

African American Community Briefing, Wednesday May 20, 2:00 pm

PURPOSE: The City will share important COVID-19 information with and gather input from community members, leaders and stakeholders about their communities' needs and priorities so that we can respond appropriately and ensure that our communities know where to access the correct information. This input will also shape how the City shares information with the public.

CITY'S COMMITMENT: To ensure that community leaders and organizations know where to access the proper and most up to date information related to COVID-19.

Welcome

- Anthony Taylor welcomed everyone to the 2nd African American Community Briefing
- Proposed Agenda
 1. Welcome
 2. City update of Covid-19 response
 3. Community Partners update of Covid-19 response
 4. Community response to City update
 5. Wrap-up and thank you

City update of COVID-19 response

- Health - Gretchen Musicant
 - Gretchen started by stressing that the Health Department continues to maintain and coordinate a wide variety of City resources and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic response.
 - In an answer regarding the availability of masks, she and Heather Gillich, Policy and Advocacy Specialist, noted that there will be another mask drive this Memorial Day, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at fire stations throughout the city,
 - The Health Department, working with community partners and organizations, will continue to match the supplies and resources to the needs as the Pandemic response progresses.
 - The Health Department Shared Power Advisory Committee is currently working on a BIPOC impact report.
 - Luisa Pessoa-Brandao, Research Specialist, provided information about how contact tracing is moving along. Until recently, the State Health Department has carried most of the contact tracing process. Now local Health Departments, including Minneapolis, are helping. The people who test positive receive staff follow-up. This includes asking each individual about their social and workplace contacts, providing them with info they can share if they choose to, and indicating that the Health Department can handle it anonymously if an individual is concerned about exposing any of their personal information
 - The Health Department has set up a Community Support portal for general inquiries or to let the City what resources you or your organization need:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/community>
- Gap Funding small business – Eric Hansen
 - Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) will be offering forgivable 0% interest loans for small businesses
 - \$5,000 – \$10,000 per loan
 - Areas of concentrated poverty – including the Promise Zone, the Green Zone
 - 1,200 apps by April 20 - 800 eligible

- City able to cover \$1.8 million
- 150 to 250 businesses
- Demographic profile of recipients this week
- “Reopening the Economy” update – businesses are not required, but able to open
 - Governor and Mayor will address this in the next few days, stressing how we keep people safe
 - Workers are not required to return if sick or unable
 - Balance between health and economic needs
 - Form for input added to session chat.
- Gap Funding rent assistance
 - The Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department received 8,000 applications by end of April. After initial review, 6,500 of these applications were deemed eligible under the program guidelines.
 - The City is only able to fund about 3,000 of these applications.
 - City staff have been sending messages out to each of the applicants to let them know the status of their application along with information on how to access other resources.
 - As applicants are approved checks will be issued on a weekly basis
 - Andrea Inouye (Mayor’s Office) has been working with Andrea Brennan of CPED
 - Hennepin County will open a \$15 Million Housing Gap Fund for residents of Minneapolis – not previously available in MPLS

Community partners update of COVID-19 response including resources (bolded)

- **Cheryl Morgan Spencer** (PICA Head Start) They provide Health Kits, Grow Kits (Wisconsin farmers have helped provide seedling) and other resources
- **Felicia Perry** (West Broadway Coalition) WBC and Neon host a “Live Tomorrow” luncheon every third Thursday – also work with a variety of partners in different parts of the city as well.
- **Heather Gillich** (Health Department): Following up from the Health Department: If anyone has questions for Heather, they can reach her at: **heather.gillich@minneapolismn.gov**
For general COVID-19 inquiries go to: COVID19@minneapolismn.gov
View Community Support Overview and Resources at:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/community>
- **Erik Hansen** (CPED Economic and Policy Development):
If anyone has questions for Erik, they can reach him at: erik.hansen@minneapolismn.gov
If you’d like to provide business reopening ideas, go to:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a65c5de53a4a44f6b1975b15465163e6>
- **Alberder Gillespie** (NCR- 2020 Census Project Coordinator):
 I ask that community members please remember to complete the 2020 Census. Census data will determine how federal funds impacting recovery are allocated. **My2020Census.gov or 844-330-2020**
- **Christina Kendrick** (NCR) Help for our older adults: For meals delivery and to go meals, care coordination, transportation, social connections, all key services older adults need, go to:
<https://metroaging.org/resources-for-older-adults-during-covid-19/>
- **Deebaa Sirdar** (8th Ward Policy Aide):
 Hennepin County small business grant program is open for self-employed entrepreneurs and creatives. Apply for grants of up to \$3,000 through Hennepin County’s small business relief program. The application period is May 19-26.
 To apply, visit **<https://www.hennepin.us/economic-development/programs/Emergency-relief>**.
- **Jake Akervik** (HUD Minneapolis):
 A reminder that the US Dept of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has opened up applications for economic recovery funding: **<https://eda.gov/coronavirus/>**
- **Heather Gillich** (Health Department):

A Minneapolis Health Department Request for Applications (RFA) is open for Safe Routes to Healthy Food – focused on increasing access to healthy food and increasing transportation safety for families/individuals when accessing food. It will provide funding at \$2000, \$5000, or \$8000. Call in with questions on Thurs May 21st at 1 PM: (Dial in at: 1-877-685-5350 and enter passcode: 6126733557).

- The RFA is due at 12pm Friday, June 5th via the City's eSupplier portal. RFA information and the links to apply can be found here.
- Funding decisions made by participatory budgeting process. Please contact Heather.gillich@minneapolismn.gov with questions.
- **Michelle Horovitz (Appetite for Change):** <https://appetiteforchangemn.org/>
Eric K.: Sounds like amazing work!!!
- **Deebaa Sirdar** (8th Ward Policy Aide):
The Minneapolis Foundation Safe Communities grant is open until this Friday, 4:30 pm. It is a special grant opportunity focused on engaging grassroots leaders and organizations in reducing violence. Apply at <https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/safe-communities/> Grant requests will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. We expect to approve 30 and 40 grants. The average grant will be approximately \$15,000.
- **Jake Akervik** (HUD Minneapolis):
The North Minneapolis Promise Zone puts out a list of Federal and other grant and funding opportunities via our email newsletter every couple of weeks:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/bulletins/28bad90>
- **Ethrophic Burnett** (NCR):
We can add PICA into the portal
- **Dani Hans** (City Clerk's Office):
I would love the link to the Color of Change's patient guide! My email is dani.hans@minneapolismn.gov. Thank you!
- **Felicia Perry** (WBC):
The Association for Black Economic Power has funds for mask makers for donations.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-For-Black-Economic-Power/638175766531182>
- **Heidi Ritchie** (Mayor's Office):
There will be a mask donation drive from 10am - 2pm on Memorial Day. Drop off masks at all fire stations.
- **Jennifer White** (Mayor's Office):
Details on when and where to donate homemade face masks on Memorial Day are shared here:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMSP-224611>
- **Heather Gillich** (Health Department):
Please let people know that they can request cloth masks here:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a6ec5734947240a48d8782ceb5fdb908>
- **Deebaa Sirdar** (8th Ward Policy Aide):
Hennepin County rental assistance funding will open for Minneapolis residents later this month. Check the website at <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/emergency-rental-covid19> . Hennepin County – additional resources coming soon
Residents renting anywhere in Hennepin County may be eligible for part of an additional \$15 million that will be released later in May. We'll update this page when those funds become available.
 - Eligibility - You may be eligible if you:
 - Rent your housing in Hennepin County
 - Have household income below 50% of the area median income (about \$46,550 for a household of three)
 - Lost income due to COVID-19
 - Can't afford housing costs this month
 - Are not receiving Section 8 or other ongoing rental assistance
 - Priority will be given to households with incomes below 30% of the area median income, and those that are ineligible for Unemployment Insurance.
- **Felicia Perry** (WBC):

The Association for Black Economic Power has \$5,000 allocated for Black vendors to make masks. These masks are going to be given to Northside community organizations that are out providing curb side pickup for necessities and will not be sold for profit. For more information visit <https://abepmpls.org/>

- **Heather Gillich** (Health Department):
Here is a link to the City's COVID-19 Requests and Inquiries form:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a6ec5734947240a48d8782ceb5fdb908>
- **Dani Hans** (City Clerk's Office):
People can find the Black Patient's Guide for combatting COVID-19 here:
<https://theblackresponse.org/covid-19-resources/> thanks!
- **Ethrophic Burnett** (NCR):
Thank you all for the resources and information links - all information will be shared as well as posted on the COVID-19 website in the community briefing page. Hopefully it will be possible to include all the resources and links in an email for all our friends that are joining us by phone.
- **Heidi Ritchie** (Health Department):
City is sending out info on mask drive in their regular COVID-19 city communication today.
- **Felicia Perry** (WBC):
The African American Community Response Team (AARCT) is another great resource. They are working on several initiatives for the Black Community: <https://www.facebook.com/AACRT2020>
They are giving away Victory Gardens this Saturday: Please share with the families you know who might be interested in a FREE victory garden kit! They must register in advance at www.tinyurl.com/vvg2020
- **Heidi Ritchie** (Health Department):
To sign up for the City's regular COVID-19 updates follow this link:
<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new>
- **Jake Akervik** (HUD Minneapolis):
Treasury is sending out 4M economic impact payments on prepaid debit cards:
<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1012>
It still unclear to me as to how we might predict how many in Minneapolis will get them, if any: "EIP Cards are being distributed to qualified individuals without bank information on file with the IRS, and whose tax return was processed by either the Andover or Austin IRS Service Center."
- **Felicia Perry** (WBC):
There will be a Northside Business Luncheon, May 21:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/230735901516209>
- **Alberder Gillespie** (NCR- 2020 Census Project Coordinator):
On Sunday, May 24, 2020, North High School students and Minneapolis Northside community groups will kick-off Global GVBACK Tuesday 2020 by giving back one-hour of their time. Projects include:
 - Check-in with seniors in your neighborhood.
 - Plant flowers or trees.
 - Food Delivery.
 - Finish Census with your family.
 - Apply for Absentee Voting Ballot.
 - Computer Donation / Repairs.
 - Spring-Clean the Front and Back Yards.<https://www.gvbacktuesday.com/post/seedstoharvest>
- **Jake Akervik** (HUD Minneapolis):
Consumer Relief Guide – Your Rights to Mortgage Payment Forbearance and Foreclosure Protection Under the Federal CARES Act:
<https://www.csbs.org/mortgage-relief-coronavirus>

Community response to City update

- **Mike Shelton** (Heritage Youth Sports Foundation) Noted that they are looking for laptop donations at an event held Sunday, 10:00 am, 905 West Broadway.

- Heather asked if Mike could send the information about what you are needing (laptops), etc. to: ROLLOFSOUL@GMAIL.COM It may have been shared in the meeting chat and she missed it.
- **Cheryl Morgan Spencer** (PICA Head Start) indicated that one their residents was rejected for the Rental Assistance program due to a mistaken address – City staff will look into it.
- **Jake Akervik** (HUD Minnesota Promise Zone staff) Inquired about who is dealing with the issue of exorbitant delivery fees when ordering from local restaurants – City staff indicated that currently the issue is likely in the hands of State Department of Commerce.
- **Shaun Pearce** (Mayor’s Office) indicated that the City has been looking at this delivery fee issue from a variety of angles – including licensing. (Cheryl) Wendy’s House of Soul – pointed out that some delivery companies have offered some discounts on delivery.
- **Peg Thomas:** We need stories from youth who are in high school, are working to support their families, and who have been denied unemployment benefits The goal is to introduce HF4623/SF4625 in the special session and make the changes that which allow youth to get unemployment and not have to drop out of school to do so. Please send to pegthomas@gmail.com
- **Cheryl Morgan Spencer** (PICA Head Start) work with 3,000 families every year – lot of heart ache and hardships for clients – especially food, masks, money for rent assistance (esp. to stay current), and always looking for resources (e.g. COVID-19 Patients Guide packet by Color for Change)
- **Heather:** Mike could you send the information about what you are needing (laptops) and time to ROLLOFSOUL@GMAIL.COM? It may be in chat and I missed it.

Wrap up and Thank You

- Anthony thanks people for participating – especially for their work and their