

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 6, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Taking Care of Business – December 5, 2019**

Updated Items

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) has scheduled the following sites for homeless encampment resolution:

December 3 rd , 2019	December 10 th , 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John West Carpenter at Regal Row (Council District 6)• 1529 North Edgefield Avenue (Council District 6)• Shiloh Road at East Northwest Highway (Council District 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1800 South Boulevard (Council District 7)• 2300 Coombs Street (Council District 7)• 2600 Hickory Street (Council District 7)• 2929 Hickory Street (Council District 7)• 1700 Chestnut Street (Council District 7)• 600 South Saint Augustine Drive (Council District 5)

OHS Street Outreach team will continue to engage with homeless individuals to provide notice of clean-up and connect to resources and shelter. OHS Community Mobilization staff are meeting with stakeholders to determine long-term sustainability of encampment sites and will provide periodic updates. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager, and Monica Hardman, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions.

New Items

[DWU Billing System Outage](#)

The Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) billing system has been experiencing technical difficulties since Wednesday, December 4th. Customer payments cannot be made online or by telephone during this time. Informational messages instructing customers on alternative payment methods were posted as a public alert on the City of Dallas website homepage, as a blog post on the [dallascitynews.net](#), on DWU's webpage and DWU's customer service telephone system. The message informs customers they may make payments in person at the lobby at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla, 2DS or at any Fidelity Express pay station location. DWU will not perform water disconnection activities while the system is offline to allow affected customers enough time to make their payments and/or make payment arrangements. At this time, it is anticipated the billing system will be available on December 6th. Once the system is available to customers, all communication channels will be updated with the appropriate information. If additional information is needed please contact Terry Lowery, Director, Dallas Water Utilities at 214-670-3188.

[MCC Security Digital Desk Sign-in: Vendor Acknowledgement](#)

Effective November 2019, the digital sign-in at the MCC security desk includes a requirement for guests to report if they have a pending bid or proposal for a contract with

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the City. Guests with a pending bid or proposal are prohibited from lobbying councilmembers for the contract. The change is being implemented in partnership with the Office of Procurement Services as part of the City's enhanced efforts to ensure transparency and compliance throughout the procurement process. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carrie Rogers, Director of the Mayor and City Council Office, or Chhunny Chhean, Director of Procurement Services.

[McCommas Bluff Landfill Gate Rate](#)

An article recently published by D Magazine noted that the City of Dallas "has the cheapest landfill in the region." While this is true in some cases, it is important to note that the comparisons made are from published gate rates. McCommas Bluff competes against several local private landfills. These private landfills offer substantial discounts to their largest commercial customers based on contractual volume commitments. Since these rates are not published to the public, Sanitation Services utilizes a solid waste consultant to access and advise on our gate rate in an effort remain competitive. As a result of our recent landfill market rate analysis, the FY2019-20 gate rate was increased 8.6% from \$26.25/ton to \$28.50. FY2020-21 will see an additional 5% increase to \$29.92/ton. We will continue to increase our gate rate to more closely mirror our competitors while maintaining a commitment to allow equitable access to our local customers. Should you have any questions, please contact Tim Oliver, Interim Director of Sanitation Services at 214-671-8222.

[MINOR HOME REPAIR GRANT PROGRAM](#)

The City of Dallas Housing Department held its kickoff training session for the Minor Home Repair Program on December 3rd where they learned to process payments and manage referrals. The Non-For-Profits partners are excited about assisting residents with minor home repairs for their single-family homes. They will begin working on homes in January. The Minor Home Repair Program is a part of the Home Improvement and Preservation Program.

[Mill Creek Tunnel Media Day Recap](#)

On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, the City of Dallas hosted Mill Creek Tunnel Media Day to showcase the Big Tex tunnel-boring machine (TBM). City officials and the media were invited to view the fully assembled 38-foot diameter by 230 feet long Big Tex (TBM). The assembly of the TBM marks a major milestone in the Mill Creek Drainage Relief Tunnel project. City officials celebrated the milestone with a monumental signing of the cutter head. The Mill Creek Drainage Relief Tunnel is a five-mile underground tunnel project that will provide drainage and flooding relief in east and southeast Dallas. The project is scheduled for completion in 2023. For additional information please contact Terry Lowery, Director, Dallas Water Utilities.

[Media Inquiries](#)

As of December 2, 2019, the City has received media requests from various news outlets regarding the following topics:

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- Enforcement of Paid Sick Leave
- DFR Encourages Fire Safety for the Holiday
- DFR Responds to Fatal North Dallas Accident
- Person Hospitalized After Striking the Back of DFR Engine
- Multi-Alarm Fire Destroys East Dallas Apartment Building
- No Injuries Reported After Car Strikes Back of DFR Truck
- DFR Member Recognized for Saving the Life of Burn Victim

Please see the attached document compiling information provided to the media outlets for the November 25th – December 2nd, 2019 for your reference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff.



T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer
M. Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors

Public Affairs & Outreach
Media Requests
November 25 – November 30

Date Submitted: 11/26/2019

Topic: Enforcement of Paid Sick Leave

Inquiry: Ken Kalthoff with NBC 5 asked if the paid sick leave ordinance is in effect, when will fines start being imposed and if the litigation regarding San Antonio's paid sick leave has any impact on Dallas. We let him know the following: The City of Dallas Earned Paid Sick Time (Paid Sick Leave) Ordinance went into effect on August 1, 2019 for employers with 6 or more employees. The City of Dallas will not enforce the Ordinance, except for violations of the anti-retaliation provision, until April 1, 2020. No part of the Ordinance goes into effect for employers with 5 or fewer employees until August 1, 2021. The litigation in San Antonio does not have an impact on the City's ordinance.

Submitted By: Roxana Rubio (Office of Fair Housing and Human Rights)

Media Entity: Ken Kalthoff (NBC 5)

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department
Media Requests: November 25th – December 2nd, 2019.

Wednesday, November 27th: Sent the following information to all local media outlets and posted onto social media –



Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.

 **NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, about fires and related hazards.



nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2017

Wednesday, November 27th: **NBC 5/Telemundo (Karen Ballesteros) and WFAA 8 (Lourdes Vazquez)** - Can you provide information on the fatal crash on Lloyd and Preston Rd? Is there any preliminary information on what may have caused the accident?

City Response – DFR units were assigned to the call at [14:57](#), and reports indicate no less than 2 vehicles being involved; with one of them running into a light pole.

Unfortunately, the person who ran into the pole had to be extricated from their vehicle and taken to the hospital; where they were later pronounced dead.

You'll have to reach out to DPD for details regarding the cause of the accident.

Thursday, November 28th: NBC 5 (Claire Cardona) - Do you have any information on an accident at LBJ Freeway EB at Preston Road? We've heard that an engine was rear-ended at the scene and someone is pinned.

City Response - Around 06:00 DFR units were dispatched to a 911 call for a major accident at LBJ Freeway near Preston Road. Approximately an hour later, one of the DFR engines, that was blocking for the original accident, was struck by another vehicle.

The driver of that vehicle was briefly pinned in their vehicle, but firefighters were able to extricate that person from a rear window and transport them to a local hospital, in undisclosed condition, for evaluation of their injuries.

There were no injuries to any of the firefighters at the scene of the incident, and no one was transported from the original accident to which we responded as well.

Thursday, November 28th: All local media outlets - First, Happy Thanksgiving. Sorry to bug you on the holiday, but checking to see if you've been notified about the 2-alarm apartment fire in the 10000 block of Forest Lane?

City Response - At [18:41](#) Dallas Fire-Rescue responded to a 911 call for a structure fire at the Solaras Apartments, located at 10010 Forest Lane, in East Dallas.

When firefighters arrived at the three-story apartment building, they observed flames already coming through the roof. Due to the advanced stages of the fire, Command quickly called for a second alarm response and postured for a defensive attack.

Just before [19:30](#) a third alarm was dispatched for added manpower, as approximately 70 - 80 firefighters worked to extinguish the flames just after 21:00; isolating the damage to the building of origin.

There was a total of 23 apartments in the building (22 of which were occupied), which displaced an unspecified number of residents, but the American Red Cross has been dispatched to assist those residents with their needs. Thankfully, there were no injuries reported as a result of this fire.

According to Fire Investigators, the structural integrity of the building was compromised to such a degree that the building will have to be torn down. Due to this fact, investigators were not able to make safe entry into the building to conduct a thorough investigation; resulting in an undetermined fire cause.

Saturday, November 30th: All local media outlets - Do you have any information on this incidents? Was any one hurt? Do you have any tips you would like to share with our audience to help prevent this kind of accidents?

Dallas, TX (Dallas County)| Traffic Alert| S RL Thornton Frwy @ Zang Ave| FD O/S closing all NB lanes. Truck 33 has been struck while working a crash.| 00:33

City Response – Around 12:30 a.m. DFR Truck 33 was struck while at the scene of a major accident at I-35 and W. Clarendon. Thankfully, there were no injuries reported.

We would like to encourage people to slow down and be attentive and mindful to the road conditions, as well as the audible and visual warning signals used by first responders and adjust your driving accordingly.

Monday, December 2nd: Sent the following information to all local media outlets –
DFR Member To Be Recognized for Saving the Life of Burn Victim

What: Departmental recognition of DFR's, Pete Hartnett (and the crew staffing Engine 28)

When: Monday, December 2nd, at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Dallas Fire Station 37 (6742 Greenville Avenue)

Details: Dallas Fire-Rescue will be formally recognizing Firefighter, Peter "Pete" Hartnett, and the crew riding DFR Engine 28, for his life-saving actions on the morning of Monday, May 21, 2018, while responding to an "Aggravated Assault" call. Upon arrival, Engine 28 found a woman, who had been doused with kerosene and set on fire, rolling on the ground. Hartnett immediately jumped off the engine, while it was still in motion, and wrapped his bunker coat around the woman to put the flames out. Despite her level of anguish, the victim was able to tell firefighters the man standing next to them, who was originally thought to be someone who was trying to help, was actually the perpetrator. The man ran to his vehicle to flee the scene, but Hartnett chased him down and opened his door to pull him out. The man sped off towards the gate, with Hartnett in tow, and was able to make his escape after Hartnett was no longer able to hold on and fell to the ground. Though the assailant was later apprehended, and recently (in September) sentenced to life in prison, DFR immediately shifted their attention back to the victim; who was in critical condition and burned over 75% of her body. She was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital and ended up, after overcoming insurmountable odds, surviving.

A more detailed account of the victim's story can be found in an article published in the Monday, November 4th, edition of the Dallas Morning News, at <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/courts/2019/10/26/a-year-after-her-ex-set-her-on-fire-domestic-violence-victim-starting-over-again/>

In Attendance: Dominique Artis, Fire Chief (and members from the Command Staff); Firefighter, Peter Hartnett; Burn Victim, Danyeil Townzen.

Media: Please arrive early as to try and facilitate as many interview requests as possible before the presentation