

# City of San Antonio



## City Council Special Session

No in-person access for this meeting

**Tuesday, August 11, 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. Staff presentation of the FY 2021 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments or Initiatives: [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Scott Huizenga, Director, Management and Budget]

### **A. UPDATE ON COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY & RESILIENCY PLAN**

#### **Metro Health Department**

Dr. Colleen Bridger provided an update on the COVID-19 Community Recovery, and Resiliency Plan (Plan). She noted that the response was trending in the right direction with the seven-day moving average of cases at 256. She stated that all other progress warning indicators were also trending in the right direction. She reported that the positivity rate was still over 12%, and the goal was 5% or below. She stated that approximately 265 staff worked full-time on the response to include: 78 Metro Health employees; 41 employees who had been furloughed and redeployed to this response; 65 temporary employees; 22 loaned staff; and approximately 60 staff from UT Public Health; with 20 additional staff deployed to 3-1-1 to answer the COVID hotline.

Dr. Bridger discussed the COVID-19 Community Response Coalition (CRC) which was born out of the Testing and Tracing Task Force that has now branched out into six different work groups that are guiding and informing both the City and Bexar County's response on COVID-19. She stated that the CRC consisted of approximately 200 community volunteers. She noted that 165 staff members performed case investigations. She stated that the contract with UT Public Health included the

capacity for up to 200 case investigators.

Dr. Bridger discussed contact tracing and case investigations and stated that those testing positive for COVID-19 were interviewed regarding those they had been in close contact with. She indicated that once those individuals' names and contact information were collected, the contact tracing could begin. She stated that currently the City's contract for contact tracing was with Emocha, who utilized a combination of technology and individuals to reach out to those<sup>4</sup> who have been named as a close contact to advise them that they should quarantine for 14 days. She noted that the City was also completing a transition to Texas Health Trace System, who would perform contact tracing for the City. She noted that a contract with UT Public Health which would allow us to hire up to 175 individuals to help with contact tracing.

Dr. Bridger noted that the COVID-19 hotline that was managed by Metro Health had been transitioned to 3-1-1. She stated that the City was working collaboratively with the State to ensure universal testing in congregate settings. She noted that 11 individuals were the liaisons to the congregate settings to ensure that test results were reported, and if there were positive test results, providing those recommendations and guidance on infection control practices.

Dr. Bridger stated that \$500,000 was allocated through the Health Collaborative to conduct two types of research projects, community partners' research and population research. She noted the results of a research study reviewing asymptomatic infections throughout the community. She stated that the City partnered with the CRC to inform some of the data analysis methods in use, as well as data sources which could be utilized to ensure reporting the best and most accurate available data. She noted the importance of the equity component in the Plan.

### **San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD)**

Chief Charles Hood discussed the timeline regarding the COVID-19 response beginning with the first telemedicine visit in February 2020 where Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) performed concierge services for visitors from China. He noted that cruise ship passengers from Japan and other cruise ship passengers arrived in March 2020 from San Francisco.

Chief Hood reviewed the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and establishment of a Unified Command between Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), Metro Health, and SAFD. He stated that operations, planning, and logistics were all part of the structure of the Unified Command. He noted that the areas of focus that were utilized included: (1) Communication; (2) Safety and Wellness; (3) PPE Management; (4) Fortifying Incident Command System (ICS) structure; (5) Surge Management; (6) Testing; and (7) Data Integration.

Chief Hood discussed the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program and its importance to the COVID-19 response. He noted that 200 SAFD personnel, 1,500 Texas Military Department personnel, and 15 Bexar County Emergency Services Department personnel had been trained to assist MIH and perform testing for COVID-19. He stated that MIH had conducted 119,000 tests,

with 58,000 conducted at Freeman Coliseum. He noted that approximately 3,000 tests were conducted per day at 18 different walk-up locations. He explained that MIH established a process for testing Large Congregate Settings, such as Nursing Homes and the Bexar County Jail, etc. He noted that there were 70 Nursing Homes and 60 Assisted Living Facilities in this region and that over 17,000 staff members and residents were tested. He stated that SAFD MIH deployed testing teams to 9 different jurisdictions around Texas and MIH staff were conducting testing at Haven for Hope seven days a week and assisting Metro Health with contact tracing.

Chief Hood discussed SAFD operations and procedures regarding decontamination of equipment. He noted that three decontamination sites had been established and over 2,300 ambulances had been decontaminated. He noted that Isolation Care Facilities were established at La Quinta with 125 rooms available and the Holiday Inn with 313 rooms available for any first responders, the general population, or any homeless individuals that were required to be isolated.

Chief Hood mentioned that new general orders and EMS protocols were implemented to protect SAFD staff members. He explained that enhanced PPE measures were required, such as not relying on N-95 masks and managing stockpiled PPE.

### **Metro Health Department**

Dr. Bridger presented the importance of Equity in the Plan. She noted that an Equity Matrix was utilized to determine where door-to-door engagement efforts should be focused. She stated that staff had entered areas with high equity scores, leaving informational door hangers, meeting with individuals regarding the transmission of COVID-19, the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and where to go for free testing.

Dr. Bridger stated that as part of the Plan, each of the strategies included specific participation goals based on race, ethnicity, gender, and income. She noted that there were additional preference points awarded in grant applications, such as for microbusinesses located in areas of the city with high equity scores. and businesses that are owned by people of color, women, and/or Veterans. She indicated that Metro Health partnered with community leaders to ensure staff contact with low-income communities of color.

### **Workforce Development & Small Business Assistance**

Assistant City Manager Carlos Contreras stated that the Workforce Development and Small Business Assistance pillars were assigned to the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee. He noted that the Workforce Development pillar had a \$75 million investment that was designed to be an emergency short-term response to the immediate needs of displaced workers in San Antonio. He stated that it provided short and near-term retraining, upscaling, and certifications, for up to 10,000 participants. He mentioned that this program was funded primarily through the General Fund and provided wraparound services, access to childcare, and a living wage stipend of \$450 per week per participant. He stated that the program would continue through September 2021

and that \$44.1 million of the total \$75 million was allocated for living wage stipends that could be used for such things as housing, food, transportation, and healthcare services.

Mr. Contreras discussed the expected outcomes for this program and noted that the focus was on displaced workers with a high school equivalency degree or less. He stated that these programs were intended to meet the participants where they were and were dedicated to providing the skills and assistance needed for occupations that were hiring. He stated that occupations targeted included construction trades, logistics, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, transportation, and information technology. He noted that these programs would assist participants in getting certifications but would help them achieve a high school equivalency degree giving them an opportunity to continue their education.

Mr. Contreras stated that the participant goals for the program were focused on reaching formerly incarcerated persons, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and those living in poverty. He noted that the programs would focus on those with high equity matrix scores of eight, nine, or ten; which were persons living in poverty with a high concentration of people of color.

Mr. Contreras stated that July 2020 was spent working with community partners negotiating contracts, standardizing intake, assessment, referrals, and engaging with community stakeholders. He noted that staff would receive monthly reports from each of the community partners designed to measure success. He mentioned that executed contracts would be assessed in November and December 2020. He stated that staff would provide monthly progress reports to the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee.

Mr. Contreras explained that the total investment for Small Business Assistance was \$38.1 million and included a robust door-to-door engagement component that was conducted by the community partners, such as the Westside Development Corporation, SAGE, Southside First, and CENTRO to target small businesses located in high poverty areas. He noted that this effort along with virtual and faith-based hubs would provide financial, technical, and other resources and assistance to small businesses that existed in these areas and would connect them with available resources so they could build a sustainable and resilient business.

Mr. Contreras presented the various grants for microbusinesses, nonprofits, arts nonprofits, and individuals. He stated that the grants were funded by Coronavirus Relief Funding through the CARES Act. He reviewed the eligibility criteria and indicated that the program was tailored to microbusinesses with 20 or less employees. He noted the types of businesses that were not eligible. He stated that close to 1,000 businesses would benefit from these grants and stated that 10% of the grant funds had been earmarked for non-profits.

Mr. Contreras discussed the grant applications received which were currently under review for eligibility and noted that 2,762 applications had been received. He mentioned that almost 44% of the grant applications received were from women-owned businesses and stated that women make up about 30% of the businesses owned in San Antonio.

Mr. Contreras noted that marketing efforts were focused city-wide but primarily in areas with high concentrations of poverty and persons of color. He stated that the highest number of applications received were from Council Districts 1, 8, 9, and 10. He mentioned the importance of ensuring an equitable distribution of the grant awards and noted that staff were scoring the applications based on the Equity Matrix which takes into consideration several factors, including poverty, concentration of poverty, and persons of color. He stated that applications would be scored based on a combined equity score that included locations within a census tract with high concentrations of poverty and would also take into consideration ownership by gender and Veteran status as well as whether those businesses have received prior funding through PPEs or Small Business Assistance. He projected that all grants would be awarded by September 2020.

Mr. Contreras discussed Arts Non-profits and individual artists grant applications. He stated that \$2.6 million in funding was earmarked for the arts groups. He noted that 47 applications were received for the \$2 million available for non-profits and 143 applications were received for the \$600,000 available for individual artists. He projected that up to 150 grants would be awarded by September 2020.

### **Housing Security**

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston presented information on the Housing Security pillar of the COVID-19 Community Recovery & Resiliency Plan. She stated that the total Housing Security pillar budget was \$50.5 million and included 7 strategies with the first strategy being door-to-door engagement. She stated that by December 2020, staff and community partners would have reached out to over 30,000 households in areas with high equity scores. She noted that the next strategy was a case management platform that would streamline information sharing in coordination across all City Departments, programs, and our non-profit agencies.

Ms. Houston stated that Phase 1 would be complete in early 2021 but would be limited to City Departments. She noted that Phase 2 would be complete in mid-2022 and would expand to non-profits and programs external to the City. She mentioned that three strategies were jointly referred to as the Financial and Housing Recovery Center. She stated that currently three locations were open, the Central Library, the Claude Black Community Center, and Neighborhood Place.

Ms. Houston stated that since opening on July 1, 2020 over 300 appointments have been made for housing assistance and 650 virtual sessions for financial counseling were held. She noted that some who are seeking financial assistance may be eligible for assistance from the Family Independence Initiative through the Cash Assistance Program and the Up-Together Program. She stated that the Up-Together Program was funded through philanthropy with the goal to identify 1,000 participants which would receive \$5,000 over two years to strengthen their social networks, set goals, and support one another as they achieve economic and social mobility. She noted that the Cash Assistance Program was funded for \$4 million and would provide 3,960 vulnerable families with \$500 in cash grants.

Ms. Houston mentioned that a major component of the Financial and Housing Recovery Center was the Emergency Housing Assistance and Right to Counsel Programs. She stated that approximately \$26 million of the \$50.5 million budgeted for the Housing Security Pillar was allocated to the Emergency Housing Assistance Program which was adopted in April 2020. She noted that as of August 9, 2020 the City approved approximately 12,000 applications totaling \$33.4 million with 1,600 additional applications under review or pending information. She reported that 150-200 applications were received per day and approximately \$2.5 million was expended per week. She noted several eviction intervention strategies such as the Notice of Tenant's Rights, Court Partnership, and expansion of Right to Counsel Services.

Ms. Houston stated that Homeless Services were budgeted for \$2 million to support 1,500 people that were at risk of being homeless. She noted that the services would include case management as well as short-term rental assistance. She stated that a significant portion of the funding would be utilized to help with rapid rehousing for individuals at risk of being homeless with housing assistance for up to 400 individuals and three to 24 months of utility assistance.

Ms. Houston reported that \$3.3 million was allocated to Domestic Violence strategies to support the Positive Parenting Program, the expansion of the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team, and the coordinated community response. She noted that by December 2020, the "Stay Positive Parenting" campaign will have generated at least 2 million impressions and at least 400 families will have enrolled in the online parenting program that will provide training to 200 professionals. She noted that by May 2021, at least 1,000 therapy sessions will have been provided to students who are experiencing violence in the home, and by June 2021, the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team will have provided case management services to 400 high-risk families.

### **Digital Inclusion**

Craig Hopkins discussed two ongoing projects, Connected Beyond the Classroom and the Recovery Portal which were both intended to be long-term approaches to help the community access information. He noted that Connected Beyond the Classroom intended to connect 20,000 K-12 students to their school district's network from their homes across 50 of the City's most vulnerable neighborhoods in eight Independent School Districts (ISD). He described the effort as both strategical and tactical in nature to build an equitable and long-term approach to solving the issue of connectivity within the digital divide for students.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned four components of the digital divide: (1) Connectivity to the internet; (2) Device; (3) Digital literacy; and (4) Affordability. He noted that Connected Beyond the Classroom was primarily focused on connectivity. He noted that when discussing what the eight ISDs needed to improve connectivity of their students, the immediate request was for 5,000 hotspots and \$1.2 million was dedicated to bridging that gap. He stated that \$2.5 million was earmarked for a Phase 1 Pilot Program that tested the long-term solution of a private LTE wireless system focused on three neighborhoods on the Westside of San Antonio with approximately 600 students from SAISD.

Mr. Hopkins stated that a private LTE wireless network could be placed in neighborhoods and provide network connectivity for a school within a mile and a half radius and its surrounding neighborhoods that resided mainly in SAISD and Edgewood ISD. He noted that ITSD and the Parks and Recreation Department were also working on Community Hubs within Parks Buildings and/or City Parks, similar to the internet provided within City libraries. He stated that there was an effort to bring the existing tele-coms fiber and infrastructure within the 50 neighborhoods, to an agreement with the ISDs. He stated that affordability was the main hurdle to those who do not have access to internet. He stated that the City would facilitate asking the tele-coms for different pricing structures for students.

Mr. Hopkins stated that approximately \$1 million would be spent on tactical hotspots, approximately \$4 million would be spent on core infrastructure and fiber, \$16 million would be spent on network access and wireless mesh, and \$6 million would be spent on the equipment needed for students to connect to the wireless networks in their home.

Mr. Hopkins discussed the creation and expansion of the COSA Recovery Portal. He stated that staff built a COVID-19 website within the main City website that included all data, information, programs, etc. in one place. He noted that this platform was expanded to encompass all programs discussed today. He stated that staff was partnering with Open City to create and maintain the portal. He noted that ITSD would roll-out all COVID-19 programs in phases between September 2020 – December 2020. He added that continuous updates and improvements would occur from January 2021 – March 2021.

### **Monthly Financial Report**

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez noted that the total investment for the COVID-19 Emergency and the Plan was \$492 million.

Ms. Villagomez noted the breakdown of investment in the community as follows:

- \$191 million allocated to the Plan
- \$55 million allocated to the Health Implementation Plan
- \$136.3 million allocated to eligible payroll and supplies
- \$25.5 million allocated to Emergency Housing Assistance Program – Phase 1
- \$50.6 million allocated to the Airport
- \$34 million allocated to other services such as, EOC, PPE, FEMA, etc.

Ms. Villagomez noted the different funding sources as follows:

- \$376 million from the Federal Government
- \$97 million from the City's General Fund
- \$5.4 million reallocated from the Housing Program to the Housing Security Plan
- \$4 million from the San Antonio Housing Trust to the Housing Security Plan

- \$3.8 million reimbursement from FEMA for EOC & Hotels used for isolation
- \$3.5 million from the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones
- \$2.3 million reprogrammed from the CDBG fund
- \$200,000 one-time private contribution

Ms. Villagomez stated that the largest grant received by COSA was \$270 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. She discussed how and when these funds would be spent. She noted that the Coronavirus Relief Fund had an expiration date of December 30, 2020, and \$96 million had already been spent from that funding source. She noted that \$135 million was anticipated to be spent on Small Businesses, Workforce Development, and the Housing Program by the end of the fiscal year and an additional \$38 million by December 30, 2020. She summarized that the City had spent \$130 million as of July 2020, anticipated spending an additional \$192 million in August 2020 and September 2020, \$156 million in FY 2021, and \$14 million in FY 2022.

Mayor Nirenberg acknowledged and thanked the COVID Working Groups which included the Commissioners Court Members, the Bexar County Judge, and Gordon Hartman who was the COVID-19 Working Groups Coordinator for their assistance with the pillars of the Plan. He recognized the nearly \$500 million of City allocated resources, including the CARES Act funds spent on relief and direct cash assistance which was most needed in the immediate term. He inquired of the Asymptomatic Study and if staff thought the results would have changed if they had done the study later. Dr. Bridger responded that she hypothesized that asymptomatic individuals were in congregate settings and fewer were out in the community.

Councilmember Perry requested more information regarding the aspirational goal for individuals completing the job training program and securing a job. Mr. Contreras responded that as the workforce development program progressed, the goals could and would be adjusted. Councilmember Perry noted his concern for spending approximately \$7,500 per person to complete the training program but expecting only 50% of those people to complete the program and secure a job. He requested information regarding grant funds to be distributed by Council District. He suggested more focus on immediate solutions regarding closing the technological gap and allowing school districts to budget for long-term solutions.

Councilmember Courage asked of the research grants and the studies they might produce. Dr. Bridger stated that one grant allowed research proposals to answer questions that the community had regarding COVID-19 and the other one was traditional academic research looking at novel epidemiological research practices such as a follow-up to the Asymptomatic Study. Councilmember Courage asked of utilizing fiber that CPS Energy already has available to bridge the technological gap. Mr. Hopkins responded that the CPS Energy fiber was included in the City's estimates. Councilmember Courage asked who would take on the expense of connecting the student to the internet. Mr. Hopkins stated that the City would initially take on the burden and set up the immediate connection, but in the future school districts would own the hardware, provide operational support, and all costs associated with that.



Councilmember Courage asked why most of the funds had been earmarked for future spending and why they were not spent earlier. Ms. Villagomez stated that it took time to work through the Health Implementation Plan and the Plan and determine what money to spend and in what places it was most needed. She stated that the bulk of the expenses had been in July 2020 and likely have not been entered as expenses yet.

Councilmember Pelaez asked for more information regarding the Emergency Housing Assistance Program and how it could be or has been improved. Ms. Houston stated that the process had been streamlined. She stated that if you submit a complete application, you should get a check within 10-14 days. She noted that there was no more than a two-week backlog in the system, with 1,500-1,600 applications in the system at any one time. She stated that the program must be audit proof and follow all Federal guidelines, which required documentation. She stated that if an application did not require any follow-up information, it would take 10-14 days to process from beginning to end.

Councilmember Sandoval inquired of the Right to Counsel Program and requested the number of evictions by Council District or area, and the impact of providing a representative from the City at Eviction Hearings. She requested information regarding the success rate of the City's efforts to combat the evictions and the door-to-door outreach. Ms. Houston responded that the City planned to provide outreach to over 30,000 households with a focus on areas that had high equity scores.

Councilmember Sandoval inquired why only \$2.4 million out of \$39 million had been spent from the Health Response Budget from March 2020 through July 2020. Mr. Walsh clarified that \$23 million of the Health Response Budget was earmarked for COVID-19 testing when the Plan was approved by Council. He stated that currently the State was providing the City with free testing paid through their Corona Relief Funds but cautioned that the State could pass the burden of the cost back to the City. He noted that if the State continued to pay for testing, this would provide a cushion of funds that could be redirected to other areas that need additional funding.

Councilmember Sandoval requested plans for the following scenarios: possible back-to-school wave, flu-season in combination with COVID-19, and/or a second wave of COVID-19. She asked that the plan include the source of funds and any other plans for the future.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked of the Dashboard reflecting the expenses and balances related to COVID-19 Relief Funds. She noted that the residents of Council District 6 had requested an accounting of the funds. Ms. Villagomez stated that the Dashboard would be ready by the next monthly budget report meeting in September 2020. Mr. Walsh noted that in the meantime, a report with the breakdown of funds that was provided to the Council would also be placed online for the public.

Councilmember Gonzales inquired of the homelessness issue and if funds could be redirected to assist with this issue. Dr. Bridger stated that the CDC recommended that homeless encampment be left alone until the positivity rate was below 5%. She stated that staff was partnering with CENTRO and others to determine if there were places where homeless could go during the day

instead of being on the street.

Councilmember Gonzales noted her concern that the City's response to homelessness was not sufficient and asked that more funds be redirected to this issue. Mr. Walsh reiterated that \$17 million was allocated for Homeless Services which included the expansion of emergency bed capacity and hotel leases through December 2020. He noted that the City added additional local dollars to increase the homeless outreach effort. He mentioned that \$6.5 million was allocated to the rapid re-housing of 400 households that need up to 2 years of rental assistance and care management. He stated that discussions would be held on homeless services when discussing the Department of Human Services budget.

Councilmember Gonzales inquired of utilizing existing IT infrastructure such as Google Fiber. Mr. Hopkins stated that the City would discuss leasing with providers which could be expensive. Councilmember Gonzales asked how success would be measured for the three IT Pilot Programs. Mr. Hopkins stated that success would be a wireless private LTE network for SAISD that was available to everyone in those neighborhoods and students would have access to it in order to login to school which would serve approximately 600 students. He noted that if the pilot programs were successful then they would be expanded to other neighborhoods.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if funds were allocated to assist the elderly to bridge the digital gap. She noted that a portion of her CCPF funds were allocated to Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) to assist with a program that teaches the elderly how to use technology. Mr. Hopkins stated that there were no funds currently allocated for the elderly, but he did mention that Brian Dillard from the Office of Innovation was working with OATS on that issue. Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a breakdown of funds focused on assisting people with disabilities.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia inquired of the Family Independence Initiative. Ms. Houston stated that it was a non-profit that the City partnered with on the Cash Assistance Program. She noted that \$4 million within the Housing Security Pillar was allocated to financial counseling and staff would identify approximately 3,900 households that were eligible to receive a \$500 cash grant.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested more information regarding the Finance Empowerment Grant. She noted her concern regarding an increase in back-to-school COVID-19 pediatric cases and requested more information on what would be needed for increased pediatric care.

Councilmember Viagran stated that in regard to Digital Inclusion, South Side ISD was still in need of hotspots and equipment such as laptops. She inquired if ITSD had reached out to South Side ISD. Mr. Hopkins stated that they had but would reach out again. Councilmember Viagran noted that the State had assumed a portion of the walk-up testing but inquired of the MIH and the number of requests for at-home testing and visits. Chief Hood responded that testing had decreased throughout the City but MIH was still available for those that are unable to leave their home.

Councilmember Viagran inquired of the rate of testing and the positivity rate. Dr. Bridger stated

that both were decreasing and that the positivity rate had reduced by half in one month from when the positivity rate was 25% in July 2020. Councilmember Viagran recognized the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center for Plasma for their efforts to encourage those who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate by providing \$50 gift cards for donations and she also expressed her appreciation for all the employees working at the Alamodome.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the complications or complaints received regarding the River City Care Center serving as a facility for the isolation and treatment of those who are positive for COVID-19 from any nursing home in the region. Chief Hood stated that there were 9 residents currently at River City Care Center from its peak of up to 70 residents. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked for more information regarding infants who tested positive and how they contracted it. She inquired of the subsidized on-the-job training with local small business employers. Mr. Contreras responded that staff was budgeting and proposing a paid on-the-job training program for individuals to learn from local small businesses for up to 3 months and then hopefully take a job with those same businesses or at least within that field.

Councilmember Treviño mentioned the 3-1-1 application and requested that it be updated more frequently to encourage more people in the community to utilize this resource for data and input. He inquired if 3-1-1 operated 7 days a week from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Mr. McCary responded that 3-1-1 operated 7 days a week from 7:00am to 7:00pm and 7:00am to 5:00pm on weekends. He stated that there were personnel available to take calls until 11:00pm.

Councilmember Treviño requested a list of resources dedicated to Mental Health Services as it was such a critical component of what people are going through during this pandemic. He noted his concern with funds allocated to the Risk Mitigation Fund being only from Federal sources. He asked that more consideration be paid to balancing these funds in regard to those who cannot gain assistance through the Federal or State government. He requested that staff investigate the creation of 10 legal kiosks throughout the city with the help of Texas Legal Aid to improve accessibility to these resources while considering social distancing.

## **B. GENERAL FUND BUDGET: REVENUES, EXPENSES, & BUDGET CHANGES**

Ms. Villagomez reported that the City proposed budget for FY 2021 was \$2.9 billion. She stated that the General Fund was \$1.28 billion and noted that it had four major revenue sources: (1) Property Tax Payment; (2) CPS Payment; (3) Sales Tax; and (4) Other resources including EMS transport fees, liquor by the drink, and other user fees. She stated that approximately 64.5% of the General Fund was invested in the Police and Fire Departments and the balance of the General Fund supported important services such as Streets and Infrastructure, Parks, Libraries, Human Services, and other departments.

Ms. Villagomez reported that Sales Tax, CPS payment, and other revenues were lower than last year. She stated that Property Taxes were the only revenue source that was higher than in the FY 2020 Adopted Budget. She noted that based on the certified tax roll that was received from the

Bexar Appraisal District, the total growth for property values in San Antonio was 5%. She mentioned that 3.1% of that was based on existing value and new growth was 1.9%.

Ms. Villagomez discussed the Sales Tax revenue source. She noted that the FY 2020 Adopted Budget had projected 3.1%, however, because of the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy, the FY 2021 Proposed Budget was approximately 6% lower than the Adopted Budget. She stated that the impact of COVID-19 was reflected in the 2020 estimate projected to be below the Adopted Budget and the FY 2021 Proposed Budget was still below FY 2019 and below the FY 2020 Adopted Budget. She estimated 1% growth over the 2020 estimate and noted that as the economic conditions changed daily, the situation would be monitored.

Ms. Villagomez discussed CPS revenues which were the most volatile and difficult to predict due to the ingredients that go into CPS revenue. She noted that the FY 2019 Actuals were 3.3% below the FY 2018 Actuals. She stated that the Adopted Budget projected negative growth of 1.4% and estimated to be below the Adopted Budget projections. She stated that the FY 2020 Adopted Budget was projected at \$354 million and is now estimated at \$343 million with very modest growth project for FY 2021 at \$352 million.

Ms. Villagomez discussed expenses in the General Fund including 21 City Departments that were categorized as Community Services, City Support, or Internal Support. She noted that the Community Services departments included Animal Care, Code Enforcement, 3-1-1, Fire Department, Historic Preservation, the Library, Parks and Recreation, and World Heritage. She stated that the City Support departments are those that function to support city operations such as the City Attorney's Office, Auditor's Office, and the City Manager's Office. She stated that the Internal Support departments were Finance, Innovation, Budget Office, etc. She highlighted some reductions proposed such as no pay increases for civilian employees, reductions to police overtime, suspension of economic incentives, and other operating reductions.

Councilmember Treviño reiterated that property tax values this year were calculated as of January 1, 2020. He noted that they did try to get that changed through the Bexar Appraisal District and the Governor's Office but were unsuccessful. He stated that the impact was still unknown regarding valuations for the next few years, but individuals were still able to protest their valuations up to three years prior. He mentioned the need for more funding for arts in San Antonio and noted that the City must preserve what makes our City unique and special.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked for clarification regarding the budget reductions and how that would affect core community services. Ms. Villagomez stated that no core community services would be reduced and that the proposed reductions were primarily the suspension of economic incentives and the expiration of a funding agreement with Hemisfair Park.

Councilmember Viagran requested clarification regarding the Fire Department budget and the increase in salaries and the decrease in equipment purchases. Ms. Villagomez stated that the increase to the Fire budget was \$2.9 million which is the net increase of pay offset by the changes in

health care. She noted that staff would offset that cost with approximately \$3.6 million less in equipment purchases. Councilmember Viagran requested more information regarding libraries, and parks, and a presentation from Animal Care Services be added to the Budget Work Session schedule.

Councilmember Courage reiterated the request for more information regarding, libraries, parks, and Animal Care Services. He inquired of the timeline for reopening libraries and computer access within those libraries. Mr. Walsh stated that there were nine libraries open with computer labs accessible to the public. Councilmember Courage noted that no libraries were open in Council District 9 and requested that staff inquire further regarding opening a library in his Council District.

Councilmember Perry asked of the timeline for the Digital Inclusion Initiative and providing services to the ISDs. Mr. Hopkins stated that the wireless solution would begin its pilot program in October 2020 and staff expected to have a fully vetted solution by the first quarter of 2021 with the intent to have all 50 neighborhoods connected by December 2021. Councilmember Perry reiterated his concern with the lengthy timeline regarding this solution and advocated for more immediate assistance and less funding in this area. He noted that he had many more questions but would provide those to Ms. Villagomez at a later date.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG**

Mayor

Attest:

**TINA J. FLORES**

Acting City Clerk