

City of San Antonio



City Council B Session

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

2:00 PM

Videoconference

ROLL CALL

Acting City Clerk Tina 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. Briefing on a preliminary plan for use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Presentation will provide an overview of the City's COVID-19 Response priorities; and a preliminary Community Recovery Resiliency Plan for City Council input and discussion. [Maria Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager]

Assistant City Manager Dr. Colleen Bridger reported that the priorities identified included Response, Recovery, and Operations. She noted that the COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Plan (Plan) focused on community recovery and the following five guiding principles:

1. Public Health and Safety – Ensure continued COVID-19 related public health and safety while building resilience and fostering economic stability for households, non-profits, and businesses.
2. Equity – Imbed equity in policy decisions and distribution of resources.
3. Braided Funding – Integrate Local, State, and Federal resources to achieve maximum impact.
4. Community Resilience – Ensure households and businesses affected by COVID-19 have the resources and tools to become financially resilient and better prepared to withstand future economic challenges.

5. Well-Being – Strengthen generational family well-being built upon a solid foundation of thriving non-profit organizations.

Dr. Bridger stated that the Plan synthesized themes and priorities from other City Reports and the COVID-19 Community Action Workgroups including:

- Comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention Plan
- Poverty Report
- Status of Women Report
- Homeless Strategic Plan
- Mayor’s Housing Policy Framework
- Economic Transition Team
- City and County COVID-19 Working Groups

Dr. Bridger provided a snapshot of potential community partners with whom the City anticipated working with. She presented the matrix and noted that it was modified based on input received from the City Council. She stated that each program on the matrix would fall into one or more of the following four pillars:

1. Workforce Development
2. Small Business Support
3. Digital Divide
4. Housing Security

Dr. Bridger reviewed the following proposed programs, their associated pillar(s) and potential partners:

Provide temporary child care support for working families*	Provide workforce training and support services with focus on high demand jobs	Provide cash assistance and peer support of families through Fii expansion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Digital Divide • Housing Security
United Way, San Antonio Area Foundation, Workforce Solutions Alamo	Workforce Solutions Alamo, Alamo Community College District, SAWorks, chambers of commerce (work-based training)	H.E. Butt Foundation, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, San Antonio Area Foundation

Create a Fair-Housing Counseling and Family Resource Center	Create a virtual and place-based Financial Recovery and Resilience Hub for residents	Connect residents to low cost financial products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Digital Divide • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Housing Security
SAHA, SAHT, LISC, affordable housing and support services providers, financial institutions, SARAH, faith-based community	Family Service Association, LISC	Cities for Financial Empowerment, San Antonio VITA Coalition partner agencies, local financial institutions

Create virtual and place-based Financial Recovery and Resilience Hub for small businesses	Deploy outreach teams to conduct door-to-door engagement with hard-to-reach micro businesses and families*	Micro business support* (businesses with 20 or fewer employees)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Digital Divide • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Digital Divide • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support
WDC, SAGE, Southside First, Centro, SAEDF, LiftFund (Women’s Business Center), SBDC, Maestro Center	SAEDF, partnering with Small Business Support organizations, housing non-profits and other housing support organizations	LiftFund

Create a digital referral platform for joint case management	Create CoSA Recovery Portal website	Distance learning project to provide in-home internet access to students in vulnerable communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Digital Divide • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Digital Divide
Kronkosky Foundation, United Way, San Antonio Area Foundation, STRAC		ESC Region 20, San Antonio Housing Authority, Digital Inclusion Alliance of San Antonio, Bexar County, Communities in Schools, IDRA, VIA, CPS

Videotelephony Platform	Provide additional emergency homeless shelter options	Expand domestic violence prevention and intervention strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Small Business Support • Digital Divide • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Housing Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Housing Security
United Way, San Antonio Area Foundation, Workforce Solutions Alamo	South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, Haven for Hope, SAMMinistries, St. Vincent De Paul, San Antonio AIDS Foundation, BEAT AIDS, LISC	Family Violence Prevention Services, Bexar County Family Justice Center, Alamo Area Council of Governments (seniors), Adult Protective Services (seniors), STTICC, CCDV

Dr. Bridger reported that on May 28, 2020 the next version of the Plan including the Budget and the funding sources would be presented to City Council. She noted that another briefing would be made to City Council and feedback would be incorporated into the Plan which would be presented to City Council on June 4, 2020 for consideration.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if the hubs for administration and services were setup to access funds. Dr. Bridger replied that the hubs would be established to provide a one-stop shop for services.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the City must ensure that Workforce Development was aligned with industries that would be part of the post-COVID-19 era. He noted that the City should try to achieve a permanent solution for the Digital Divide. He added that resources to safely start small businesses back up again should be emphasized.

Councilmember Perry stated that funds should be concentrated into small businesses.

Councilmember Courage stated that the City should provide support to microbusinesses, and businesses with 50 to 100 employees. He noted that most workforce training would have to be conducted digitally. He added that he wanted to see more discussion on Public Health and Safety. He expressed support for investing an additional \$25 million for Housing Security.

Councilmember Pelaez suggested that Project Quest be added for Workforce Development and Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) for the Digital Divide.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that she would like to know what the metrics for success were. She added that the Equity Indicator Report, the HTT's Plan, and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) should be included along with a group or a grant to provide technical assistance to retail businesses. She noted that she would like to see Small Business Support augmented with funds for paid time off for employees.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated that she would like to see a Coronavirus Financial

Dashboard with information on funding received by the City, funding sources, what the funds were spent on, and the City's balance relative to the deficit.

Councilmember Gonzales asked staff to consider additional funding for Small Business Support from grants or organizations.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that the City should ensure that families have the skills and support needed to transition into full family wage employment. She expressed concern that Project Quest was not included. She asked if Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF) could be utilized through partner organizations. City Manager Walsh reported that it could.

Councilmember Viagran expressed support for expansion of parks and working with the childcare partners of Pre-K4SA. She stated that she would like to see a significant portion of the funds allocated to housing assistance and the COVID-19 Emergency Housing Program.

Councilmember Viagran asked what the short-term, mid-term, and long-term strategies were. City Manager Walsh reported that Housing, Small Business Support, and Workforce Development were short-term strategies and some of the strategies required additional funding.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if the City would connect with seniors by going door-to-door. Dr. Bridger replied that they do as they were delivered meals or in other ways. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan requested an analysis of the business sector. Assistant City Manager, Carlos Contreras stated that he would work with Workforce Solutions Alamo to complete the analysis.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan stated that she would like to incentivize small businesses for on-the-job training or hiring expansion and inclusion of the Tenant Rights Association for Housing.

Councilmember Treviño requested regular updates on the shower trailer which was on order. He expressed support for the Under One Roof Program and the Arts. He asked of the Arts in the Plan. City Manager Walsh reported that an element of the Arts would be included in the Plan.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that it was extremely important that the City had the ability to protect, preserve, and build upon intangible aspects of the City regarding Arts and Culture. He invited the City Council, possibly through the council committees, to reinvent the way that the City and the community fund the Arts.

Mayor Nirenberg suggested approving Guiding Principles through the process of adopting the CRF Plan.

RECESSED

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 3:53 pm until May 21, 2020.

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 10:31am on May 20, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 10:32 am to discuss the following items:

- A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIOB 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. DISCUSS LEGAL ISSUES RELATING TO COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY).\

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 11:44 am and noted that no action was taken in Executive Session. There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk