

City of San Marcos

City Council Special Meeting

April 30, 2020

Status Report

Item 2

Receive status reports and updates on response to COVID-19 pandemic; hold Council discussion, and provide direction to Staff.

Known Cases – as of Tuesday 4/28 at 4:00 p.m.

- **1,035,765 U.S. cases with at least 59,266 deaths in 55 states or territories including D.C.**
- **26,171 cases in 207 Texas counties with 690 deaths**
- **160 in Hays County with 1 death (20 active in San Marcos, 30 recovered)**
 - 1,562 tests returned negative
 - 78 recovered (81 active)
 - 13 still awaiting results
 - 15 cases have required hospitalization, 5 current

Updates to Governor Abbott's Actions

April 27 – Press Conference announcing three additional executive orders

- **Expanded reopening of services**

- Effective May 1, retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters, and shopping malls may operate at 25% of total listed occupancy for their facility
- Libraries and museums may also reopen at 25% capacity, but interactive exhibits, child play areas must remain closed
- Should implement social distancing, work from home if possible, and practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation
- Individuals encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings, but no jurisdiction can impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face covering
- Supersedes any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to COVID-19

- **Hospitals to reserve 15% capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients**

- **Expanding travel without restrictions**

- Lifts restrictions on some travel, such as from Louisiana, but maintains restrictions on flying from some states and cities, including California; New York; Atlanta, Georgia

Efforts to date (updated)

- **Convened Recovery Task Force**
 - Made up of 23 local public and private individuals, including local governments, health authorities, restaurants, business associations
 - Determine how best to accomplish Governor's re-opening initiatives
- **Responding to questions regarding occupancy questions**
- **Developed new FAQ document regarding re-opening**
- **Processed Late Fee Exemptions for 117 commercial utility accounts, 80 residential utility accounts since implementation on March 26**
 - Set up payment arrangements totaling over \$192,000 for 714 utility customer accounts over that same time period
- **Providing daily Council email updates and message board additions**

Enforcing COVID-19 best practices

- Restaurant/business occupancy
- Park closures

Daily updates

May 5 meeting

- Emergency ordinance addressing adjustments to inspections and permit fees for Food Establishments, due to COVID-19.
- Ordinance allowing for temporary licenses for parklets as a means to reactivate Downtown.

Additional Financial Strategies Update

Reallocate Existing CDBG Funds

- Not recommended at this time
- FY 2018 and FY 2019 funds already allocated, plan updates required
- Recommend using FY 2020 CDBG and CDBG-CV* funds

Grants and Loans

- Promoting federal grant and loan programs including Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Payroll Protection Loans created through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- San Marcos grant and loan program under consideration using Special Economic Development Fund allocation

Reallocate Strategic Initiative Funding

- Not recommended due to constraints on General Fund

Grant Status

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - \$6,429,168

- Transit planning, capital and operating expenses after Jan. 20, 2020
- 100% grant, no match, reimbursable basis
- Application required with a fast-track agency review

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - \$157,000

- Allotment for general aviation airports
- Reimbursement for expenses that airport revenue can be lawfully used

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - \$425,261

- CDBG-CV* grant to support activities responding to coronavirus impacts
- Reimbursement of eligible pandemic response costs
- Encouraged to prioritize needs of low- and moderate-income persons

- <http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/covid19info>
- <http://haysinformed.com/health-update/>
- <https://hayscountytexas.com/covid-19-information-for-hays-county-residents/>
- <https://www.txstate.edu/coronavirus>
- <https://www.smcisd.net/>
- <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- <https://sanmarcostexas.com/>