



## City of Dallas

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**December 5, 2005**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

### MINUTES

#### **Members Present**

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

#### **Members Absent**

Casie Pierce  
Chris Schulz

#### **Public Present**

None

#### **Staff Present**

Dave Howe, City Attorney's Office  
Patsy Mitchell, Interim Assistant Director, EHS  
Lilia V. Gonzalez, Coordinator, EHS

#### **Minutes**

Mr. James Mitchell, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Environmental Health Commission to order at 9:01 a.m. The minutes from the November 7, 2005 meeting were approved as amended.

#### **Preparation for the Bird Flu**

##### **Dr. John Carlo, Chief Epidemiologist, Dallas County**

Dr. John Carlo was trained as an engineer and received a Master's Degree in biomedical engineering. He continued on to medical school and was trained as a general surgeon and decided that private practice wasn't something he wanted and decided to get into public health instead.

Dr. Carlo gave a background on the relationship between Dallas County and City of Dallas and how the health integrates in public health. Dallas County and the City of Dallas have been coordinated together since the 1930s and 1940s on public health.

**EHC Minutes**  
**December 5, 2005**  
**Page 2**

The health authority who is Dr. Carlo's boss is actually is the health authority and medical director for the City of Dallas as well. It is a very good working relationship.

He mentioned that a lot of other cities and municipalities around the country have a lot of problems between counties and municipal district when talking about public health. Houston is a good example with Harris County and the City of Houston. In talking about Dallas County health it usually refers to the city of Dallas as well with some exceptions.

Dr. Carlo assured the commission that there is no way to get the flu from the flu shot. The serum merely contains components of the virus that in no way could reconstitute themselves into a working virus inside the body.

Dr. Carlo's presentation provided a good background on the Avian Flu and discussed preparedness measures being taken by health care institutions and professionals. He agreed to return for the Commission's January meeting to help us more fully discuss community preparedness.

**Commission Reports**

None

**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