



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Sykes

**SUBJECT: HEALTH AND RACIAL EQUITY
TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

DATE: August 31, 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL

REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL

Provide the City Council with information and feedback related to the recommendations provided for by the Health and Racial Equity Task Force.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept the staff's report on information and feedback related to the recommendations provided for by the Health and Racial Equity Task Force

BACKGROUND

On August 17, 2020, the Health and Racial Equity Task Force provided the City with a set of policy recommendations and implementation strategies in an effort "to advance strategies that promote health and racial equity through the local COVID-19 response." The recommendations focus on the following key areas:

- 1) Testing and Contact Tracing
- 2) Community Engagement and Outreach
- 3) Worker and Neighborhood Community Safety, and
- 4) Resident Health and Well-being.

On August 26, 2020, the Rules and Open Government Committee approved a recommendation to direct the City Manager to provide a written response to the City Council regarding the Health and Racial Equity Task Force recommendations that are relevant to the City.

ANALYSIS

The Health and Equity Task Force (Task Force) was convened in response to the growing health disparities “generated and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.” As such, the Task Force developed 15 objectives and 60 recommendations around four key areas that aim to address the disparate impacts of COVID-19 by race, particularly in hot zone neighborhoods in East San Jose and South Santa Clara County.

The City Administration reviewed the recommendations and carefully considered the City’s role in supporting the efforts to minimize the disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities of color. While some recommendations are largely led by the County of Santa Clara, the City is committed to ensuring information about all four key areas is distributed in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner, and that City programs aim to rebuild toward a just and sustainable future.

The City’s response to the Task Force recommendations are summarized in this memorandum. As demonstrated below, the City has been thoughtful about reaching communities that have the most need and providing direct assistance to our most vulnerable residents.

Area of Focus	Health and Racial Equity Task Force Recommendation	City’s response
<p>Testing and Contact Tracing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure priority communities have adequate testing, sufficient PPE, and testing supplies. 2. The creation of a clear communication system for patients 3. Speedy COVID-19 specimen processing 4. Expand the Santa Clara County COVID-19 Dashboard be expanded to reflect data from communities that are most impacted 5. Implement clear and consistent messaging across the various health systems 	<p>As this effort is largely being led by the State and/or County of Santa Clara, the City’s recommendation is to continue its existing efforts to promote these resources to communities and residents that are most impacted. The City actively tracks communications that are released by the County related to testing and contract tracing and promotes this information via various platforms including the City’s Flash Reports and by posting information including direct links to County resources on the City’s Virtual Local Assistance Center website.</p>
<p>Community Engagement and Outreach</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the current multi-language outreach and communication strategies while being focused on a culturally relevant response 2. Include members of the Health and Racial Equity Task Force in Santa Clara County’s planning and decision-making process 	<p>The City’s Emergency Public Information Office (EPIO) is currently providing communications in four languages including, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Traditional Chinese. Some tactics have included videos recorded by local trusted messengers conveying critical and timely information. As provided above, the City is actively tracking information related to testing and contact</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Conduct regular City/County joint meetings, including members of the Health and Racial Equity Task Force 4. Recruit and train a spokesperson for targeted ethnic groups 5. Increase traditional media and communication strategies 6. Provide advance notice for new testing sites 7. Establish regular opportunities for community members to call-in and ask questions or voice concerns to the County of Santa Clara or the Public Health Department 	<p>tracing and regularly promotes these resources in Flash Reports and on the City’s Virtual Local Assistance Center website. This includes promoting Santa Clara County CAN, the State’s COVID-19 Hotline, and the Santa Clara County COVID-19 Support Team. Additionally, the City’s EPIO is developing an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Citywide community engagement plan that will complement the efforts being made by the Health and Racial Equity Task Force related to improving communication strategies that go beyond social media. For example, training community leaders to support outreach and engagement efforts is an effective model which ought to include stipends for “spokespersons”. The City is also exploring a texting platform to release timely critical information to targeted areas of San Jose in partnership with trusted organizations.</p> <p>The City’s Community and Economic Recovery Branch has established a Community Leaders Forum that includes community leaders representing San Jose communities of color and neighborhoods that are most vulnerable to COVID-19. The Community Leaders Forum will meet regularly to ensure that the City is kept informed and is coordinating with community leaders in how to address the critical needs the pandemic is creating amongst all residents and in particular, those who are seniors, disabled, experiencing homelessness, undocumented status and/or recently released, formerly incarcerated residents.</p> <p>The City agrees that establishing regular City, County and Task Force meetings will improve coordination of outreach efforts. The City would also like to understand how the Task Force defines “community engagement” and ways the City can align to those expectations.</p>
<p>Work and Neighborhood Community Safety</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pass policies to allow more workers to quarantine and isolate or care for loved ones 2. Improve communications with essential workers, businesses and 	<p>EPIO and the Community and Economic Recovery Branch are promoting the County’s supported isolation resources in the City’s communication channels. Additionally, the Community and Economic Recovery Branch will be distributing a</p>

	<p>high-risk neighborhoods to promote the availability of County assistance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Continue to resource Community Health and Business Engagement Team (CHBET) field program for engaging business and workers on job sites in high risk geographies and sectors to promote compliance on the implementation of physical distancing, cleaning and PPE requirements under the public health orders4. Leverage existing non-profit partnerships in neighborhoods hit hardest by COVID-19 to help distribute PPE and cleaning supplies5. Support Assemblymember Kalra's AB 3216 to expand emergency paid sick days6. Require businesses provide PPE on-site for all employees, at no charge7. Develop a County standard on outbreaks at worksites8. Develop zero tolerance policies for violence or threats directed at employees enforcing mask and other safety protections9. Advocate for CalOSHA to create an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers10. Explore emergency County policy for sectors with large numbers of at-risk workers with less rigorous contagious disease protocols11. Increase access to subsidized childcare and early learning opportunities for low income working parents, the County should develop a plan for universal childcare and early learning12. Provide workers subject to COVID-19 related layoffs in highly impacted sectors with a right to return to their	<p>trifold brochure which includes information on how to contact the Santa Clara County COVID-19 Support Team to learn about isolation and quarantine services, among other static resources for residents who have limited digital access. The City's Community and Economic Recovery Branch has also established regular ongoing meeting with the County's CHBET team to understand and identify how to effectively partner with the County to complement and fill gaps that may be needed in communities that are most impacted by the pandemic. As mentioned above, the Community Leaders Forum allows the City to understand what resident needs are in vulnerable communities. The Community and Economic Recovery Branch will continue to meet with the Community Leaders Forum regularly to ensure effective partnerships and continued coordinated efforts.</p> <p>The City Council approved \$23 Million in resident assistance from Coronavirus Relief Funds for several strategies identified as recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A \$425,000 allocation for PPE for non-profits and their clients will be managed by VMC Foundation and Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits.• Contracting with First 5 Santa Clara County to provide \$2.5 million to Family Childcare Homes to subsidize childcare slot availability.• City libraries and community centers are currently providing free, affordable learning pods for school age children in partnership with school districts.• City Council approved allocating \$7 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds for rental assistance, as well as \$500,000 for resident outreach.• City Council approved \$2.5 million for paid, job training program with wrap around services including childcare. <p>The City Administration will be recommending a support position to the Mayor and City Council on</p>
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	<p>original jobs when the need for layoff ends</p> <p>13. Advocate to State delegation to end exclusions for undocumented workers in State safety-net programs</p> <p>14. Extend eviction protections and rent relief</p>	<p>AB 3216. The City is supporting AB 1436 (Chiu), the state's residential eviction moratorium bill. In addition, the City has advocated to Federal delegation to allow undocumented people access to safety-net resources and support programs.</p> <p>The City will research the Emergency Temporary Standard.</p> <p>The Housing Department will be returning to the City Council on September 29th so that the Council can consider additional eviction and tenant protections</p>
<p>Resident Health and Well-being</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure equitable access and funding for primary care, behavioral health, and treatment for chronic conditions that may increase the severity of COVID-192. Increase investment in existing food network programs to ensure grocery and prepared meal programs for hot zone neighborhoods are fully funded and able to meet current and future food insecurity during emergencies and disasters.3. Work with state and local government to evaluate continuing safe quarantine housing options4. Provide basic health and safety supplies to residents	<p>While the County is largely leading the efforts identified in this area related to funding for primary care and other health needs, the City has been addressing resident needs as it relates to food and meal necessities.</p> <p>The approved Coronavirus Relief Funds for resident assistance identifies mental and physical health care as an eligible expense that non-profits and residents can be provided.</p> <p>As provided above, the City is also working on a grant agreement with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which will include funding for the procurement of personal protective equipment for nonprofits and their clients.</p> <p>Since the start of the Shelter in Place orders in March, the City has funded (and will continue to fund) over \$37 Million in support of both San Jose specific and county wide food and necessities distribution through the end of the calendar year. This support spans the entire food network including Second Harvest Food Bank, school programs for all ages including evenings and weekends, senior nutrition programs, the Great Plates Delivered Program, and COVID-19 positive and at-risk residents who are unhoused or unable to safely isolate or quarantine at home. As part of this community service and included in the \$37 Million, the City is also granting up to \$3.5 Million to help</p>

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		<p>fund a regional food distribution program that includes all stakeholders (public, community-based organizations, private, and others) in a collective impact model.</p> <p>The City is currently evaluating a proposal that was received by the County of Santa Clara related to supported isolation services and is working to understand the cost and needs.</p>
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Based on a review of the recommendations provided for by the Health and Racial Equity Task Force, the City recommends maintaining and enhancing existing efforts to provide assistance to San Jose residents in each of the key areas noted above, while establish more regular coordination with the Health and Racial Equity Task Force to determine if there are areas where the City can further provide support and/or direct assistance. Additionally, the EOC Community and Economic Recovery Branch will be developing a dashboard to indicate how community needs are being met, which are outstanding, and what progress is being made. This will include measuring racial disparities.



David Sykes
City Manager

For questions, please contact Kip Harkness, Deputy City Manager, at (408) 535-8192.