments. It also is applicable for field inspections used within retail, mobile and temporary food establishments. The new software upgrade will improve productivity because of its increase in inspection frequency; the decreased time spent on inspection, efficiency in tracking of production, enables staff to redesign assignments and schedules, increases staff accountability, and automatically tracks renewals which enhance the enforcement of the ordinance.

The website allows citizens to access scores on a month by month basis. CIS is in the process of structuring the database and working out technical and security issues before the website goes live in May 2006. Citizens will be able to access food inspections scores by establishment name, street address, or zip code. The enhancements to the website are easy to read, it explains the scoring system, and provides a clear and concise formula for the establishment score. The website will also include web links to Department of State Health services, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Disease Control.

A copy of Mr. Khan's presentation was provided to the commission members.

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**Commission Reports**

Mr. Mitchell attended a meeting on emergency planning in case of a pandemic flu outbreak. He informed the commission that planning for a possible pandemic flu outbreak is underway by various departments within the city. City departments were asked to gather information and determine what critical and essential duties each department would be able to contribute if a pandemic flu outbreak would occur.

Mr. Mitchell informed the commission that Dr. John Carlo of Dallas County Health & Human Services was named Chief Medical Director. Dr. Bruener was the Chief Medical Director and is now focusing on the bioterrorism issues. Mr. Mitchell also informed the commission that Dr. Carlo will meet the Commission at next month's meeting.

Mr. Mitchell reported that he met with the Director of the Health Department at the City of Richardson. He met with the Director at that City of Richardson to find out if they have a plan in place in case of a potential pandemic flu outbreak. Mr. Mitchell reported that the City of Richardson has no plans in place for preparedness.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Commission that the Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee has been unresponsive to the letter sent to its chair person. He will continue to get information through Casie Pierce.

**Staff Reports**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Signature: James E. Mitchell, Chair, Environmental Health Commission