



**JOINT CITY-COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Draft Minutes

Presiding – Mayor Steve Schewel

City of Durham Leadership: Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson and Council Member DeDreana Freeman. Also in attendance, Council Members Javiera Caballero, Mark-Anthony Middleton and Charlie Reece. Absent: None.

Durham County Leadership: Chair of the Durham County Commissioners Wendy Jacobs, Commissioners Ellen Reckhow, Brenda Howerton and James Hill. Also in attendance: Commissioner Heidi Carter (Alternate).

DPS Leadership: Superintendent Dr. Pascal Mubenga, Chair/District 1 Mike Lee; Vice Chair/District 2 Bettina Umstead, District 4 Natalie Beyer, Consolidated District A Minnie Forte-Brown, Consolidated District B Xavier Cason, District 3 Matt Sears and At-Large Steve Unruhe.

County Staff: County Manager Wendell Davis, County Attorney Lowell Siler, Deputy County Manager Jodi Miller and County Clerk to the County Commissioners Monica Toomer.

City Staff: City Manager Tom Bonfield, City Attorney Kim Rehberg, Budget and Management Services Director Bertha Johnson, Director of Community Development Reginald Johnson, Assistant Director of Community Development Karen Lado, Community Development Project Manager Ryan Smith and City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

Mayor Schewel called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance at the virtual meeting and expressed appreciation for the contributions being made by the

attending presenters and their organizations across the City and County. The members of the Joint City-County Committee echoed this appreciation.

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2020 AND MARCH 10, 2020

It was the consensus of the Joint Committee to revise the draft minutes of March 10, 2020 with the following revisions: correct the spelling of Reginald Johnson, Director of Community Development, correct the Eastern Childhood Initiative to East Durham Childhood Initiative and on page 7, 6th paragraph, 2nd line, insert City-County in front of the word 'merger'.

MOTION by Chair Jacobs, seconded Commissioner Hill, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 and the revised minutes of March 10, 2020 Joint City-County meetings. Motion passed by the majority of the Joint members.

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON DURHAM CITY-COUNTY CURRENT COVID-19 SITUATION BY ROD JENKINS (DURHAM COUNTY HEALTH DIRECTOR) (ITEM 2)

Director Jenkins updated the group on international, national, state and local statistics; summarized Durham's cases 897 cases of COVID resulting in 35 deaths, and provided statistics on age, gender, occupation race/ethnicity; cases in hospitals and congregate settings; addressed contact tracing and testing levels/goals of the County and the Duke and Lincoln Heath Systems; information sources located at Durham County Department of Health Website- Datahub; and spoke to sanitation efforts and next steps.

Questions posed by participants:

Q: Is it possible to get the number of daily testing onto the Datahub site?

A: Yes, as per agreement with Duke, the data is being extracted and loaded into Datahub.

Q: Is there sign template to provide to retail grocery stores with placement at the entrances? This would convey the importance of wearing face coverings by customers and staff.

A: Willing to explore topic but may be impeded by local business practices.

Q: Could the topic of enforcement be addressed at the Durham Recovery and Renewal Taskforce?

A: Yes.

Q: How many beds were available?

A: This information will be forthcoming to the participants.

Commissioner Reckhow asked to add the facemask project to the end of the agenda.

Minnie Forte-Brown, DPS, addressed the figures highlighting the racial divide and asked if there was a concerted effort (30% contracted – African American), to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Black community.

Director Jenkins addressed the spread of COVID in long-term care facilities to mitigate spread with best practice sanitation practices; and stated he had concerns about current spread within the Latinx community; and described efforts to promote awareness bilingual videos/ interpretation/ advocacy/ awareness.

Ms. Forte-Brown called attention of the impacts of COVID in the Black community and urged support in housing divisions regarding face coverings and education.

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON HOMELESS POPULATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS BY COLIN DAVIS (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MANAGER, HOMELESS SYSTEM). ATTACHMENT: COVID-19 HOMELESS RESPONSE (6 POWERPOINT SLIDES) (ITEM 3)

Mr. Colin Davis updated the participants on COVID response out of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) regarding the homeless population; spoke to relocating the residents from emergency shelters to the hotel shelter (141 persons); reported zero cases of COVID at the hotel at Marriott/RTP; estimated Urban Ministries would be allowed to operate at 50% capacity and would fill in with rapid re-housing of the balance; addressed topic of isolation hotel and protocols; and noted that non-conventional options were being considered.

Mayor Schewel called for questions from the participants:

Q: How long is the contract with Marriott valid and is it renewable?

A: Contract expires July 8th; it was not known if the contract was renewable.

Q: Was there a target date in making a decision in terms of extension v. relocation to congregate facility?

A: Recommendations would be made based on public health assessments and FEMA.

Q: What if someone tested positive at the well hotel?

A: Public Health and Duke Medical had a protocol in place to handle a small number of persons who test positive; if an outbreak at healthy hotel emerged, that would be problematic.

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EMERGENCY FEEDING OF DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND SENIORS BY DONNA REWALT (DURHAM COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION)

DIRECTOR). ATTACHMENT: *EMERGENCY FEEDING & FOOD SECURITY UPDATE; DURHAM COUNTY COVID-19 FOOD (ITEM 4)*

Ms. Rewalt addressed feeding Durham was a massive effort with the goals to address hunger and food insecurity, which had been to a degree, pre-existing. She reported on the numbers of persons with food insecurity- access, monthly food budgets, persons in the category; updated on feeding efforts, spoke to taskforce activities and organizational contributions in feeding children, families, seniors, undocumented, Latinx and refugees; spoke to emerging issues and opportunities, masks/cleaning supplies being distributed at feeding sites; and addressed issues for the taskforce and leadership.

Q: Referencing the map, what is the significance of the multi-colored dots?

A: Categories of feeding sites were as follows at www.EndHungerDurham:

- Orange – Kids meals sites
- Green- Farmer Markets
- Blue - Food Pantries
- Purple – grocery stores

Q: Which organizations would be handling summer feeding? Traditionally, it had been handled by East Durham Children's Initiative and the Durham County Library.

A: It was not yet determined which groups would be handing the summer feeding. The topic would be researched and the information forwarded to the Committee members. It was clarified the library's lunches were provided by Durham Public Schools and the lunches would be served at the schools.

Q: Could a position be created to handle the topic of hunger by developing a community food security plan?

A: There is a need to function in this capacity year-round.

Q: Could race be included as a measure in the data-points along with the measure, age?

A: Yes.

Q: Was it DPS or Durham County funding the food initiative? It would be beneficial to see the breakdown- to know who was funding what.

A: Depended on which part of the food initiatives being referenced. Senior feeding was under the auspices of County; regarding the DPS effort, the funded kids' meals were reimbursable by USDA.

SUBJECT: UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUP FOR NEXT 60-90 DAYS FOR CITY-COUNTY-DPS BY BERTHA JOHNSON (DIRECTOR OF CITY BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT) AND JODI MILLER (GENERAL MANAGER DURHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT); (ITEM 5)

Deputy County Manager Miller began the presentation on the COVID-19 response; with three areas of emphasis: governmental and educational operations; food security; and education and youth. Information and strategies associated with re-opening were being aligned by City, County and DPS; and explained how the County was addressing the re-opening process to ensure protection of workers and visitors.

Director of Budget and Management Bertha Johnson noted that staffer Monica Chaparro was spearheading the city's effort; spoke to studying the impact on marginalized communities while ensuring equity; then discussed issues related to PPE and facility modifications, along with technical support in municipal buildings.

Project Manager Ryan Smith addressed an initiative associated with stimulus funding to community members; explained the process with three strategies: develop trusted source for information www.getyour1200durham.org; focus outreach toward low to no-income residents; and develop strategy support homeless in accessing their stimulus funding.

Q: How was race equity being taken into account across the board and keeping race equity at the forefront?

A: Ms. Miller responded that a Racial Equity Officer was hired by the County and that incorporating equity work in Emergency Operations Center was a priority.

Mayor Schewel supported the implementation of the website promoting access to stimulus payments and earned income tax credits.

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON COVID-19 TASKFORCE ON RECOVERY AND
RENEWAL BY STEVE SCHEWEL (MAYOR OF CITY OF DURHAM);
NO ATTACHMENT (ITEM 6)**

Mayor Schewel addressed reopening of businesses and social organizations; the Taskforce was established with this goal in mind- to provide advise in re-opening over the next 100 days and to make recommendations to the community; May 15th was the first taskforce, weekly meeting consisting of public health members, elected officials and EOC staff. He read the core principles of the taskforce and announced its members.

Chair Jacobs was excited and passionate about helping the community in the next steps in addressing the response to COVID-19; spoke to the roundtables designed to address sectors of the local economy while utilizing best safety practices; in relation to equity, spoke to what resources would be required, specifically related to hygiene; and added the focus would be action and quick response.

Mayor Schewel announced the staff from city, county and local organizations, along with partners in language and racial equity.

Q: Concerns were expressed about the national messaging that was allowing persons to feel safe when it was not safe to reopen; additionally, it was important to communicate risk to teens and youth.

A: Correct, it was important to focus on communication and messaging.

Q: As businesses were considering reopening, would the Taskforce be communicating with the school system?

A: DPS and universities had a coordinated effort underway. The Taskforce was focusing on places of worship, and as work evolved away from urgent response, the Taskforce would turn to support the school system and universities. Any guidance to communicate with DPS was appreciated and urged DPS contacts to reach out to the taskforce coordinators.

Q: Related to communications, it was recommended to use language that is understood with venues and equipment used by youth; ex. Instagram, radio, DJs; urged youth not to congregate in large groups since they bring COVID home to their families- this message needed to be transmitted to youth effectively.

A: Agreed and appreciated the thoughts.

Q: Relative to deaths in long-term care facilities, asked the Taskforce to look at best practices of what could be done to better protect the health of local seniors.

A: Protection of seniors was a critical aspect of response and Taskforce members would ensure this happened.

Q: What was going to happen with Stay at Home Order on Friday?

A: Extending the Durham Stay at Home Order, mid-week. The new Order adopted the Governor's order and added Durham's own local restrictions; and the Durham Order would continue to require face coverings when no chance to social distancing was possible.

SUBJECT: REPORT ON EVICTION DIVERSION PROGRAM - PROJECTED NEEDS ONCE EVICTION MORATORIUM ENDS BY JANEEN GORDON (DURHAM COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES), REGINALD JOHNSON (DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) AND KAREN LADO (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT). ATTACHMENT: DURHAM COUNTY EVICTION DIVERSION PROGRAM SUMMARY FY2020 (ITEM 7)

Director Janeen Gordon updated the members on eviction diversion programming; collaboration between Legal Aid and the Department of Social Services; specified the number of filings and funding allocations at the County level; and noted that the numbers of filings for support were increasing as unemployment applications increased.

Reginald Johnson, Director of the Department of Community Development, deferred to Karen Lado, Assistant Director of the Department of Community Development, for details on Legal Aid of NC and DSS.

Assistant Director Lado stated the City funding covered the legal staffing/assistance portion and the County portion addressed support to catch up residents in arrears; and noted the goal was to provide support for an estimated 800 families.

Q: When the stay on evictions was lifted as of June 1, were there any projections calculated for legal assistance?

A: No projections had been made thus far; the demand for legal assistance depended on the number of persons who had lost their jobs and then how many landlords had filed evictions; it was estimated that it would be a large number and beyond the ability to serve.

Director Johnson was evaluating using CDBG funds for eviction diversion.

Chair Jacobs urged a comprehensive strategy to focus on how to keep residents in their homes and looked forward to recommendations from a system point of view.

Mayor Schewel stated that recommendations would be made at the May 21 Council Meeting from the Community Development staff.

Q: Was back rent necessary to be paid from the time that rent had not been paid to current, in other words, would it be required?

A: Parameters were being determined; there was a three-month limitation with various combinations and for persons with arrears over and above the three-month limitation, there was not yet an answer; and this was the reason Legal Aid was involved.

Q: Was there a period of time on DSS funds as extended or recommitted?

A: The funding from the County ran on the fiscal calendar, with spending for the current fiscal cycle required by June 30, 2020.

Q: Asked to focus on economic side for small businesses and noted the smaller businesses did not receive funding as did the medium and large businesses. Was there a plan to support small businesses?

A: The Office of Economic and Workforce Development was going to propose a plan to support local businesses and expected a report on May 21, 2020.

It was highlighted that tax assistance (as per public comment by Jim Svara) should be kept as a priority and urged landlords to maintain rents at their current levels.

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM DPS ON BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE BY DR. NAKIA HARDY, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR ACADEMICS; CHANEL SIDBURY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- SECONDARY

TEACHING AND LEARNING; BENJAMIN BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; AND TANYA GIOVANNI- CHIEF OF STAFF. ATTACHMENT: IGNITING LIMITLESS POTENTIAL, DPS PLANNING UPDATE (REVISED) (11 POWERPOINT SLIDES) (ITEM 8)

Executive Director Chanel Sidbury and Chief of Staff Tanya Giovanni presented a report about Bridging the Digital Divide. Superintendent Dr. Pascal Mubenga introduced the item, spoke to expectations moving forward; noted that every student required a device, hotspot and learning management platform; stated the ratio of devices was currently one device per three students; and stated there was a taskforce implemented for re-entry planning.

Executive Director Sidbury presented a PowerPoint on device selection and access.

Chief of Staff Giovanni shared with the committee members the number of devices in-use, deployment of hot spots and how much investment would be required to achieve a one:one ratio; and estimated cost to be \$9.63 million for devices and hotspots, with no sustainability incorporated into the price.

A proposed timeline for policy development, device procurement, professional development, deployment resources and device preparation/distribution was presented.

Superintendent Mubenga addressed the funding topic for one:one device distribution and noted possible funding options.

Q: What were the legal barriers to partner with County in the case of financial shortfall on the procurement of devices? And requested this information be passed onto the members.

A: It would be necessary to research the topic and suggested an interlocal agreement but would need to investigate feasibility.

Q: What did the school district estimate receiving from the CARES Act?

A: Estimated \$5 million.

Chair Jacobs noted that digital support was necessary for the workforce, students (elementary, secondary and higher education) and the unemployed. It was emphasized that broad-band access to underserved parts of the County should be prioritized and that the Public Library's digital resources could be a partner in the initiative.

It was noted that the changes in education to address COVID-19 was not intended to replace in-school instruction and emphasized that technology served to supplement education and combined with great teachers, created a level playing field.

SUBJECT: COVER DURHAM (ITEM NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Commissioners Howerton and Reckhow spoke to providing masks for the underserved population in Durham in partnership with Duke. Isaac Henrion was the coordinator of the project. Renfro from Mount Airy, could provide in a week, estimate \$2.95 each, for estimated total of \$50,000; spoke to the distribution system set by Community Health Coalition, who had provided a written proposal to employ PT community outreach workers into public housing communities, senior housing, grocery stores in low-income areas, etc. to distribute while reinforcing education and providing masks. It was requested that unused travel funds be utilized to fund the Cover Durham Initiative by the County, City and School Board (\$20,000 each from City and County plus \$10,000 from DPS).

Commissioner Howerton spoke to the genesis of the project that involved persons riding buses without masks; and noted that concerns had been raised about this fact. She indicated that samples were available.

Chair of Durham Public School Boards Mike Lee committed to \$10,000 from unused travel funds.

Mayor Schewel committed to using his travel funds for the project.

The masks were washable (up to 25 times), designed by a physician at Wake-Baptist Hospital, tied at the back of the head and was preferred by physicians.

Council Member Reckhow encouraged others to purchase an additional 10,000 masks to lower the unit cost.

Mayor Schewel committed to polling Council about the level of funding contributions.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. hosted by the Durham County Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Diana Schreiber, CMC, NCCMC
City Clerk