

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Meeting**

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

2:00 PM

Phone/Video Conference

ROLL CALL

The City Council convened in a Special 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

Once a quorum was established, the City Council considered the following:

1. Ordinance under which the City of San Antonio would establish a community wide registry for COVID-19 vaccination registration so that individuals who want a COVID-19 vaccine can provide contact information to vaccine providers that can use the registry to contact registrants as vaccines become available.

Assistant City Manager Colleen Bridger recognized the leadership of the other mass vaccination sites in the City. She reported that Bexar County led the large city counties in the number of individuals fully vaccinated (18%). She stated that 30% in Bexar County had received one dose and there were over 100,000 individuals with an appointment scheduled for vaccination. She provided the following information on vaccination of the public:

Age Group	Doses Administered	Number with at Least One Dose	Fully vaccinated	Population	% with at Least One Dose	% Fully Vaccinated
16-49	282,802	187,466	99,243	954,450	19.6	10.4
50-64	197,477	130,472	69,799	320,389	40.7	21.8
65-79	188,668	113,800	76,344	177,151	64.2	43.1
80+	46,909	29,094	18,200	54,226	53.7	33.6
Unknown	284	261	25	-	-	-

Dr. Bridger provided data on the total number of vaccines administered at the four mass vaccination sites.

Vaccination Site	Total Vaccines Administered	Vaccinated with One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
University Health System	255,371	151,877	103,494
WellMed	117,509		
Alamodome	112,222	54,109	26,466
UT Health	99,697	37,142	6,588

Dr. Bridger reported that the University Health System (UHS) had the largest site and was located in the Wonderland of the Americas Mall. She noted that UHS had assisted in the vaccination of teachers and staff from area independent school districts and individuals could register online with phone-in options available. She stated that WellMed collaborated with Metro Health Community Health Workers to schedule appointments for vulnerable populations, such as those over the age of 65 and those living in priority census tracts which had higher rates of COVID-19 mortality, higher case rates for COVID-19 and higher equity scores. She indicated that the WellMed sites were the only sites for scheduling phone-based appointments.

Dr. Bridger reported that the Alamodome Mass Vaccination Clinic was staffed by Metro Health and the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) with over 100 volunteers per shift. She noted that it was the only drive-thru site in Bexar County. She stated that SAFD had provided over 6,500 doses to home-bound individuals as part of their Home-Bound Vaccination Program. She indicated that community vaccination clinics were held in partnership with UT Health and Metro Health. She noted that Bexar County had not received enough vaccines to vaccinate those 50 years of age and up and everyone 16 years of age and up with at least one underlying health condition. She added that beginning on April 5, 2021, everyone would be eligible for vaccination.

HASA Health Information Organization CEO Dr. Phil Beckett stated that HASA was formed in 2008 in San Antonio as a non-profit health information exchange by community leaders including community health systems. He indicated that the mission of HASA was to improve healthcare outcomes, lowering healthcare costs and improving the healthcare experience for patients and providers. He noted that HASA focused on the individuals who were 65 years old and older to get vaccinated.

Dr. Beckett reported that individuals could register through 3-1-1 to be placed on a wait list to

get the vaccine. He stated that 3-1-1 would collect demographic information and the individual would receive a confirmation that they were on the wait list. He indicated that a vaccination site could connect to the wait list to schedule individuals for a vaccination and they would be removed from the wait list at that time.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the City had more demand than supply for the vaccine and the City's ability to manage that in an equitable and targeted approach was impacted by the interplay between the Federal distribution process and the State's eligibility and allocation process. He noted that changes to the Texas eligibility guidelines and the Federal push for the vaccine had increased the demand for the vaccine overnight. He expressed concern for the residents who were unable to obtain vaccinations for a variety of social reasons. He asked how long the pilot program would last. Dr. Bridger stated that the pilot program would last until its success was seen. She indicated that if it was successful, the group that developed the pilot program would discuss if a pilot program was needed for a different population. Mayor Nirenberg asked if UHS was prepared to work with the system once it was implemented. Dr. Bryan Alsip stated that UHS supported the use of the HASA resource and had a long history of partnering with them. Bill Phillips spoke of the challenges of a registry and stated that it would be valuable to notify registrants to expect a call from a list of organizations related to obtaining a vaccination. Dr. Bridger stated that the system would be created to allow only individuals from Texas to register.

Councilmember Sandoval spoke of the individual's experience in scheduling an appointment for vaccination and noted that this was another tool for residents to utilize.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia spoke of the need for Spanish translation and addressing the needs of individuals with different needs.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the number of doses received by vaccine providers had increased. Dr. Bridger replied that they had not but an increase was seen in vaccines distributed by the Federal Government to pharmacies. Councilmember Viagran asked if vaccine providers would be able to contact individuals in the registry who lived in a certain zip code. Dr. Bridger stated that they would.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how the registry would accommodate individuals who were blind or hard of hearing. Dr. Bridger stated that another individual or organization could register for individuals 65+ on their behalf. City Manager Erik Walsh added that Community Health Workers could act as proxies to register others.

Councilmember Treviño expressed support for the creation of a registry which would enable targeted actions and would make it more efficient to administer a booster if needed.

Councilmember Pelaez asked if the pilot program would be expanded if it was successful. Dr. Bridger stated that it would. Councilmember Pelaez stated that it was important that the public understood that the registry would not create more vaccines. Councilmember Pelaez asked if the registry would enable individuals to get the vaccine quicker. Dr. Bridger stated that it would as it would place individuals age 65 and older at the front of the line.

Councilmember Courage stated that the registry would provide a valuable service to the community and vaccine providers.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if the registry would permit an organization to register. Dr. Bridger stated that it would.

Councilmember Perry asked if there was a cost associated with the development of the registry. Information Technology Services Department Chief Information Officer Craig Hopkins stated that there would be a cost. Councilmember Perry expressed concern that there was no estimate of the costs associated with the registry. Dr. Bridger stated that the Ordinance would give the City Manager the authority to work out the details referenced. Councilmember Perry asked if the costs were over or under \$1 million. Mr. Hopkins replied that the costs would range between \$100,000-\$200,000.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if individuals who had difficulty standing or who had a disability could be moved to the front of the line. Dr. Bridger stated that they could and individuals were encouraged to stay in their vehicle until it was close to their appointment time. Councilmember Gonzales questioned the necessity of the registry.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed support for the creation of a registry and asked when the next large amount of vaccines would become available at the Alamodome. Dr. Bridger stated that recently, three weeks' worth of appointments opened up at the Alamodome.

Councilmember Perry asked where the costs for the registry would be funded from. Dr. Bridger stated that the City was awarded a grant from the Centers for Disease Control which would cover the cost of all COVID-19 vaccination activities.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if anyone could register and if the registry would be prioritized for those 65 and older. Mr. Hopkins stated that the registry would be advertised for those 65 and older but anyone could register.

Councilmember Sandoval moved to approve the Ordinance establishing a community-wide registry. 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, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

ABSENT: 1 - Pelaez

Mayor Nirenberg announced that City Council A Session would be held in person beginning on April 8, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 3:48 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.** Legal advice regarding election laws and open meeting procedures pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071
- 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 4:45 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
City Clerk