

Not Official – Not Adopted

MINUTES

Stimulus Advisory Board
Meeting #3 – Public Testimony
June 3, 2021

Videoconference Meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjVXAyvqRyc>

5:35 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.

Members Present:

- Patrick Brown
- Ed Bryant
- Lisa Cagle
- Kimberly-Ann Collins
- David Dwight
- Dara Eskridge
- Vanessa Foster-Cooksey
- Cristina Garmendia
- Dr. Megan Green
- Erica Henderson
- Grace Kyung
- Sandra Moore
- Arrey Obenson
- Chris Prener
- Jason Purnell
- Wally Siewert
- Paul Sorenson
- Blake Strobe
- Mike Talboy
- Richard von Glahn
- Rebecca Weaver
- Aimee Wehmeier
- Niasha West

Staff Present:

- Jared Boyd
- Nancy Cross
- Nahuel Fefer
- LaTaunia Kenner

Elected Officials:

- Mayor Tishaura Jones
- Comptroller Darlene Green
- President Lewis Reed

Absent

- Rodney Boyd
- Brandon Comer
- Molly Metzger
- Tom Shepard

Recorder: Madisen Janssen

- I. Opening of Meeting (5:35 P.M.)
- II. Opening Remarks by Mayor Jones
 - a. Thanks to all who participated in the surveys and to all who signed up to speak at today's meeting.
 - b. Mayor Jones emphasized that her administration is committed to investing this direct relief funding equitably to ensure maximum transformational impact. This is a people's stimulus and a people's recovery.
 - c. Decision making power for the budget is still with the Board of E&A and the Board of Aldermen. The SAB is an advisory board.
- III. The moderator tonight is Rev. Michelle Higgins.
- IV. Wally Siewert and Sandra Moore, Co-Chairs of the SAB, gave a brief overview of the SAB and introduced the workgroups.
- V. Short Presentation from the Direct Relief Working group on their proposed Direct Relief Recommendations.
 - a. The 6 priority categories are:
 - i. Critical Health Needs
 - ii. Housing Assistance
 - iii. Support for the Unhoused
 - iv. Economic Relief
 - v. Youth Jobs and Programming
 - vi. Expanding Internet Access
- VI. Public Testimony – Participants were called to testimony based on the order they signed up.
 - a. Each public testimony has been categorized as either one of the 6 priorities, or has been identified as a new priority. These categories are in BOLD next to the testifiers name.

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1. Lindsey Noblot – NEW – CHILDCARE
 - a. This year has been especially difficult for moms and children. We should prioritize childcare because childcare is critical infrastructure. Proposed \$8M for childcare.
2. John Gaal – CRITICAL HEALTH NEEDS
 - a. Community health workers are instrumental. The City should seriously consider a crisis intervention team program, which would act as a buffer for those with mental health needs. This would be an alternative to police responding to mental health calls.
3. Joan Lipkin – NEW – ARTS
 - a. It is critical that we fund artists. The arts can be used for community development; arts can partner to change the quality of life.
4. Farrakhan Shegog – HOUSING ASSISTANCE/ YOUTH JOBS AND PROGRAMMING
 - a. Prioritize and increase Prop NS funds for housing stabilization and more funding for home repairs. Should prioritize community-based development.
 - b. Increase youth development, more funding for youth programs.
5. Jordan Henry – NEW – TRANSPORTATION
 - a. STRIPES program in Columbia – gives free rides to anyone who needs one. Text-based, free, and anonymous so that students feel safe to use this ride service. St. Louis should consider a similar program.
6. Tenesha Bady – NEW – CHILDCARE
 - a. More funding for childcare industry. Child care workers are essential workers. Advocating for \$8M so that that can pay childcare workers a higher salary. Need to pay quality wages in order to attract quality workers.
7. Reshad Staitieh – HOUSING ASSISTANCE
 - a. Works in landlord/tenant mediation. Mediation cuts through confusion of difficult processes and helps both parties.
8. Bolanle Ambonisye – NEW – PARENT EDUCATION
 - a. Parent education has many benefits for children and families. Investing in parent education has a lasting impact for generations to come.
9. Lisa Scheer – NEW – CHILDCARE
 - a. Childcare provider in Baden neighborhood. There is a lot of need in this area. Asking for \$8M for childcare.
10. Julia Allen – NEW – AGING POPULATION
 - a. Aging population has the hardest time accessing services. St Louis Area Agency on Aging provides great services already and are connected to the aging population and should receive more funding. Need to also remember aging individuals with fixed incomes.
11. Vanessa Hopkins – NEW – EDUCATION
 - a. Has concerns with teacher certifications – should make it easier/more accessible. Would also like to see an easier process for those wanting to start new youth programs.
12. Lisa LaGrone – NEW – OTHER
 - a. Police should focus on violent crime. Rec centers should be open for longer hours. Mental health services should be more accessible. Housing Authority should be funded. They want a clean, safe place to live.
13. Nicole Nelson – SUPPORT FOR UNHOUSED
 - a. Only \$1.5M was allocated for emergency shelters. They are working in the streets every day and the mental health needs of the unhoused have grown drastically. There should be

more transitional programs. How can organizations get certification to be emergency shelters so that they can serve more people?

14. Emma Crocker – CRITICAL HEALTH NEEDS
 - a. Registered nurse at CHIP Health and Wellness Center. Target population has little access to mental health services and case/nurse management. There should be investment in trusted community health sites.
15. Rita Chang – NEW – IMMIGRANT SERVICES
 - a. Program service provider at Immigrant Service Providers Network (ISPN). Setting up a program for direct cash assistance for immigrants who do not have access to federal relief/aid.
16. Gibron Jones – NEW – FOOD ACCESS
 - a. Executive Director at HOSCO, which distributes meals to those in need. Their system support entrepreneurship. They make the meals. There should be an emphasis on food access, not just giving money to food pantries, which are not always the best option for seniors and families.
17. James Roos – HOUSING ASSISTANCE
 - a. They have a long-term planning model for housing. Look at the website: sithousing.org.
18. Velma Bailey – YOUTH JOBS AND PROGRAMMING
 - a. Invest in youth programming. They have a camp in Fairgrounds Park. Children live in food deserts and they have no access to resources – their organization gives kids access to critical services. Put more money for organizations to develop youth infrastructure/programming for youth ages 13 to 15.
19. Stephanie Herbers – NEW – AGING POPULATION
 - a. Works with older adults. Stimulus funds for those with fixed incomes – it is unclear what supports/services those on a fixed income can apply for. Include caregiver support in addition to childcare support. Provide internet access for subsidized housing.
20. Julie Fox – NEW – IMMIGRANT SERVICES
 - a. Supporting foreign born individuals and their families. Lack of language access – wants more translation services and access for immigrant communities.
 - b. Direct cash assistance to foreign born individuals who have not had access to federal emergency relief.
21. Gary Newcomer – HOUSING ASSISTANCE
 - a. Works at Community Builders Network (CBN). They agree with additional funding for AHTF, vacant building repair, and lasting support for small businesses. There should also be funds for home repair and community-led planning.
22. George Stair – HOUSING ASSISTANCE/ PROCESS
 - a. In the short term they need to keep people from becoming homeless.
 - b. Hopes that long-term planning choices are based on research and money is spent wisely.
23. Dr. Mary Crocket Smith – NEW – CHILDCARE
 - a. Concerned with the social/emotional impact of COVID on kids. \$2M will not keep staffing for childcare – Need \$8M to increase the number of teachers in the classroom.
24. Adam Pearson – SUPPORT FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS
 - a. Works at Peter and Paul Community Services. Should expand funding to a minimum of \$25M for permanent supportive housing. There should also be guidelines for capital expenditures – retrofitting facilities for COVID will take funding.
25. Brenda Mangrum – YOUTH JOBS AND PROGRAMMING

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- a. Need support for youth, especially with all of the violence. There are a lot of grassroots organizations who can make a difference, but funding was not allocated to them.
- 26. Baata DJ – CRITICAL HEALTH NEEDS / ECONOMIC RELIEF
 - a. Priority number one is critical health needs. One of the 11 cities to get out of the pandemic.
 - b. Need to promote businesses and foot traffic downtown. Downtown used to be popular, but it needs to be built back up.
- 27. Lovely Snowden – NEW – CHILDCARE
 - a. Early childcare needs – especially in the Hyde Park neighborhood.
- 28. Vanetta Clark – YOUTH JOBS AND PROGRAMMING
 - a. Importance of teaching resiliency to youth. There is also a critical need for food/nutrition. Asking to pilot a program/research project in Walnut Park that would train teachers and provide dinners to youth.
- 29. Gerald Kleba – YOUTH JOBS AND PROGRAMMING
 - a. Priest in St. Louis. They could do better programming for youth with more funding and more collaboration. For him collaboration is important. Is there an RFP that will be issued for funds?
- 30. Kennard Williams – HOUSING ASSISTANCE
 - a. Evictions and utility shut offs disproportionately impact black and brown communities. Need to ensure that rental assistance funds get to people quickly so that people can remain in their homes.
- 31. Glenn Burleigh – HOUSING ASSISTANCE
 - a. Rental assistance should be easily to access and money goes out quickly. Eviction moratoriums are about to expire. Supportive for rapid rehousing. Services need to be tailored to those who may not have accessed services before.
- 32. Teka Childress – SUPPORT FOR THE UNHOUSED
 - a. Long-time outreach worker with the unhoused population. For the intake system, she encourages the use of a coordinated system, rather than a central intake system.
 - b. Tiny houses rather than tent encampments. There should also be multiple encampments rather than one large one. More humane than making everyone live in a large group of strangers.
- 33. Eugene Hubbard – ECONOMIC RELIEF
 - a. Suggests that frontline, essential workers be included in the next round of funding. They need to invest in frontline workers, such as janitors, who will be critical as the City begins to open back up and who have worked throughout the pandemic.
- 34. Shabibi McMillan – ECONOMIC RELIEF/ SUPPORT FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS
 - a. Hard to get into the homeless system. Would like more support for domestic violence victims.
 - b. The system is set up to keep people poor. She wants a job and to thrive, but it is currently more beneficial for her to stay home.

VII. Closing:

- a. Thank you from Wally Siewert and Sandra Moore.

VIII. Adjourn (7:55 P.M.)