

**State of Texas  
County of Bexar  
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes  
City Council A Session**

No in-person access to this meeting

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

**Videoconference**

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. City Clerk Tina J. Flores took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. The Invocation was delivered by Bishop David Copeland of New Creation Christian Fellowship, guest of Mayor Nirenberg.
2. Mayor Nirenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Approval of Minutes from the City Council Meetings of September 17, 2020, September 30, 2020, and October 1, 2020.

Councilmember Perry moved to approve the Minutes of September 17, 2020, September 30, 2020, and October 1, 2020. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYE:** 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Courage, and Perry

**ABSENT:** 1 - Pelaez

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Item 15, 16, 17, and 19 were pulled for Individual Consideration. Mayor Nirenberg announced that Items 9 and 24 were pulled by staff and would not be considered.

## **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan stated that it was a privilege to bring forth the Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual March of 2021. She noted that this year's theme was "Rise Up for Justice," and was what City Council had done throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, racial uprisings, and all the other challenges that 2020 brought forth. She noted that the 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March would be the first virtual march and virtual celebration of its kind and presented a video sample of the virtual MLK March. She invited everyone to watch Monday morning on January 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM on Channel 4 and on TVSA. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan ended her statement with a quote from the late Dr. King, "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

## **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Councilmember Sandoval announced that January was National Blood Donor Awareness Month and stated that since the COVID-19 Pandemic began, the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) had experienced an extreme blood supply shortage. She challenged Councilmembers to a friendly competition of hosting Blood Drives in each Council District and invited the public to visit the STBTC website and schedule an appointment to donate blood. She invited the public to attend a STBTC blood drive to be held at Crossroads Baptist Church on Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the Individuals registered to speak on the Consent Agenda.

Jack M. Finger spoke in opposition to Items 14 and 25. He noted that Item 14 was regarding the Metro Health's continued participation in the Medicaid 1115 Program and that he opposed the Program for various reasons. He spoke in opposition to Item 25 regarding a Resolution of no objection for Prospera and the San Antonio's Housing Trust PFC's application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for tax credits.

Brad McMurray, Vice President of Property Development for Prospera Community Services, spoke in support of Item 25. He noted that Prospera was a 501(c)3 non-profit affordable housing provider and had served the San Antonio community since 1993. He added that Prospera placed a high priority on providing supportive services to their residents to ensure that they had access to quality homes.

Councilmember Sandoval highlighted Items 13, 14, and 20. She stated that the grant funding for Metro Health was critical to its operation. She added that most of its operations were grant funded and not locally funded. She noted that Metro Health was responsible for many services ranging from disease prevention services to violence prevention services. She recognized Metro Health's continued efforts to monitor and protect air quality.

Councilmember Sandoval recognized the reappointment and appointment of VIA Board Members and thanked Laura, Melanie, Javier, Bob, and Athalie for volunteering to serve the San Antonio community.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the remaining Items on the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYE:** 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

**2021-01-14-0001**

5. Ordinance approving a contract with Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, LLC, to provide the San Antonio Fire Department with up to four Wildland Brush Fire Trucks for a total estimated cost of \$960,828.00. Funding in the amount of \$720,221.00 is available from the FY 2021 Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund Budget for three trucks, and \$240,608.00 is available from the 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for an additional truck. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**2021-01-14-0002**

6. Ordinance approving a contract with Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc., for a total estimated cost of \$762,680.00, which includes the purchase of four network printers for \$306,630.00 and maintenance and support services for a three-year term with the option to extend for two additional one-year periods for an estimated total cost of \$456,050.00. Funding for purchase of the printers and the first year of services is available from the FY 2021 Adopted Purchasing & General Services Fund budget. Funding for subsequent years of maintenance and support is subject to appropriation as part of the annual budget process. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**2021-01-14-0003**

7. Ordinance approving the following contracts establishing unit prices for goods and services for an estimated annual cost of \$461,400.00, included in the respective department's FY 2021 Adopted Budget:
- (A) River Birch Way, LLC, dba Batteries Plus Bulbs, and Genuine Parts Company, dba NAPA Auto Parts, for automotive, industrial, and utility batteries; and
  - (B) Ask Reply, Inc., dba B2GNOW, for diversity management software for the Economic Development Department.
- [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

**2021-01-14-0004**

8. Ordinance awarding the FY 2021 Pavement Preservation Package 3 - Base Repair Task Order Contract to J&P Paving Co, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$892,632.25 with reimbursement from San Antonio Water System and CPS Energy in an amount consistent with necessary adjustments to their existing infrastructure related to street maintenance pavement preservation projects identified in the Infrastructure Management Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2021-01-14-0005**

10. Ordinance awarding a construction contract to SpawGlass Civil Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$10,032,682.08 with reimbursement from San Antonio Water System and CPS Energy in an amount consistent with necessary adjustments to their existing infrastructure for the North St. Mary's Street (East Mistletoe Avenue to West Josephine Street) project, a 2017 Bond funded project, located in Council District 1. Funds are available from the 2017- 2022 General Obligation Bond Program and are included in the FY 2021 - FY 2026 Capital Improvement

Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**2021-01-14-0006**

11. Ordinance approving the Fourth Amendment of Lease Agreement with San Saba Opportunity Fund, LP for the expansion of the San Antonio Fire Department's leased premises at 215 South San Saba for 27 months, with an initial monthly rent of \$2,092.50, for a total cost of \$58,405.86 over the term of the lease. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development & Operations]

**2021-01-14-0007**

12. Ordinance approving the submission of 19 grant renewal applications and the acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$13,642,823.00 from the Texas Department of State Health Services for public health functions of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022; approving a personnel complement; and approving Memoranda of Agreement with no exchange of funds associated with these grant-funded projects. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

**2021-01-14-0008**

13. Ordinance approving the submission of two grant renewal applications, one to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and one to the Department of Homeland Security related to the Public Center for Environmental Health's local air monitoring efforts; approving the acceptance of funds in a total amount up to \$472,593.00 from TCEQ and DHS for a period beginning July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022; and approving a personnel complement. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

**2021-01-14-0009**

14. Ordinance approving the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's continued participation in the Medicaid 1115 (a) Demonstration Waiver Program known as the "Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program"; submission of intergovernmental funding transfers in an amount up to \$6,725,831.34; acceptance of the submitted IGT reimbursement amount; acceptance of up to \$10,000,931.51 in federal incentive payments from the Waiver Program; and, approving the submission of up to \$35,000.00 for non-reimbursable IGT to the Waiver Program for monitoring and compliance for a period beginning October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022; and, approving Memoranda of Agreement that enhance program services with no exchange of funds associated with these grant-funded projects. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

**2021-01-14-0011**

18. Ordinance approving the extension and funding of the CPS Energy Conservation and Sustainability Save for Tomorrow Energy Plan (STEP) Program through July 31, 2022, through an adjustment in the fuel surcharge. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

**2021-01-14-0013**

20. Ordinance approving the submission of eight applications to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Associate Program and the assignment of up to eight Public Health Associates in the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for a two-year period beginning

October 2021, and the execution of necessary documents. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

**2021-01-14-0014**

21. Ordinance approving a professional services contract with Occupational Health Centers of the Southwest, PA, d/b/a Concentra Medical Centers, in an estimated annual amount of \$787,000.00, to provide occupational health services to include pre-employment physicals and drug testing, random drug testing in compliance with the Department of Transportation, immunizations for specified City departments, promotional examinations for uniformed Police and Fire employees, and fitness for duty evaluations for a three-year term beginning March 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2024, with two renewal options. Funding is available in the FY 2021 Employee Benefits and Workers Compensation Self-Insurance funds. [Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer; Lori Steward, Director, Human Resources]

**2021-01-14-0015**

22. Ordinance awarding up to \$500,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to Merced Housing Texas for a Minor Home Repair Program. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

**2021-01-14-0016**

23. Ordinance awarding up to \$300,000.00 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding to Community Housing Development Organizations. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

**2021-01-14-0003R**

25. Resolution of No Objection for Prospera and the San Antonio Housing Trust PFC's application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Non-Competitive 4% Housing Tax Credits program for the rehabilitation of West Avenue Apartments and the demolition and reconstruction of Arbor Place to form a new community, The Arbors at West Avenue, a 234 unit affordable multi-family rental housing development located at 3747 & 3815 West Avenue in Council District 1. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

**2021-01-14-0017**

26. Ordinance approving ten On-Call Civil Engineering Services Agreements with Kimberly-Horn and Associates, Inc., AJL Engineering, Ford Engineering, Inc., RPS Infrastructure, Inc., Mendez Engineering, PLLC, Lockwood Andrews & Newman, Inc., Gonzalez, Kypuros and White, Inc., Maestas & Associates, LLC, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc., and Bain Medina Bain, Inc., each in the amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 per contract year for as-needed civil engineering services related to projects approved as part of the Infrastructure Management Program and Neighborhood Access Mobility Program. Each agreement is for a term of one year, with the option to renew for up to one additional one-year extension at the City's discretion in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00 per contract for all terms. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

27. Approving the following two items relating to the proposed annexation of land by the Westside 211 Special Improvement District: [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Bridgett White, Director, Planning]

**2021-01-14-0004R**

- 27A.** Resolution granting the City of San Antonio's consent to the annexation of an approximate 136.759 acre tract of land located southwest of the intersection of State Highway 211 and Potranco Road in Bexar County, Texas and within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction by the Westside 211 Special Improvement District.

**2021-01-14-0018**

- 27B.** Ordinance approving a Third Amended Agreement for Services in Lieu of Annexation setting forth terms and conditions to the City of San Antonio's Consent to the annexation of a 136.759 acre tract of land located southwest of the intersection of State Highway 211 and Potranco Road in Bexar County, Texas and within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction by the Westside 211 Special Improvement District

**CONSENT ITEMS CONCLUDED**

**ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

Mayor Nirenberg announced that he would consider Item 15 first. City Clerk Flores read the Caption for Item 15.

**2021-01-14-0010**

- 15.** Ordinance reappointing Bob Comeaux (Union Representative) and Athalie Malone (Representative of Transportation Disadvantaged) to an expired term of office to end December 31, 2021 and appointing Laura Cabanilla, Javier Paredes, and Melanie Tawil to an unexpired term of office to end December 31, 2022 to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]

Councilmember Viagran thanked the Governance Committee for their thorough review of all the applications to provide a slate of candidates for interviews and consideration. She thanked Bob Comeaux and Athalie Malone for their service to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees and for their leadership and desire to be reappointed.

Councilmember Viagran asked Laura Cabanilla, Javier Paredes, and Melanie Tawil to provide a brief statement and answer questions from the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated that she was excited about the incredibly talented group of individuals that applied to serve on the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees. She recognized that they were all driven to serve the City and expressed confidence in them, especially after hearing their enthusiasm and willingness to serve San Antonio.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the selection process was vigorous and nominating a new chair was a important during the transition into a post-pandemic recovery. He noted that he was particularly interested in how the new stimulus funds would be used to augment operations and the \$61 million that could come forth through the new COVID Act. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the candidates that were recommended and recognized the qualified applicants and stated that he looked forward to their service and renewed collaboration with the City and the Via Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve Item 15. Councilmember Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYE:** 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

City Clerk Flores read the caption for Items 16 and 17.

**2021-01-14-0001R**

**16.** Resolution confirming the reappointment of John T. Steen to a term through January 31, 2026 as a member of the CPS Energy Board of Trustees. [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]

**2021-01-14-0002R**

**17.** Resolution reappointing Mayor Ron Nirenberg, John Steen, Ed Kelley, Willis Mackey, Juanita (Janie) Gonzalez, Paula Gold-Williams, and Gary Gold to the SA Energy Acquisition Public Facility Corporation Board of Directors for terms through January 31, 2023; and approving amendments to the PFC Bylaws. [Tina J. Flores, City Clerk]

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the individuals registered to speak.

Isabella Briseno spoke in opposition of the reappointment of John Steen to the CPS Board of Trustees. She expressed concern with not being able to vote for CPS Board Members.

Dr. Terry Burns, Chair of the local Sierra Club, spoke in opposition of the reappointment of John Steen. He noted that the CPS Board should approve advanced energy efficiency programs and work on critical issues such as closing the Spruce Coal Plant.

Dee Dee Belmares spoke in opposition of the reappointment of John Steen. She noted that Mr. Steen needed to create a pathway to closing the Spruce Coal Plant.

Aaron Arguello with Move Texas spoke in opposition of the reappointment of John Steen and urged City Council to table the discussion.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked the individuals that spoke today and those that submitted comments for the record. She noted that Chair Steen always took her calls and was always open ready to discuss issues or concerns.

Councilmember Courage noted that Mr. Steen had been a steady member and a level mild force on the CPS Energy Board and that he listened, which was important. He added that the proposed action was the appointment of individuals to the Public Facilities Corporation (PFC) Board of Directors. He questioned whether the court could limit what the City of San Antonio could do in overseeing or recommending changes to the structure or management of CPS Energy. City Attorney Andy Segovia asked if Councilmember Courage was referring to the 1205 Hearing in Austin Texas; if so, he noted that the hearing did not impact City Council's ability to do what it wanted to do regarding the Bond Covenants and the current structure of CPS. City Attorney Segovia clarified that whatever the City's rights, responsibilities, and powers were before the 1205 Hearing remained the same after the hearing. He suggested convening in Executive Session to discuss legal issues further.

Councilmember Courage expressed his support for Mr. Steen to continue to serve on the CPS Board of Trustees. He added that he supported the PFC Appointees with a bit of trepidation as he felt CPS Energy had not been forthcoming regarding the reduction of our energy reliance on coal and several issues that had been brought forth.

Councilmember Pelaez noted that he believed that comments from Ms. Briseno, Dr. Burns, and Ms. Belmares were firmly and sincerely held but they did not meet the signature threshold for the petitions they circulated. He added that their words rang hollow if they thought they were denied. He expressed support for Mr. Steen and added that his work for the State of Texas, the City of San Antonio, and CPS Energy was unquestionable.

Councilmember Treviño expressed his support for Mr. Steen and noted that Mr. Steen was incredibly responsive when called upon. He stated that there were some questions and concerns that had resonated with some in the community and noted that Paula Gold-Williams expressed disappointment that the Environmental Stakeholder Group had disengaged communications with CPS Energy. He added that that it was important for CPS Energy Leadership to rebuild the relationship with the group.

Councilmember Treviño asked Mr. Steen to discuss how he planned to use his second term to rebuild the bridge with the Environmental Stakeholder Group. He stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic had created delays in public engagement efforts and that it was urgent to move forward with the Rate Advisory Committee. He recognized vulnerable populations and households in need of programs that reduced energy demand and improved their quality of life, such as the Under One Roof Program. He added that the Under One Roof Program had provided over 1,000 area families with highly reflective white roofing which reduced energy usage.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked Mr. Steen for his service and for the number of changes that had occurred under his tenure, such as the closure of the Deely Power Plant. She congratulated Mr. Steen for making CPS Energy the number one service provider of solar energy in Texas. She thanked him for opening the CPS Energy Meetings to the public, adding public comments to the meetings, and livestreaming meetings; and noted that there was great expectation from the public in terms of transparency, accountability, and access to information. She thanked Mr. Steen for supporting the establishment of the Rate Advisory Committee and requested his assurance that the Rate Advisory Committee would have access to any information it deemed necessary to do its work. Councilmember Sandoval asked Mr. Steen to discuss his service with CPS Energy. Mr. Steen stated that he enjoyed serving on the CPS Board of Trustees and noted the long hours and efforts required to serve the community. He stated that his short answer was yes, that he helped stand up the Rate Advisory Committee, and noted that members had not yet been appointed. Mr. Steen thanked Mayor Nirenberg for his large role in the creation and support of establishing the Rate Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked Mr. Steen of his opinion on public distrust issues as heard in the public comments today. She asked of the continued distancing between CPS Energy and some environmental constituencies such as the local Sierra Club and environmentally-concerned citizens. Mr. Steen stated that energy was a very important issue for the community and evoked passion in many people, and it was not surprising that some energy conversations were tense. He reported that CPS Energy had met with the Environmental Stakeholder Groups (ESGs) for over ten years and expressed disappointment in the recent break. He noted that the ESGs had a significant impact on the closing of the Deely Power Plant, and the ESGs and CPS Energy shared many of the same goals. He stated that he looked forward to shifting future conversations to issues that both organizations agreed with in order

to move forward and deliberately on some environmental issues. He added that he was doing all he could in his position to bring people back together and hoped to make progress right away. He emphasized that he listened to the voices of the community that called for more transparency and accountability and noted that CPS Energy had made significant strides in that regard and would continue to do so.

Councilmember Perry commended Mr. Steen on his service and past performance and thanked him for establishing a Rate Advisory Committee. He noted that it took strong leadership to make solar energy number one in the State and fourth in the nation and that technological advancements did not occur overnight. Mr. Steen replied that there was a time delay in establishing a Rate Advisory Committee during the COVID-19 Pandemic and could not overemphasize how it impacted CPS Energy in every way. He added that CPS Energy was launching an exciting global search for more megawatts of solar capacity, new storage, and additional stabilizing energy in a Flex Power Bundle Initiative. He noted that this initiative could potentially make CPS Energy number one in the nation in solar energy.

Richard Perez, CEO & President, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, stated that he supported the reappointment of Mr. Steen. He noted that Mr. Steen represented not only the business community, but San Antonians at large with his vast experience and knowledge that has brought value to the community.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia voiced her appreciation for Mr. Steen's record of service. She expressed concern about the growing number of residents in Council District 4 that requested utility assistance and asked of the plan CPS Energy had to improve its services and address the economic burdens of the residents. She asked of a plan for local preference for small businesses that were impacted by COVID-19. She asked how he developed Board Leaders that would continue to engage the public. Mr. Steen acknowledged the stress that residents faced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and noted that CPS Energy had not had a rate increase in over five years. He added that a reporting of the Chair's Priorities was introduced at every CPS Energy Board meeting to present all current cost savings incurred by CPS Energy and which contributed to local utility rates being the lowest of any major city in Texas. He reported that CPS Energy had a number of utility assistance programs available to residents and no disconnections were activated. He added that CPS Energy proactively reached out to over 14,000 residents by phone to work out payment plans and that a substantial number of families had been assisted through this approach. Mr. Steen noted that CPS Energy planning discussions about hardships and paying bills included small businesses. He explained that the Board had a very robust process and utilized its CPS Energy 101 Program wherein members of the public interested in serving were invited to an introduction session to review duties and expectations.

Councilmember Viagran noted that the City's mantra of continuous improvement was key. She asked how CPS Energy Board Meetings were held during the COVID-19 Pandemic and made the recommendation for the meetings to be held and accessible online. She noted that the new administration would have new energy guidelines and called for a meeting with the municipal agencies to confer on alignment with the guidelines. Mr. Steen replied that meetings were held telephonically and included an active public comment.

Councilmember Treviño asked how Mr. Steen planned to use his second term to grow the Under One Roof Program partnership and other programs that had an environmental and social impact on the community. Mr. Steen stated that he was committed to the partnership and would make it a priority.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Mr. Steen for his service and expressed appreciation for his thoroughness and

openness through dialog with many different concerned groups. He acknowledged his level of inclusion and focus on bringing people together to solve complex energy problems. He stated that he looked forward to Mr. Steen's continued service in moving forward with significant energy issues.

Councilmember Perry moved to approve Items 16 and 17. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYE:** 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 4.

**4. Briefing on the City's response and preparedness on COVID-19. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]**

Dr. Colleen Bridger stated that Bexar County currently had 138,000 reported cases of COVID-19, with a seven-day rolling average of 1,600 cases per day, an estimated 18,000 active cases, and a total of 1,685 deaths confirmed. She noted that the surge of cases was more prolonged and slower than the July 2020 surge. She urged the public to maintain safety practices of social distancing, wearing face masks, washing hands often and staying home during this critical period.

Dr. Bridger reported that COVID-19 vaccination efforts focused on four priorities, as follows:

- Monitor vaccine doses received and administered
- Expand access to mass vaccination clinics
- Ensure equity was at the heart of vaccine distribution
- Clearly communicate to the community where the vaccine was available

Dr. Bridger reported that Bexar County had received 154,500 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine that represented a four-week period and an average of 30,000 doses per week. She added that hospitals, private pharmacies, and private medical practices had administered 62,000 doses to date and it was anticipated that the City's mass vaccination clinic would administer approximately 30,000 doses by the end of the week.

Dr. Bridger stated that four mass vaccination clinics were operational in the San Antonio/Bexar County area:

- Wonderland Mall – 1,600 doses per day
- Alamodome – 1,500 doses per day
- WellMed Cisneros Site – 1,000 doses per day
- WellMed Lopez Center – 500 doses per day

Dr. Bridger reported that there were over one million individuals currently eligible for the vaccine and noted the challenge to vaccinate as many people as possible on a weekly basis with no ability to plan ahead, as the City was only notified of the amount of doses it would receive just a few days before shipment. She indicated that as more vaccines became available, locations would be expanded from mass sites to microsites in areas responsive to the greatest need. She added that a mapping index was created to identify areas with the highest need in a tri-layered system that factored in the City's equity

score for each census tract, COVID-19 cases per census tract, and COVID-19 mortality rate by census tract. She reported that the map index identified Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as priority areas and emphasized that staff was actively working to embed equity in all vaccination efforts, and the current focus was to provide access to the vaccine to those Council Districts at a higher rate than others. She noted that as vaccine supply increased, access would be expanded across the City.

Dr. Bridger reported that Community Health Workers were deployed to census tracts in Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to provide vaccine information and to register seniors that did not have access to the internet or that were unsure of the process. She stated that the COVID-19 Response Coalition (CRC) would expand its efforts and the name would be changed to the COVID-19 Community Response and Equity Committee (CREC) to reflect the intent to include community members in the equity-based decision-making process, communications about the importance of getting vaccinated, and vaccine locations.

Dr. Bridger outlined the next steps in the City's vaccination delivery process, as follows:

- Iterate improvements in vaccine delivery
- Continue to advocate for more vaccines
- Expand CRC to CREC with a focus on community representation
- CHP Team outreach in hotspots for testing and vaccinations
- Continued improvements in data and communications

Dr. Bridger reported that the City would continue to advocate for more vaccine doses through the State and the Federal Government and noted that there was no reason the Federal Government could not ship vaccines directly to the City.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the individuals registered to speak.

Jack M. Finger stated that the large spike in the number of COVID-19 cases was due to several reasons published in recent news articles.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked Dr. Bridger, Dr. Kurian, and Major General Jimmie Keenan for their tireless, round the clock efforts and acknowledged the WellMed team on its focused, equitable approach and for offering their locations as vaccination sites. She thanked all the volunteers and the numerous college and universities that offered their campuses as mass vaccination sites. She noted that over 17,000 robo calls were made to seniors and over 5.6 million calls were made to the COVID-19 vaccination hotline and handled by over 150 WellMed operators. She thanked her Council Colleagues and everyone that worked on vaccine efforts through an equity-centered focus.

Councilmember Viagran thanked Dr. Kurian for her dedication and hard work. She noted that consistency in the next steps were key and guidelines from the State and Federal Government were needed. She noted multiple gaps in vulnerable areas that were in need of vaccination sites and requested a map of COVID-19 testing sites on the City's COVID-19 webpage. She thanked the Mayor, the City Manager, Metro Health, and team members and staff for their efforts. She asked of duplicate registrations of individuals at multiple vaccination sites. Dr. Bridger explained that there were approximately ten percent duplicate registrations detected by staff on a daily basis. She stated that there were only a limited amount of appointments available and urged the public not to sign up more than once.

Councilmember Sandoval noted that the hardest part of her job was now hearing from people asking for any available assistance to get the COVID-19 vaccine. She added that a mapping index was created to identify areas with the highest need in a tri-layered system that factored in the City's equity score for each census tract, COVID-19 cases per census tract, and COVID-19 mortality rate by census tract. She reported that the map index that identified vaccine priority areas was a fundamental guide to the vaccine distribution efforts. She asked how many individuals outside of Bexar County had registered for vaccine appointments. Dr. Bridger stated that she would provide the data and noted that the majority of registrants were predominately Bexar County residents. She added that it was important to note that it was a State requirement to make the vaccine available to anyone who meets the Phase 1A first tier and second tier criteria regardless of where they reside.

Councilmember Pelaez stated that the recent mass vaccination event at the Alamodome was a huge success and thanked Dr. Bridger for finding 9,000 people to receive the vaccine in a very short matter of time. He noted that there were a lot of rumors and conspiracy theories that appeared on social media which fueled doubts and mistrust among the general public. He relayed that a reporter called to ask him if Mexican Nationals were flying into the City on private jets to get vaccinated and asked Dr. Bridger to confirm if she had heard of such allegations. He asked Dr. Bridger if she had ever offered any Councilmember a vaccine dose and asked her to confirm if the City had a policy of giving preference to one side of town more than others. Dr. Bridger confirmed that she was unaware of reports of Mexican Nationals receiving vaccines. She noted that preference was given through the lens of equity to vulnerable residents in identified census tracts.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan thanked Fire Chief Hood and the Fire Department for serving the community. She asked Dr. Bridger to address residents that were skeptic or fearful of taking the vaccine. Dr. Bridger stated that the vaccine for COVID-19 was safe and was developed in a similar fashion to other vaccines and had been tested in a number of clinical trials with worldwide expert reviews. She noted that a small number of recipients had minor reactions to the vaccine that would typically resolve on their own. She added that the vaccine was developed on a model used for decades to safely vaccinate people and urged anyone worried about its safety to read the information readily available on how safe the vaccine was.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked Chief Hood how homebound seniors or those with disabilities would be vaccinated. She noted that inner city parks and sports complexes could be utilized as vaccination sites. She asked if the Information & Technology Services Department (ITSD) could create a database tool that could identify and remove duplicate registrations. Chief Hood reported that the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Team was deployed to the front lines of the vaccination program at the Alamodome and would soon go out to smaller, vulnerable areas. He noted that key challenges were lack of vaccines for smaller venues and staff shortages. Dr. Bridger stated that Metro Health and ITSD were collaborating efforts with the software vendor to eliminate duplicate registrations.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if small pharmacies would be receiving the vaccine. Dr. Bridger reported that Metro Health had been informed that vaccine supply would be scarce for the next few weeks and the State would focus on the vaccine supply for mass vaccination events and disburse 20% of its supply to private pharmacies and smaller venues. She added that the Federal Government was contracting directly with private pharmacies to vaccinate residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities and long-term nursing facilities.

Councilmember Courage commended the work of Metro Health staff and partners for the last 10 months that have helped to track the virus and limit its spread. He asked why a central vaccine registry was not developed in advance and called for ITSD and IT partner agencies to develop one as soon as possible. Dr. Bridger reported that Metro Health was notified during the first week of January 2021 that the State changed its decentralized distribution plan to a mass distribution plan. She noted that Metro Health had been informed by the State that the distribution plan to be implemented would be the same as for seasonal flu vaccination drives with dosages to be made available through local pharmacies. She explained that the City had to pivot to adapt to the change within a week's notice.

City Manager Walsh concurred that his office had been receiving similar phone calls and noted that the change to a mass distribution plan was being addressed by all cities across the nation. He stated that the City's goal was to be as transparent and responsive as possible and noted that other areas across the country had created waiting lists which would not solve the issue of not knowing when the next vaccine rollout would arrive and how many dosages it would contain.

Councilmember Treviño thanked those working hard on vaccine distribution efforts. He asked of the City's approach on vaccine distribution strategies and if the City was advocating at the State level for a strategic approach that would better serve the local community. He asked if a community dashboard could be created and updated in real time to track local availability and access to the vaccine. He asked of the City's strategy to immunize the homeless population. Dr. Bridger stated that the City had advocated for and had planned a decentralized approach with a focus on vulnerable and disenfranchised populations which was approved by the Federal and State Governments; however, not enough vaccine dosages were being delivered to decentralized locations and the State changed its approach to a mass distribution plan. She noted that the State developed a dashboard to track vaccine shipments to every city and county and the problem was that there was not enough vaccine. She added that VIA was providing free transportation to individuals that had appointments at local pharmacies and had no transportation access. Dr. Bridger stated that as soon as the State expanded distribution beyond mass vaccination sites, the homeless population was at the top of the priority list for the deployment of mobile vaccine units.

Councilmember Perry observed that an initial shipment of 154,000 dosages was received on December 22, 2020, with 39,000 dosages still on hand, and one million eligible residents still waiting for the vaccine. He asked if the State would potentially speed up its next shipment to the City if the 39,000 dosages were administered as quickly as possible. He recommended that additional vaccination sites be established with an advance staffing plan in place in readiness for the next shipment(s). Dr. Bridger reported that the 39,000 dosages were reserved for local hospitals to vaccinate their employees, and the 30,000 dosages received on January 13, 2021 would be completely administered by this Saturday. She noted that the Medical Reserve Corps were actively recruiting volunteers for staffing at all mass vaccination sites. She noted that many contingency plans could be made, but the State was in control of the amount of dosages it distributed and would revert to its original decentralized distribution strategy in two weeks and provide private pharmacies with dosages; thus, removing the need for mass vaccination sites. She noted that the City was only three days into its initial set of mass vaccination clinics and already had an expansion plan ready.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic began in March 2020 and private COVID-19 testing sites were established in the summer, but not primarily on the Southside. She referenced a study conducted by the Bexar County Health Collaborative several years ago that identified life expectancy disparities of almost two decades within Bexar County. She called for equity with local

vaccine distribution efforts and for everyone to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that residents from other Council Districts reached out to her Council District for assistance with COVID-19 resources and that she refrained from asking them what zip code they resided in and personally tried to help each resident. She stated that she wished to remind everyone in the A Session audience that the vaccine would be accessible to everyone through an equitable distribution plan. She noted that there was already a lack of access to health care on the Southside and Westside and she and her council colleagues worked together to bring vaccine distribution to those areas. She emphasized that the Councilmembers represented the entire city and everyone was in this together.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if Metro Health would partner with local nursing schools for volunteer staffing. She recommended that School District facilities and stadiums be used as vaccination sites. Dr. Bridger reported that the City was working with all area nursing and medical schools to include them in the City's vaccination distribution plan. She stated that School District facilities and stadiums were on the list of potential locations for future vaccination sites and noted that the problem was not having enough sites across the City, but was the lack of enough vaccine.

Fire Chief Hood reiterated that logistically, staff could set up a vaccination site anywhere in one day and had already done so, and the lack of vaccine remained the issue.

Dr. Bridger stated that she would include a link to the State's COVID-19 website and noted that Bexar County and Harris County had distributed the most vaccines to date, with Harris County being five times larger than Bexar County. She stated she was proud of the City's efforts within the first ten days of the executed local vaccine distribution plan.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that anyone that had been to any of the mass vaccination sites would be impressed with the level of efficiency and coordination involved. He reiterated the challenges and frustrations faced by residents, Metro Health, and staff that had to pivot quickly given dramatically changing guidance from the State. He noted that the first City Budget with an equity lens was passed in 2017 and he thanked the City Council for having stayed the course ever since. He added that the City would continue to stay the course beyond a full generation in order to make a significant change and stay true to the purpose and the cause of equity. He noted that San Antonio was singled out for its equitable approach in its response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including the vaccination process. He added that a recent news article stated that San Antonio stood tall among its peer cities with its equity approach, which was so important, given the City's diverse population.

City Clerk Flores read the caption for Item 19.

**2021-01-14-0012**

- 19.** Ordinance approving a renewal and amendment of an agreement with Communities in Schools of San Antonio for the continuation of behavioral mental health counseling services for teens and/or their families affected by domestic violence for a term ending June 30, 2021 for an amount up to \$150,000.00. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager, Interim Director, Health]

Mayor Nirenberg noted that Councilmember Rocha Garcia would recuse herself from Item 19.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve Item 19. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

**AYE:** 10 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

**RECUSED:** 1 - Rocha Garcia

**PULLED by STAFF**

9. Ordinance awarding the 2021 - 2022 Task Order Contract for Flatwork and Repair Package 3 to S&B General Contractors, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,286,017.25 with reimbursement from San Antonio Water System and CPS Energy in an amount consistent with necessary adjustments to their existing infrastructure related to construction services for flatwork and street improvement projects identified in the Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program and Infrastructure Management Program. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

**PULLED by STAFF**

24. Ordinance approving Substantial Amendment #2 to the FY 2021 HUD Action Plan and Budget to program \$10,249,127.00 in second round CDBG CARES Act funding and reprogram \$4,325,000.00 in CDBG funds. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**28. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Erik Walsh stated that this past Monday was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. He noted that in a normal year, the City would have held a large press conference but could not do so this year due to COVID-19. He stated that education, outreach, and the enforcement of human trafficking laws continued to be a priority issue with Metro Health, Human Services and the Police Department.

City Manager Walsh announced that Chief Engineer Razi Hosseini had been selected as Engineer of the Year of Professional Engineers. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hosseini for his thirty years of service with the City. He thanked him for his leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic and during the financial crisis.

City Manager Walsh recognized the MLK Commission for its excellent tribute video produced in lieu of its annual largest MLK Parade and celebration in the nation. He thanked Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan, Fire Chief Hood, Assistant City Manager David McCary, and Police Chief McManus for their excellent efforts in bringing forth a Virtual March and making it possible to continue to honor Dr. King's legacy of courage and determination for the noble fight of civil rights. He recognized the planning and coordinating efforts undertaken by the Parks Department, Neighborhood Housing Services Department, Police and Fire Departments, Arts and Culture Department, Public Works Department, and the Development Service Department to produce the virtual tribute. He stated that the video was a moving tribute that was very well done.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 12:55 PM to discuss the following items:

- A.** Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B.** The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C.** Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D.** Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Legal issues relating to COVID-19 preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney)].
- F.** Deliberate the security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology, network security information or the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices and related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.089 (security devices and audits) and Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- G.** Discuss the 2020 evaluation timeline and process for the City Manager, City Auditor, City Clerk, and Presiding Municipal Judge and any related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters) and Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 4:00 PM and announced that no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG**

Mayor

Attest:

**TINA J. FLORES**  
City Clerk

DRAFT