

MINUTES
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT

Taylor Lorence
Karen Knipscheer Cox
Jeanean Barajas
Joshua Drake
Mary Reuschel
Rick Pope
Anthony Sanchez
Chris Carey
Jillian de Vela
Rob Freeman
Cecilia Law
Gary Singer
Saul Romo
John Ignatczyk
Eric Robles
Lilian Choy
E.J. Martinez
Sally Richman
Wayne Chan
Thomas Jung
Neeraj Bhatnagar
Amanda Daflos
Mara Landay
Aaron Gross
Bobbi Jacobsen
Horace Frank
Jay Hom
David Kowalski
Brian Stoker
Lupe Gonzalez
Sonya Young-Jimenez
Paul Weinberg
Lisa Hayes

DEPARTMENT

Airports
Animal Services
Building and Safety
Chief Legislative Officer
City Administrative Officer
Disability
Economic and Workforce Development
Emergency Management
Emergency Management
Emergency Management
Emergency Management
Emergency Management
Finance
Fire
General Services
Housing Authority
Housing and Community Investment
Housing and Community Investment
Information Technology
Library
Mayor's Office
Mayor's Office
Mayor's Office
Mayor's Office
Personnel
Police
Police
Police
Public Works/Engineering
Public Works/Sanitation
Recreation and Parks
Transportation
Water and Power

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

Rob Freeman called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and made a roll call. The minutes of the March 4, 2020 EMC meeting were approved.

II. COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center Situation Status Report

Jillian de Vela reported that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated at Level I since March 16 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The current operational period was #31 during the hours 0800-1700 with virtual activation for evenings and weekends. The EOC was working with private sectors and non-profit organizations to get critical resources that the City departments need. The EOC was also in the process of advanced planning for a scenario that another disaster such as a brush fire or an earthquake happens during the current activation with a tabletop exercise.

Rob Freeman reported that planning was underway for recovery while the EOC remained in response mode. He thanked the EOC responders for participating in this sustained operation and will keep them posted on the activation level and operational period. The situation status report will be sent daily to provide update on the pandemic. The Emergency Management Department (EMD) is working with a new vendor, Veoci for an incident information management software system for the EOC. The WebEOC system will be replaced gradually.

III. COVID-19 Recovery Plan Overview

Gary Singer made a PowerPoint presentation on the City's COVID-19 Recovery Plan which followed the guidelines provided by the National Disaster Recovery Framework, the California Disaster Recovery Framework and the Operational Area Recovery Plan. At the beginning of April, a COVID-19 Recovery Addendum was being added to the City's Recovery Annex. The recovery from COVID-19 will not be instantaneous, however it will be gradually implemented in phases which will be determined by several key factors such as mortality rate, hospitalization, testing and tracing capacity, etc. EMD General Manager, who is the Local Disaster Recovery Manager, oversees the five Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) – Economic, Health and Social Services, Housing, Natural and Cultural Resources, Reconstitution/Continuity of Government. EMD is the coordinating department for the Health and Human Services RSF and the Reconstitution/Continuity of Government RSF. The Economic RSF is coordinated by the Los Angeles Police Department while the Housing and Community Investment Department leads the Housing RSF. The Natural and Cultural Resources RSF falls under the Recreation and Parks Department. Various working groups will be created under each RSF and each working group will develop playbook on how the various sectors will operate in each phase.

Aram Sahakian added that the Recovery Plan needs to be flexible in order to be successful. The City is working closely with the County Public Health Department and the State. The biggest challenge is the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) with the re-opening.

Rob Freeman added that EMD was working with the Mayor's Office on department reconstitution and reopening. Guidance will be developed and released soon.

Mara Landay and Amanda Daflos had a question about the timeline of the Recovery Plan. Aaron Gross underscored that the city needs to be built back stronger and smarter. Certain vulnerable population need to be included into consideration in the recovery phase and resiliency in the future.

IV. EMC Member Department Representative Reports

Taylor Lorence reported that the air traffic was still down, around 95% mark. The Los Angeles World Airports started to prepare workers back to work and to figure out how to keep the public safe and ease the fear of travelling.

Karen Knipscheer Cox reported that two animal services facilities were closed. There were a couple of exposures but no one tested positive.

Jeanean Barajas reported that the Building and Safety Department continued to operate with inspectors at construction sites.

Joshua Drake reported that the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office was looking into ways on how to host in-person council meetings in the future.

Mary Reuschel reported that the Office of the City Administrative Officer has been gathering costs from various departments.

Rick Hope reported that the Department on Disabilities was looking into ways to support the recovery operations.

Anthony Sanchez reported that the Economic and Workforce Development Department was looking into ways to help businesses that were closed and workers who were laid off.

Saul Romo reported that the Office of Finance was waiting for directions on how to distribute the \$700 million CARES Act Fund. The Treasury Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday for departments to replenish petty cash that were used to purchase resources in COVID-19 planning. The Office of Finance helped some departments on their revenue recovery.

John Ignatczyk reported that the Los Angeles Fire Department continued to support the recovery process while monitoring the weather for potential brushfires due to heat and wind conditions.

Eric Robles reported that the General Service Department was working diligently to procure the purchase of supply items for EOC and monitored the mask situation.

Lillian Choi reported that the Housing Authority has started the recovery process as the department was planning to work on the back orders and to reorganize the offices in order to keep a safe distance.

E.J. Martinez reported that the Housing and Community Investment Department was open to handle finance, construction of affordable housing, urgent and emergency inspections, and urgent landlord/tenant issues. About 450,000 Angeleno Card applications were received. The department shared the concern of PPE supply for the inspectors.

Tom Jung reported that the Library was working on recovery and reopening. The Library was also working with EMD and the LA County Department of Public Health to open a few libraries as cooling centers.

Bobbi Jacobsen reported that the Personnel Department has been handling Disaster Service Workers (DSW) resources requests such as food delivery to seniors and will continue the DSW mission in the recovery phase.

Jay Hom reported that the Los Angeles Police Department (LADP) Operations Center was activated at a level 2 with A and B Watch for a 24-hour operation. LAPD supported 24 shelter locations and testing sites, delivered test kits to labs, and helped pantry locations.

Sonya Young-Jimenez reported that the Recreation and Parks Department Operations Center was activated at level 1. There were 24 shelters open with 1,000 clients. There were 6 trailer sites and 9 child care sites open. About 250 full-time and 900 part-time staff were working in emergency operations. The department had concerned about PPE supply as well.

Paul Weinberg reported that the Department of Transportation supported transit operations in bringing people in and out of shelters. The traffic control demand has increased 90% and the demand for PPEs will be huge.

Lisa Hayes reported that the Water and Power Department (DWP) continued to support EOC objectives for response and recovery. DWP ensured the water tanks in trailers are filled and provided power to the LAFD command post.

V. Old / New Business

There was no old/new business.

VI. Adjournment

Rob Freeman adjourned the EMC meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cecilia Law, Executive Admin. Assistant
Emergency Management Department

Approved:



Rob Freeman, Chair
Emergency Management Committee