

Date: January 23, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Councilmember Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie
Subject: COVID-19 After Action Report

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to request the City Manager to work with the Health and Human Services Department to provide a presentation on the COVID-19 After Action Report on March 19th, 2024.

DISCUSSION

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China. On January 7, 2020, Chinese authorities isolated a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of the outbreak and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established a 2019-nCoV Incident Management Team. On January 20, 2020, the CDC confirmed the first laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in the US. On January 27, 2020, the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) activated the Department Operations Center (DOC) at Level III (lowest level) to monitor the novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China. The disease was quickly detected across the globe, including in the United States. At the time, community transmission was limited. The rapidly evolving situation and guidance changed almost daily, and sometimes hourly. On March 2, 2020, the Health Department hosted a briefing for the City's All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT), which consisted of personnel from the Fire Department, Police Department, and the Health Department. On the morning of the briefing the Health Department requested the mobilization and deployment of the AHIMT, which was the first component in a series of events that would be used to mitigate the coming emergency to the City of Long Beach.

Due to the limited public health workforce, support from the AHIMT was critical in assisting the Health Department and City with information gathering, contingency planning, operationalizing plans, and the heavy logistical lift. Despite limited resources and constantly evolving information, the citywide response to COVID-19 was a successful endeavor in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on the community. The City pivoted quickly and often to ensure an equitably and accessible response. Through the end of May 2022, the City conducted more than one million tests, administered over 334,000 vaccines, established a local distribution site,

data dashboard, conducted more than 33,927 case investigations and 3,441 contact investigations and provided guidance and assisted in outbreak management and control in over 202 businesses, 187 LongTerm Care facilities, and 307 Schools/Daycares. Improvements will include additional emergency response trainings and exercises, as well as reviewing and assessing current city plans, and making updates based on findings.

March 19, 2024, will mark the four-year anniversary of Governor Newsom's stay at home order. In light of these achievements and ongoing efforts, it is timely that we request the presentation of the After-Action Report on COVID-19. This report serves as a comprehensive record of our actions, insights, and lessons learned during the pandemic, ultimately guiding us towards even greater preparedness and resilience in the face of future challenges.

The presentation of this report will not only honor the dedication of our teams but also underscore the necessity of preparedness and ongoing vigilance in safeguarding the health and well-being of our community. Together, we have demonstrated the strength of our city, and together, we will continue to build a safer and more resilient Long Beach.

This matter has been reviewed by Budget Analyst Joe R. Guerrero on January 12, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

This recommendation requests the City Manager to work with the Health and Human Services Department to provide a presentation on the COVID-19 After Action Report. The requested action is expected to have a minimal impact on staff hours beyond the budget scope of duties and a minimal impact on existing City Council priorities.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

STATEMENT OF URGENCY:

This item is being submitted through the supplemental agenda to allow for timely processing of funds.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joni Ricks - Oddie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joni Ricks-Oddie, Councilmember, Ninth District