

City of San Antonio



City Council B Session

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 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 the Airport System readiness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Presentation will provide an overview of the on-going efforts to maintain and build consumer confidence of passengers, visitors and employees in the San Antonio Airport System. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jesus Saenz, Director, Aviation]

Aviation Director, Jesus Saenz provided an overview of enplaned passengers for March 2020 through May 2020 noting the daily averages for March 2020 (7,047), April 2020 (736), and May 2020 (1,327). He indicated that prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the airports were experiencing significant continuous growth through the first of the year.

Mr. Saenz stated that an average of 2.5 million passenger deployments were seen nationally prior to the pandemic. He reported that during April 2020 there were days where national passenger deployments were below 90,000. He noted that prior to the pandemic, San Antonio Airports averaged 15,000 passenger deployments per day which decreased to as low as 600 passenger deployments per day.

Mr. Saenz reported that at the beginning of May 2020 enplanements began to climb to 1,000 and have now risen above 2,000.

Mr. Saenz reviewed the enhanced sanitation efforts made at the airports to include hand sanitizer, thorough cleaning, temperature checks for employees, screens, seat covers, team building, and leading by example.

Mr. Saenz stated that floor decals were placed at the TSA checkpoint line, car rental facilities, ticket counters, and any area where queuing was necessary. He noted that several readiness improvement projects were completed including replacement of lighting in Terminal A, restriping of roadways, and power washing.

Mr. Saenz stated that an Airport Stakeholder COVID-19 Task Force was created and was comprised of the following five predominant horizons:

1. Resilience
2. Reimagination
3. Resolve
4. Return
5. Reform

Mr. Saenz indicated that this model format would produce necessary processes, facility system, equipment, communication, and safety procedures and principles.

Mr. Saenz indicated that the airports would receive \$39.7 in Cares Act funding which would be utilized to cover monthly debt service payments through December 2020, recover funds for payroll impact (January-September 2020), fund reserves for potential longer-term recovery, and support project expenses for COVID-19 related recovery.

Mr. Saenz stated that limited hours of operation have been maintained by concessionaires and the City would not consider adding new providers until 70% operations were achieved.

Mr. Saenz reported that the airport would have 53 non-stop departures, which was a level not seen since 2008. He stated that staff developed a Clean Airport Playbook which was comprised of various activities and guiding principles to ensure consumer confidence. He presented a video depicting the safety measures taken at the Airport.

Councilmember Perry asked if all airport employees were still employed. Mr. Saenz replied that they were and 40 positions that were vacant had been frozen. Erik Walsh added that the Cares Act funding received by airports required them to continue to employ at least 90% of employees through December 30, 2020.

Councilmember Courage asked if any arrangements were made for those leasing property at the airport. Mr. Saenz replied that deferments would be provided to the rental car companies, concessions, land and ground lease tenants, and the airlines.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the membership of the Airport Stakeholder COVID-19 Task Force. Mr. Saenz stated that the task force was led by himself and the airport executive team. He noted that two middle managers from the airport were members along with representatives from the rental car companies, airlines, Federal agencies and concessionaires.

Councilmember Gonzales asked why people were coming to San Antonio. Mr. Saenz replied that they came to San Antonio for business or leisure and staff were completing forecasting

models.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if staff was trained in the use of the Xenex machine. Mr. Saenz replied that the Xenex machines were not in use at the airport as they had not been purchased. He stated that the procurement process was ongoing.

Councilmember Viagran asked if temperature checks were conducted on passengers. Mr. Saenz replied that they were not, but staff was monitoring what was occurring nationally. Councilmember Viagran asked if supplies were purchased from local vendors. Mr. Saenz stated that he would provide that information.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked who was responsible for sanitation of aircrafts. Mr. Saenz replied that the airlines were responsible for sanitation of aircrafts.

Councilmember Treviño spoke of the opportunity to promote Stinson Municipal Airport to the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Mr. Saenz noted that the task force was developing strategies to take advantage of such opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the City Clerk to summarize public comments received.

Michael Cloud stated that he was proud of San Antonio, the City Council, the Mayor, and other public servants for their management of multiple crises and for safeguarding the health and welfare of the citizens.

Leah Hernandez expressed concern regarding the San Antonio Housing Emergency Rental Assistance and the length of time required to obtain assistance.

Anthony Pestello stated that all Police Officers should have a law degree in order for them to properly enforce the law.

Pete Araiza stated that an emergency room physician and his personal physician told him not to get tested for COVID-19 unless symptoms were present. He noted that the City promoted testing of individuals without symptoms and asked of the basis for that recommendation.

Elia Mendoza expressed concern that there was not enough Law Enforcement Personnel to handle the looting at RiverCenter Mall and in the downtown area.

William Johnson stated that the police had the primary task of protecting and serving citizens. He asked that the City Council ensure that police training was more focused on mental abilities rather than physical abilities. He noted that the next police contract must insure that police were held accountable for their actions at all times.

Mr. Romero expressed support for extending the deadline for the Emergency Housing Assistance

Program.

Amanda Stephens stated that African-Americans were incarcerated at a higher rate than whites. She recommended that the San Antonio Police Department and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office post monthly reports to include the number of arrests by gender, race, and complaints made.

Sean Vina stated that the police needed more than reform and noted that a complete cultural revolution within law enforcement was needed.

Adrian Rodriguez stated that he read a recent Council District 7 newsletter which called for investing in contact tracing, emergency readiness, supplies, food delivery, etc. He noted that those should be invested in with funds from the Federal Cares Act,

Amanda Merck stated that she was a public health professional and expressed concern that racism and implicit biases have corrupted our understanding of public safety in San Antonio. She noted that residents faced incompetence and inaction on one hand and hyper-enforcement on the other.

Robert Viera asked if the City Council was prepared to push for removal of the controversial practice of Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR) from use in the SAPD General Manual of Procedures to avoid San Antonio from being the next site of a negative incident by police.

Patty Zaiontz recommended that City Council deny the request for a zoning change for Item Z-16 on tomorrow's City Council agenda. She noted that this parcel of land was within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and the amount of impervious cover associated with this type of development would be detrimental to the sensitive recharge area.

Ruby Vela stated that she did not condone violence or the destruction of private and public property. She noted that the police and the National Guard should not be allowed to cause bodily harm to peaceful protestors or the media for refusing to adhere to local and State curfews.

Mayor Nirenberg announced that public comments from individuals requesting a live call back would be heard at this time.

Rick Treviño asked for a delay in the vote for the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan to allow for authentic public participation. He stated that if there was no delay in the vote people would consider this illegitimate.

Stella Valez asked the City Council to delay their vote on the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan due to lack of public input.

Liz Para requested that the vote on the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan be delayed, allowing more time for public input on the allocation of funds.

O. Martin stated that she had issues with the following rules set out in the Collective Bargaining

Agreement: 1) Delay in interviews with the accused officer; 2) Accused officers review of evidence prior to the investigation; 3) 180-day statute of limitations; 4) Disciplinary records not considered; and 5) Limited civilian oversight.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that Meredith McGuire would be contacted to get a written statement since they experienced technical difficulties in accepting her call.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk