



City Manager's

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley provided this update on the City of Berkeley's COVID-19 response to the City Council. The reports, which are issued most weekdays, can be viewed at cityofberkeley.info/covid19-city-manager-updates.

Town Hall: Race, Health and Policing in a Time of Pandemic

Today we announced the virtual town hall for tomorrow night as an opportunity to connect more deeply to our community. These are unprecedented times that pose unprecedented challenges.

This pandemic has bluntly exposed deep, systemic inequities in our nation - issues that Berkeley is not immune from. Even while sheltering in place for safety, it's critical that we talk so we can connect on such fundamental issues.

I will be speaking alongside Chief Andrew R. Greenwood, Health Officer Dr. Lisa B. Hernandez and Deputy City Manager Dave White, who will be moderating.

Here are the details:

Virtual Town Hall: Race, Health and Policing in a Time of Pandemic

June 11, 2020 7 PM

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82765512167>

Phone: +1 669 900 9128, Webinar ID: 827 6551 2167

We are asking people to submit questions ahead of time via manager@cityofberkeley.info to allow as many people as possible to ask questions and facilitate a continuous conversation.

Thank you for pushing out [our community message about the Virtual Town Hall](#) on your channels.

Healthy Streets

We also announced Healthy Streets today.

Our goal was to build on our nearly half-century-old tradition of creating calmed streets -- something other cities have sought to mimic during this pandemic.

Three segments will be designated "Healthy Streets":

- 9th street from Hearst to Dwight



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- Russell Street from Adeline to Mabel
- Addison Street from Sacramento to Grant

Healthy Streets will be marked with barriers and signs that say “Watch for pedestrians and bikes/ consider other routes” at block entrances along with signs midblock reminding people to slow down, social distance, and cover their nose and mouth.

All the segments we've identified as planned or potential Healthy Streets are part of Berkeley's existing and proposed bicycle boulevard network, where we have already implemented measures to discourage cut-through car traffic including diverters, traffic circles, and speed humps.

The nearly 30 miles of existing or planned bicycle boulevards in Berkeley's Bicycle Plan have been identified through a robust community input process and selected for their ability to connect people to destinations such as schools and grocery stores.

Given the strain COVID-19 has placed on City resources, the Healthy Streets program would not be possible without the support of community volunteers -- specifically, Walk Bike Berkeley.

If you would like to share this on your networks, please see [our community message](#) for more information.

Resources

COVID-19 Race and Ethnicity data in California

Across California, communities of color are shouldering a disproportionate share of COVID-19 infections. The [California COVID-19 dashboard](#) charts case counts by race and ethnicity, providing a stark visual illustration of the disparate impacts of the pandemic. For a deeper dive, detailed [statewide COVID-19 data on cases and deaths](#) broken down by race and ethnicity across age groups is available on the California Department of Public Health website.

Families and friends of those incarcerated during COVID-19

Systemic inequities in our criminal justice system mean that many Californians of color face the additional challenge of a loved one being incarcerated during the pandemic. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) provides information on the statewide COVID-19 response efforts. Friends and



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family members can use the [CDCR data portal](#) to understand how the virus is impacting prisons, read current [protocols for visiting, communicating, and sending packages](#), and see the [state's efforts to protect inmates and workers](#). CDCR is providing free calls for inmates on Father's Day (June 21) and June 24.