

Results of the Commissioners Court Meeting of 10-27-20  
 All agenda items approved as presented with the following exceptions:  
 Harris County Commissioners Court  
 Exceptions to October 27, 2020 Agenda

Page	Item	Department	Exception
6.	2.e	Flood Control	<p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Harris County Flood Control District shall perform a customer service inspection survey for deferred maintenance and services, including, but not limited to, mowing, desilting, and other tasks, in order to develop a maintenance cycle, determine overall maintenance budget needs, and develop an overall condition assessment of the infrastructure.</p> <p>The District shall develop prioritization criteria, maintenance needs, and a budget based on the risks of failure and potential flooding.</p> <p>The District shall comprehensively examine the condition of all existing infrastructure and identify maintenance needs that have been deferred due to budgetary, or any other, reasons.</p> <p>The Budget Management Department shall evaluate whether Harris County may use capital improvement project funds via a bond issuance.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Transmittal response as directed by Commissioners Court on September 15, 2020 to outline future operations and maintenance needs in the coming years for the District be accepted.</p>
8	8.a	Community Services	Change to "October 25, 2020"
8	8.b	Community Services	No Action
16	20.d.1.1	Purchasing	Change to "long-term causal impacts"
19	20.d.12.c	Purchasing	No Action
21	21.a.2	County Judge	<p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis, and Commissioner A. Garcia voted Yes. Commissioner Radack and Commissioner Cagle voted No. 3/2 Vote.</p> <p>Establishing an Early Childhood Impact Fund in the amount of Ten-Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) and</p>

			engaging one or more independent evaluators to conduct rigorous third-party impact evaluations of early childhood initiatives receiving funding through the Fund.
21	21.b.3	Commissioner, Precinct 1	No Action
22	21.c.2	Commissioner, Precinct 2	<p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Change to “including central city component”</p> <p>Harris County Budget Management Department shall establish a comprehensive inventory of all County Departments and Offices that offer public-facing services, including, but not limited to, the Engineering and Public Health Departments, and County Clerk and Tax Assessor-Collector Offices, and to engage with Harris Health System, Harris County Flood Control District, and Harris County Toll Road Authority; and ordering Budget Management and the Commissioners Court Analyst’s Office, along with all other relevant County Departments, to evaluate options for a community regional service delivery model to include a central city component, and identify County-owned properties within each Precinct appropriate to provide such services, and identify where the County might need to acquire property to best serve residents.</p> <p>Budget Management and the Analyst’s Office shall consider locations in, or in proximity to, facilities with other government functions, including, but not limited to, Harris County, municipal, school district, community college, and university.</p>
22	21.e.1	Commissioner, Precinct 4	<p>Motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner A. Garcia. Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis, and Commissioner A. Garcia voted Yes. Commissioner Radack and Commissioner Cagle voted No. 3/2 Vote.</p> <p>IT IS ORDERED that the Harris County Clerk’s Office, along with other relevant County Departments, shall return a study to Commissioner’s Court by January 26, 2021, reviewing the historic implementation of a safe election in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This study should include:</p> <p>An election cost study accounting for implementation, voter turn-out, resources used, and record-breaking staffing levels. The study will compare how Harris County and Texas’ restrictive voting practices historically, and presently, helped make voting more difficult (ranking 50th nationally in ability to vote) and suppressed turnout, which increases cost.</p>

			<p>Efforts Harris County took to increase voter access and participation in a safe manner, as well as, the results of these efforts to increase voter turnout and access.</p> <p>The precautions taken to eliminate the spread of COVID-19 and prevent additional loss of life during the implementation of the election.</p> <p>A financial assessment that incorporates the cost savings based on the value of human life, using the number of Harris County residents who died of COVID-19 during the election period from February 1, 2020 to November 3, 2020 as a proxy, and reflecting the fact that many of the additional election costs were designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, stop infections, and prevent death.</p> <p>The cost of the average hospital stay at the Harris County Health System for COVID-19 patients to reflect potential savings because of the hospitalizations that were prevented.</p> <p>A review of drive-thru voting, extended hours, groundbreaking strategies like using professional stadiums (NRG Park, Toyota Center, BBVA Stadium, etc.), and the effectiveness of the 24-hour voting centers on the last day of Early Voting.</p> <p>Data on the number of incarcerated persons who voted from the Harris County Jail.</p> <p>A complete review of the use of mail ballots, the demographics of mail ballot voters, and any challenges in processing the ballots.</p> <p>A review of the signature matching process and the number of voters who were contacted to verify their signatures in order to ensure their mail ballots were counted.</p> <p>The total number of mail ballot issues that were resolved through the Early Vote period, as well as, Election Day to demonstrate the efforts taken to ensure that every legal vote was counted.</p> <p>The demographics of election workers and an analysis concerning how, or whether, the County should increase permanent staff for various roles (vote by mail, call center, etc.) instead of relying heavily upon temporary staff. Permanent staff could increase the number of people who have true expertise in these critical areas.</p>
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22	21.e.2	Commissioner, Precinct 4	<p>Motion by Judge Hidalgo, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner A. Garcia, and Commissioner Cagle voted Yes. Commissioner Radack voted No. 4/1 Vote.</p> <p>Ordering the Harris County Justice Administration Department to provide non-confidential data on the number of defendants who have become defendants in subsequent felony or misdemeanor cases while free on cash bail, personal recognizance bonds, or any other form of pre-trial release upon request by researchers, non-profit, and community organizations, and any other member of the public or public entity that requests it for the purpose of conducting research, or producing publicly available reports.</p>
24	22.g	COVID-19	<p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Harris County authorizes Guidehouse, Inc. to work with Harris County Budget Management Department, Universal Services, and Purchasing Department to procure and deploy fixed or mobile Wi-Fi solutions, mobile wireless network solutions, and fixed network solutions in an amount up to Fourteen Million Dollars (\$14,000,000.00).</p> <p>In deploying such solutions, Guidehouse, Budget Management, Universal Services, and Purchasing shall prioritize locations of highest need.</p> <p>In addition, Guidehouse shall work with local education agencies, Universal Services, and other relevant</p>

		<p>stakeholders to specify, list, and prioritize locations of need.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Harris County authorizes up to One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for Guidehouse, Inc. to work with Harris County Budget Management Department, Universal Services, Purchasing Department, and Toll Road Authority to provide all relevant school districts with access to the multilingual support center help desk, analyze common challenges identified by help desk callers, and update services and outreach efforts accordingly.</p> <p>Guidehouse shall work with local education agencies on continued outreach and engagement efforts.</p> <p>Guidehouse shall provide updates on additional support service requests to the Court on November 10, 2020.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Harris County authorizes Guidehouse, Inc. to work with Harris County Universal Services Department, Engineering Department, Purchasing Department, and other Relevant County Offices and Departments to Develop a Comprehensive Broadband Strategy to Augment the Short-Term Plans Previously Approved.</p> <p>Guidehouse shall present preliminary information, including, but not limited to, current state of development, leading practices, framework, and recommendations for the comprehensive broadband strategy, on December 1, 2020.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Harris County approves food and beverage costs of up to Forty-Five Thousand, One-Hundred, Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$45,159.00) for Harris County Clerk election staff at</p>
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			NRG Park from October 29, 2020 through November 3, 2020.
24	II.4	Supplemental	Change to "Request by the County Judge"
24	II.5	Supplemental	<p>Motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner A. Garcia. Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis, and Commissioner A. Garcia voted Yes. Commissioner Radack and Commissioner Cagle voted No. 3/2 Vote.</p> <p>Harris County adopts the revisions to, and does hereby revise, its Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Tax Abatement in a Reinvestment Zone Created in Harris County.</p>
25	V.1	Executive Session	Add "Commissioner Rodney Ellis and"
25	V.3	Executive Session	<p>Motion by Commissioner A. Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Harris County shall provide initial funding to Harris County Community Services Department in the Amount of One-Million, Five-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to Augment Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funds to Better Ensure an Equitable Relocation Benefit to Those Not Eligible, or who are only Partially Eligible, for Relocation Benefits Under the Uniform Relocation Act.</p> <p>Harris County Budget Management Department shall budget for and transfer those funds, as needed, to the Community Services Department.</p>