

# CITY OF DESOTO

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### WEEKLY UPDATE

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April 17, 2020

## Projects of Community Interest

**BULKY WASTE PICK-UP** | Republic suspended service starting April 6 in an effort to reduce coronavirus exposure for sanitation workers. Regular trash picked up continues twice a week. Brush collection is temporarily limited to 10-cubic yards per week. Staff is planning to host a bulky waste drop-off event for DeSoto residents on May 2. More details will be made available next week to the Council and the public.

**COUNTY ORDER FOR MOUTH & NOSE COVERINGS** | Starting April 18, the City of DeSoto will require all employees to wear mouth and nose coverings while working at city facilities and when they are out and available to the public. Information regarding the new order is also being distributed via the City's social media outlets. The order requires that all persons over the age of two wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth when patronizing an Essential Business or using public transportation. All non-medical employees who work at an Essential Businesses must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths while performing their work. It is important to note that wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining six-foot social distancing and hand washing.

# Project Updates

**CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19** | Ellis Davis and the American Airlines Center have increased testing capabilities to 500 tests per site daily. As of Thursday, 3,193 tests have been conducted. Testing requirements have been placed on Next Door and other social media sites to encourage additional testing. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) was acquired from the National Stockpiles through Dallas County Emergency Management. The City has its first positive case of a City employee. At this time, no police officer or firefighter has tested positive, and DeSoto's long term adult care facilities show no active cases. As of today, Dallas County reports 65 addresses with COVID-19 positive residents and 72 confirmed individual cases in DeSoto.

Mayor McCowan is coordinating two letters in cooperation with the Mayors from Cedar Hill, Duncanville, and Lancaster. The first letter requests financial support from DeSoto's State and Federal legislators as the Best Southwest region faces growing costs and lower revenues responding to COVID-19. The second letter requests increased and ongoing coordination between Dallas County and the Best Southwest cities as the region begins opening businesses and lifting the stay-at-home order.

**IMPACT FEE STUDY** | A staff meeting was held with the consultant to discuss preliminary findings of the Impact Fee Study. Based on the data presented, staff requested a scope change to have the data reflect actual developable land instead of five-year old population growth data. This scope change will add 3 weeks to the original timeframe for presentation to the City Council but will be more accurate. Staff is scheduled to meet with the consultant to review the revised data the week of April 20. Staff anticipates a presentation to City Council in May.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING** | The City previously hired a consultant to assist in gathering community, staff, and Council input for the Strategic Plan. Due to current orders preventing groups from gathering together, the community dialogue portion of this project has been delayed. A new timeline was created to accommodate a community dialogue the week of June 8 and

the strategic planning sessions in the first half of July. The finalized Strategic Plan would be completed the week of August 17.

**COMMUNITY SURVEY** | Staff is working to finalize a community-wide survey document. A draft survey will be reviewed next week and, once finalized, will be shared with the City Council. Due to current limitations and restrictions on City services, the survey will be held until after stay-at-home orders are lifted. Once the survey vendor is given notice to proceed, the company needs about three weeks to begin mailing documents.

**RENTAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE** | Staff has been working on a rental registration ordinance that would provide a mechanism for addressing building code violations with the landlord. In addition to holding landlords accountable for building code violations, research is being done to hold landlords accountable for nuisance violations at the property. More updates will be available on this item in next week's report.

**FY 2021 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT** | Staff is organizing the City Council Budget Kickoff Meeting for Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm.

**MANTLEBROOK PARK** | Parks Director Renee Johnson and her staff met with concerned residents regarding the Mantlebrook Park Project. Improvements are scheduled at this park with construction anticipated to start this spring. Neighbors expressed concerns regarding trail improvements that included increased traffic, trail layout, and proximity to residents' homes. Park staff is reviewing these concerns, discussing opportunities, and developing solutions in partnership with the neighborhood feedback.



## Weekly Events & Meetings

April 21 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 5:30 pm via Video Conference	May 4 CDBG Town Hall Meetings at 1:30 pm and 5:30 pm via Video Conference
April 23 City Council Work Session at 6:00 pm via Video Conference (FY 2021 Budget)	May 5 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 6:00 pm via Video Conference
April 27 DEDC Regular Board Meeting at 9:00 am via Teleconference	May 19 City Council Work Session & Meeting at 5:30 pm via Video Conference

## New Hires, Promotions & Recognitions

### NEW HIRES

NAME	START MONTH	DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Thomas, Teresa	April	SWRCC	Emergency Dispatcher
Gilbert, Joseph B	April	SWRCC	Emergency Dispatcher
McCowan, Caren	April	Finance	Payroll Administrator
Long, Clinton W.	April	Development Services	Construction Manager

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
Winner



## ***CONGRATULATIONS***

**Field Training Officer Bryan Scott-Lee** received the Officer of the Quarter award. He maintains the high standards held by the Police Department. Also his actions as an Officer embody the established core values that all officers should exemplify.

**Animal Control Officer Sheila Harrington** received a commendation from retired Dallas Officer Busby. She was commended on the professionalism that she showed while performing her duties.

## **New Businesses & City Development**

**CHATTEY ROAD PROJECT** | This project is scheduled to begin early to mid-May. A communication strategy will be developed to ensure that the public and impacted residents are notified of the City's progress.

**SOLAR TURBINE PROJECT** | There is one new commercial project. In this project there will be a construction of a new 8,000 square foot Solar Turbine.

