



Mayor Muriel Bowser
City Administrator Rashad M. Young



Interagency Council on Homelessness Emergency Response & Shelter Operations Committee



June 24, 2020

Agenda



- ❖ Martin Luther King, Jr Library Reopening
- ❖ Franklin Park Closure
- ❖ “Reopening” & Winter Planning
- ❖ CARES Act ESG Funding

An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent green roof. The building features a dark, grid-like facade and is surrounded by a city street scene with cars, trees, and pedestrians. The text "The new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library" is overlaid in white on the building.

**The new
Martin Luther King
Jr. Memorial
Library**

A Place to Learn



- Adult Learning
- Labs
- Co-Working Hub
- Cafe Space

A Space that Inspires

- Grand Reading Room
- Auditorium
- Great Hall
- Exhibits
- Labs
- Children's Room



Room to Read

- Children's Room
- Teen Space
- Adult Learning
- Center for Accessibility
- Auditorium
- Great Hall
- Cafe
- Grand Reading Room
- Rooftop Garden

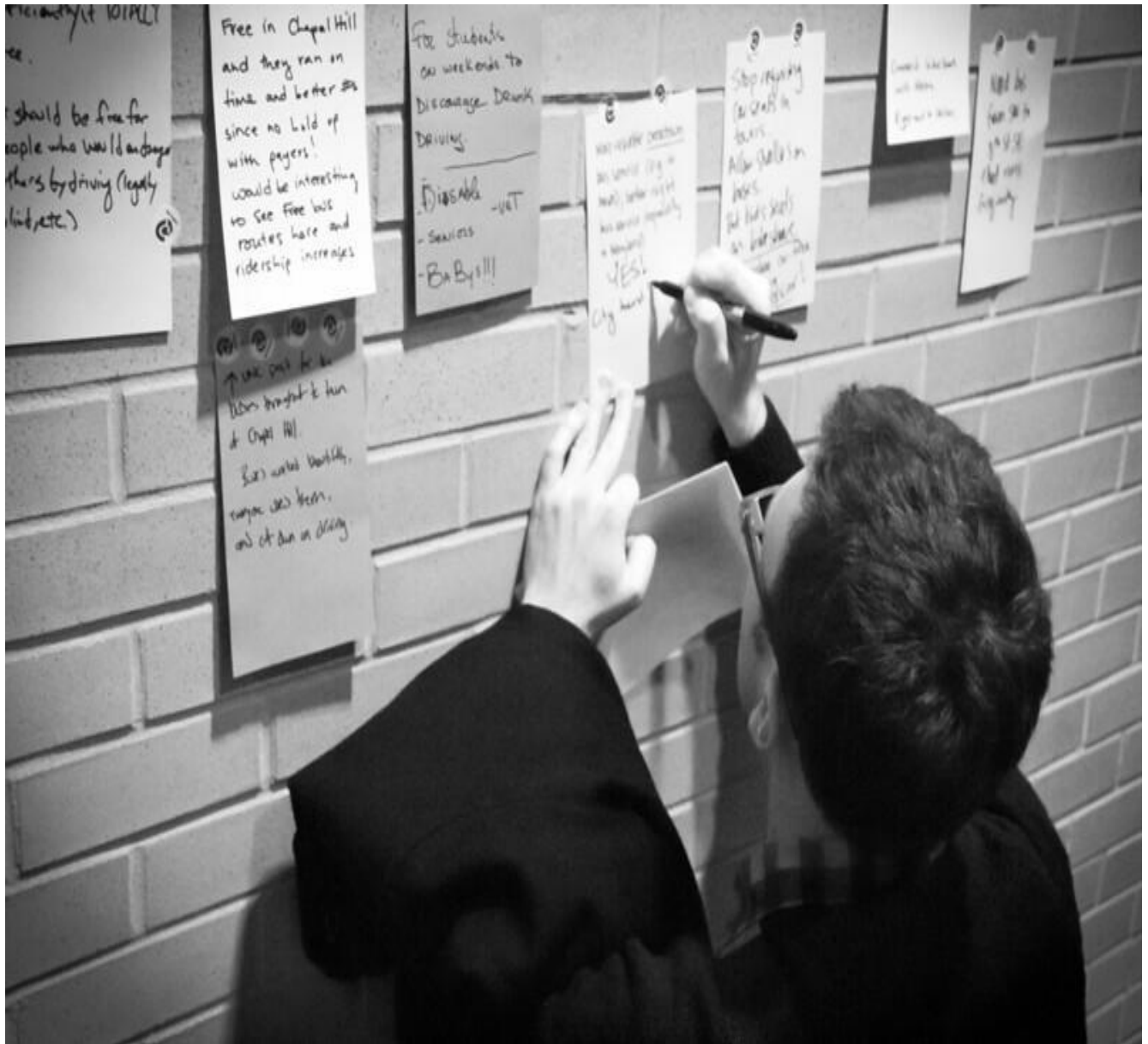


An architectural rendering of a modernized MLK Library. The building is a large, rectangular structure with a prominent glass facade and a green roof. The roof is divided into several sections, with the central section being a large, flat area covered in green grass. The surrounding areas of the roof are landscaped with various plants and trees. The building is situated in an urban environment, with other buildings visible in the background. The street in front of the building has several cars and a few pedestrians. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Welcoming Customers Without Homes in the Modernized MLK Library

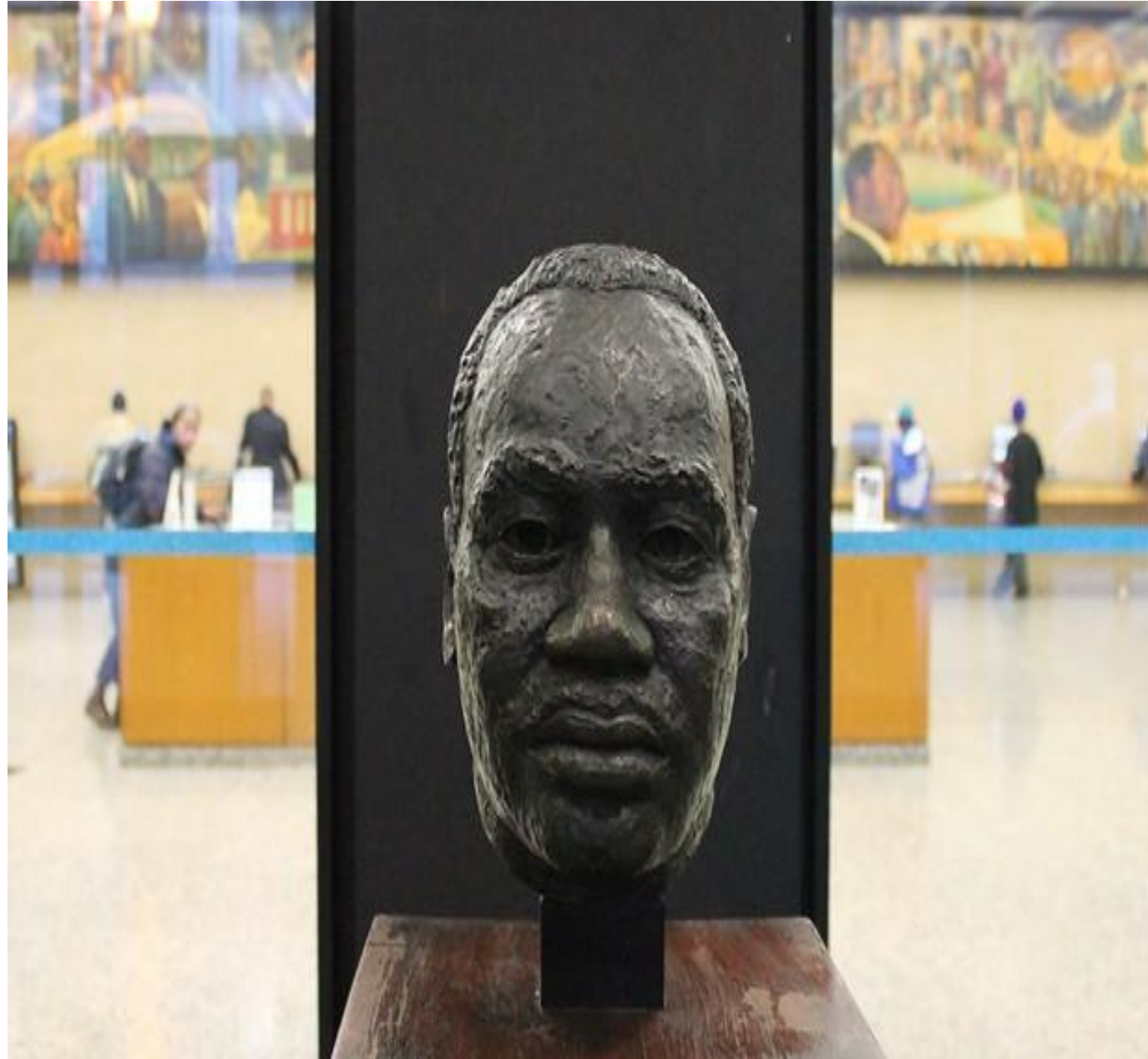
Inform and Educate Staff

- Up-to-date information and resources for staff to share with customers seeking assistance
- Staff training that supports welcoming and safe libraries for all customers



Support through Peer Outreach

- Dedicated peer support at MLK to connect individuals to services and advocate
- SOAR Services



Robust Services through Partnerships

- Use Community Services spaces to enhance services:
 - Neighborhood Legal Services program
 - Department of Employment Services
 - Department of Behavioral Health
 - Department of Human Services
 - DC DMV
 - Pathways to Housing



Build Community through the Library

- Library programs and services:
 - Coffee and Conversation program
 - Fab Lab
 - Adult Learning



Bridge Pathways to Employment

- Cafe partnership
- Partnership with DOES



An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent green roof. The building features a dark, glass-enclosed facade and a flat roof covered in lush greenery. The roof is divided into sections, with some areas appearing to be terraces or walkways. The building is situated in an urban environment, with a street in the foreground showing cars and pedestrians. The overall scene is rendered in a clean, digital style with a muted color palette.

Questions and Feedback

Agenda



- ❖ Martin Luther King, Jr Library Reopening
- ❖ **Franklin Park Closure**
- ❖ “Reopening” & Winter Planning
- ❖ CARES Act ESG Funding

Franklin Park Renovation



- ❖ Renovation to begin on July 1, 2020 and expected to last one year
- ❖ The District is committed to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness who use the park for recreation and to access services during the closure

FRANKLIN PARK RENOVATION Coming Summer 2021

PARK WILL BE CLOSED STARTING JULY 1, 2020 FOR PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MURIEL E. BOWSER, MAYOR

The project includes restoring and replacing the tree canopy, restoring the soil and curbing rodent infestations, significant regrading and relocation of paths, rain-gardens for on-site surface storm-water management, restoration of central flag-stone plaza with a redesigned interactive fountain, restoration and augmentation of historic light fixtures, benches and fencing, creation of a new 'children's garden' informal play area, and a Cafe-Pavilion, deck and plaza located at the southern edge of the site. Scope of the project includes utilities, streetscapes and sidewalks continuous with the park-block beyond the parcel property.

Individuals experiencing homelessness may receive services Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm at the Downtown Day Services Center, located in the basement of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (1313 New York Ave, NW).

Individuals may call the Shelter Hotline at 202-399-7093 to receive transportation to shelter.

Once the park is closed, the DowntownDC BID will provide the infrastructure to enable community partners to continue to provide vital services for individuals experiencing homelessness Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm on Vermont Avenue between H and I Streets NW.



Park Rendering



Pavilion Rendering

STUDIOS ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
LAND COLLECTIVE
KRAMER PROJECT MANAGER
SMOOT GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Park Closure & Services Timeline



- ❖ 6/17: District began outreach to residents and community
- ❖ 6/30: National Park Service, with support from DMHHS, will lead Clean Up at 11:00am
- ❖ 7/1: DGS puts up fence, officially closing the park
- ❖ 7/4 & 7/5: Weekend Meal Service continues at DDSC/Triangle Park.
- ❖ 7/11: Downtown DC BID begins operating new space for weekend services at Vermont Ave site, which will run the duration of the closure.

Resources for Franklin Park Individuals



- ❖ **Outreach:** Continued efforts to connect residents to critical supports like food, water, sanitizer, and welfare checks as well as housing-first services
- ❖ **Shelter Resources:** The District will work to provide shelter resources for individuals and we encourage residents to avail themselves of services.
 - Resident may call the Shelter Hotline for transportation at 202-399-7093 to shelter resources
- ❖ **Access to meals:** Triangle park outside the New York Ave Presbyterian Church (1313 New York Ave NW), which serves bagged lunches “to go” 7-days a week from 11:00am-1:00pm.



➤ Additional meal resources can be found on DHS website



Resources, Cont.



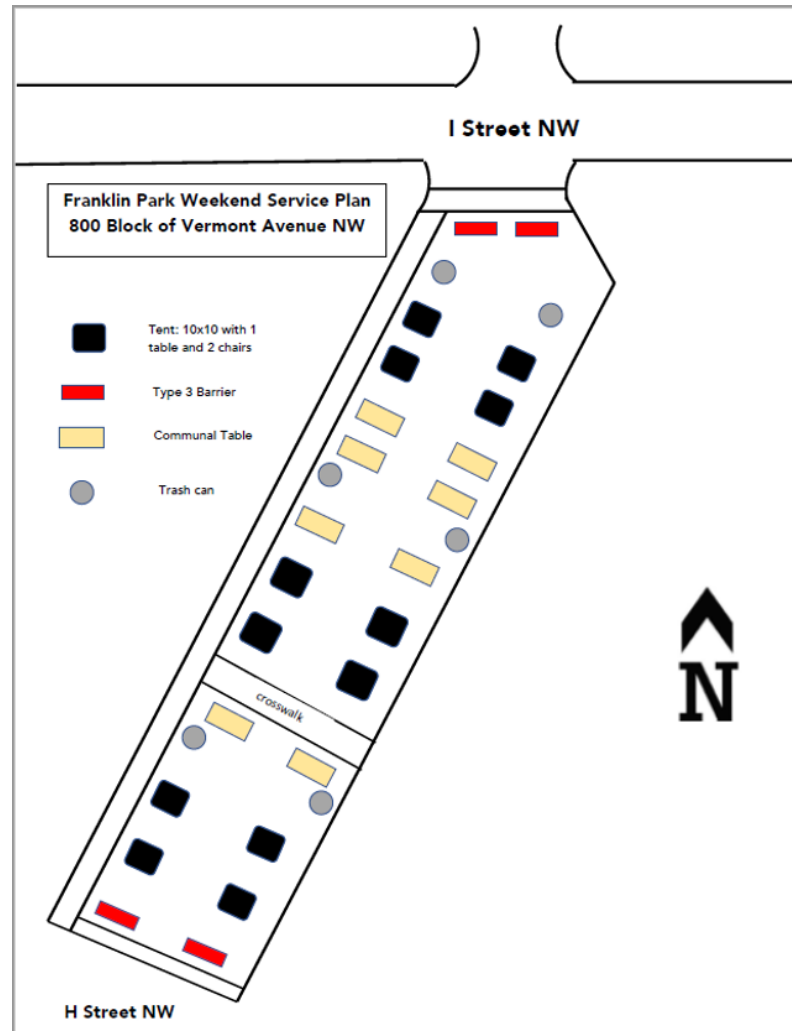
- ❖ **Showers and laundry:** the Downtown Day Service Center available for appointment-only services such as showers, laundry, and charge their cell phones.
 - To schedule services, please contact Pathways to Housing via phone: 202-674-2365 (9:00am – 5:00pm) or e-mail: ddsc@pathwaysdc.org.
 - In addition, the District has opened Banneker Rec Center to provide additional access to showers, appointments can be scheduled by calling 202-673-6861.

New Weekend Services



- ❖ Starting Saturday July 11, the District is partnering with the Downtown DC BID to set up an alternate outdoor site for weekend services for those experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Non-profits will be invited to set up a booth on Vermont Ave between H Street NW and I Street NW on Saturdays and Sundays to provide services they would otherwise provide in Franklin Park.
- ❖ If you are interested in participating in these alternative weekend services, please contact Ebony Walton (ebony@downtowndc.org) or Gerren Price (gerren@downtowndc.org) at the Downtown DC Business Improvement District.

New Weekend Services cont.



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CoC “Re-Opening” – Guiding Principles



- ❖ Phasing out modified operations for homeless services **not directly tied to District's Phases.**
- ❖ **We are in this together!** Continued input from key stakeholders important to making decisions about when and how to safely resume “normal” operations
- ❖ **Universal safeguards** – PPE, social distancing, rigorous hygiene practices – are critical as activities increase
- ❖ **Testing, screening** and **contact tracing** remain key to continuing to curb infection rate
- ❖ Continued **federal funding** to maintain modified operations will be a constraint.

DC's Phases of Re-Opening



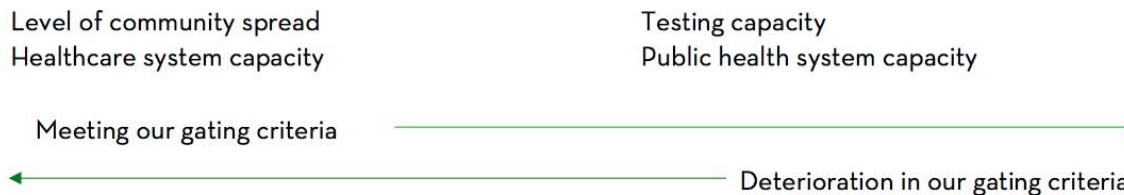
Recommendations to the Mayor

REOPEN DC ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

OUR STAGES

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
What is the nature of the pandemic?	Declining virus transmission	Only localized transmission	Sporadic transmission	Effective vaccine or cure
Gather?	Up to 10 people	Up to 50 people	Up to 250 people	All gatherings
Travel?	Discouraged	Discouraged	Can resume	All travel
Work remotely?	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Encouraged	New normal
What can we do?	Key low-risk activities with strong safeguards	Additional activities with strong safeguards	Higher-risk activities, with safeguards	A "new normal" for DC, with all activities as close to normal as possible

GATING CRITERIA



OUR SAFEGUARDS

UNIVERSAL SAFEGUARDS

For Individuals

- Physical distancing of at least 6 ft. when not at home
- Mask use in public spaces
- Stringent personal hygiene
- Staying home when sick
- Regular disinfection of surfaces

For Employers and Venues

- Physical distancing of at least 6 ft. for employees and patrons
- Regular cleaning and strict sanitation
- Use of health screenings and protective equipment
- Protections for workers and their families, particularly vulnerable persons
- Education of employees about COVID-19
- Strategies for accommodating ill employees

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Protected through collective commitment to universal safeguards
- Provided employer flexibility
- Easy access to hygiene, sanitation supplies, testing and safe isolation

For more information on what DC Health is monitoring and tracking, please visit: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>

OUR VALUES

Health 

Opportunity 

Prosperity 

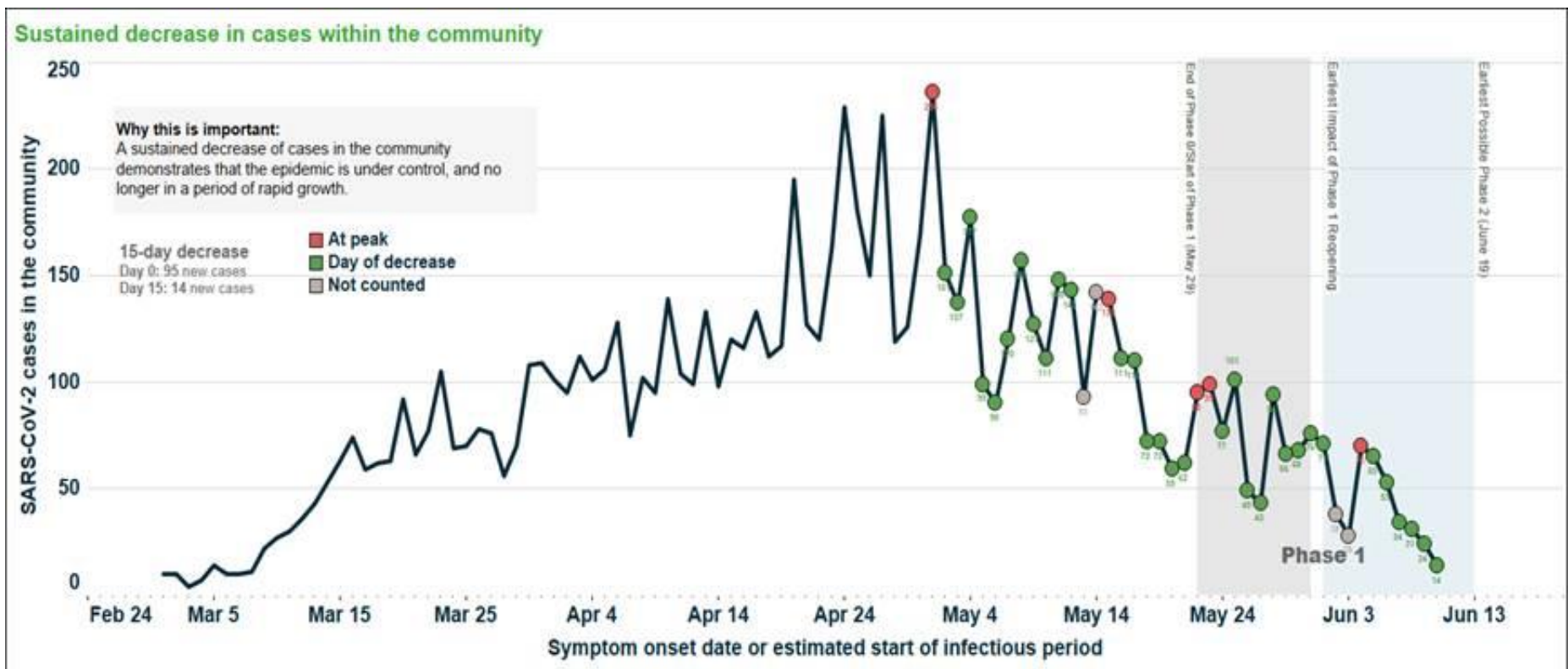
Equity 



Where we are now? (as of 6/19/20)



The District has experienced 15 days of sustained decrease in community spread of COVID-19 during Phase One.



Anticipated Changes in the Coming Weeks



- ❖ Congregate Shelters – no changes to modified operations
 - ISAQ and PEPV to continue
- ❖ DHS-Funded Outreach – Full staff capacity by July 1
 - No changes to handwashing stations or porta potties
- ❖ DHS-Funded Day Centers – DDSC limited, Zoe’s Doors & Sasha Bruce open
- ❖ Virginia Williams Family Resource Center – Open, intake via telephone / Shelter Hotline
- ❖ Case Management (FRSP, RRH-I, PSH, ERAP, HPP, etc.)
 - Providers will be asked to develop a plan that balances staff and client safety & wellbeing (a mix of remote and in-person visits)

Low-Barrier Shelters



- ❖ New Testing Strategy: Mass Testing
 - Identifies asymptomatic positive staff and clients
 - Initially triggered by one positive case at a shelter site
 - Follow up testing will recur until no positives
 - Extent of testing may vary depending on layout of site

- ❖ Shelter capacity will remain at reduced levels
 - LBS currently operating at 58-68% capacity
 - DHS developing metrics for when to increase capacity in congregate sites
 - Working to identify sites to add capacity this fall/winter

- ❖ Strategies to reduce movement will remain in place for now
 - Extended hours, meals and reduced transportation to encourage

Winter Plan Modifications: Discussion



Shelter Capacity

- ❖ DHS, ICH, and DGS staff have been working with the Office of the City Administrator to identify additional facilities.
- ❖ Proposing taking Shelter Capacity Work Group recommendations (based on historical data) and add percentage increase to account for new inflow due to COVID.
- ❖ Will also need to continue closely monitoring evictions in the region.
 - DC Economic Recovery Team (DERT) compiling/tracking housing data (including eviction data gathered through OTA).
 - Research suggests 15-25% of households facing eviction filings will experience homelessness.
- ❖ What metrics would people like to see before we transition back to regular capacity levels?
- ❖ What is the right approach for clients refusing to participate in screening and refusing to wear a mask?

Winter Plan Modifications, Cont.



Scheduled Transportation Routes

- ❖ How do people feel about staying with “on demand” transport only (i.e., no regular routes) as long as we are still seeing COVID cases in our system?
- ❖ What metrics would people like to see before regular transportation is resumed?
- ❖ What other concerns or suggestions do people have about transportation (especially for clients who are seeking employment, are working on housing search, etc.)?

Winter Plan Modifications, Cont.



Daytime Services

- ❖ Should DHS-funded daytime centers remain limited if shelters remain open 24/7?
 - What are privately-funded providers doing?
- ❖ If we return to standard shelter operations, should daytime centers be available fully (or limited to keep social distancing in place)?
- ❖ Do masks need to be worn in order to access? What happens if people are not following rules inside the facilities?

Winter Plan Modifications, Cont.



- ❖ Do you have any lessons learned, recommendations, or questions on topics that we haven't yet discussed?

Next Steps

- ❖ Incorporate feedback from today's conversation and continue fleshing out these issues as they relate to our COVID response.
- ❖ Circulate updated draft for Committee to review in late July.

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ESG CARES Act Funds - Update



- The District has received a total of \$27.7 million in COVID-19 Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) – a HUD program administered by DHS.
 - CARES Act ESG funding can support a broad range of activities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, including outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention
 - First ESG Award - \$4.6 million: DHS is using its first ESG award of \$4.6 million to cover the costs of access to overflow emergency shelter hotels for families during the pandemic

ESG CARES Act Funds - Update



Second ESG Award – \$23M:

- Majority of funding will need to be used to address existing budget gaps (family shelter overflow, FRSP, street outreach, single adult shelter operations). We will know more about gaps when budget finalized in July and can share any updates to the plan.
 - DHS priority funding areas:
 - FRSP: Current FY21 funding for 1,389 families. DHS anticipates 2,300+
 - Hotels: Need for emergency overflow into FY21
- Question for discussion:
- What are highest community priorities for ESG funding?



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