



Letter from the Mayor

By Mayor Steve Adler • May 13, 2021
Smart Brevity™ count: 3 mins... 786 words

Welcome to the new format of my newsletter! Read more to learn about the City Manager's Prop B implementation plan, COVID-19 vaccine milestones, and other highlights from this past week.

May Election Certified & Prop B

Implementation Plan



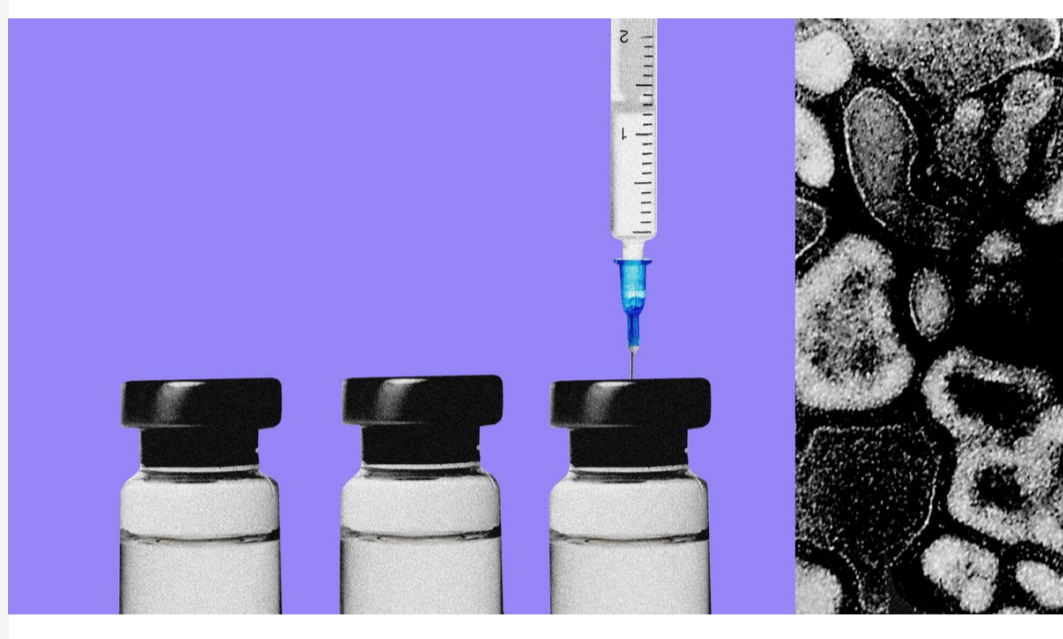
Yesterday, Austin City Manager Spencer Cronk and interim Police Chief Joseph Chacon announced their [plan to implement Proposition B](#).

Bottom line: The Manager and the Chief say their plan is the best way to move to the enforcement of Prop B in a manner that is both effective and humane. Everyone wants to get people out of tents everywhere in our city. While the city works to do this quickly — even with interim steps — we still need to build out the longer-term solution. I will continue to collaborate with community partners from the Summit to End Unsheltered Homelessness on providing services and [creating housing solutions](#) for those without homes.

Go deeper: Learn more about the Summit to End Unsheltered Homelessness and the [Summit Plan](#) to house 3,000 people over the next 3 years and to provide appropriate services.

- We want to hear from you! Send us your thoughts about the City Manager and Chief Chacon's plan by responding to this email.

COVID-19 Vaccinations



By the numbers: Austin/Travis County's vaccination efforts have been effective — 51% of our population has at least one dose.

- **How we compare:** Texas is at 40%, the US at 47%

Of those over 16 years old, we're at 62% with at least one dose.

- **How we compare:** Texas is at 52%; the US at 56%

Why it matters: Austin and El Paso are leading the state in vaccine distribution among larger metros, but there is still more work to do, especially among some of our most vulnerable populations. That's why we're beginning to focus even more on smaller, more targeted distribution vaccination sites.

- Austin Public Health (APH) is now offering COVID-19 Vaccination "Walk-Up, No-Appointment" Clinics! For the most up-to-date clinic locations and times, visit [APH's vaccine website](#).
- Austin ISD is also offering COVID-19 Vaccination Walk-Up Clinics — on the weekends. See the full schedule [here](#).
- Call 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000 to schedule an at-home vaccine appointment using APH's mobile clinic.

Children ages 12-15 are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine! APH does not yet receive that vaccine, but there are many other community partners providing it.

Free PPE and food distribution is happening on Saturday, May 22 from 10 am to 2 pm at Montopolis Neighborhood Center. Learn more about the event and how to request PPE at a site near you: [PPE Distribution Information](#)

Austin-Travis County's Vaccine Hesitancy Poll is open until the end of the week - take the survey to let us know how you feel about getting vaccinated.

Go deeper: Our brand new, major league soccer team, Austin FC, has joined forces with Austin Public Health to promote vaccines [#TakeTheShotATX](#)

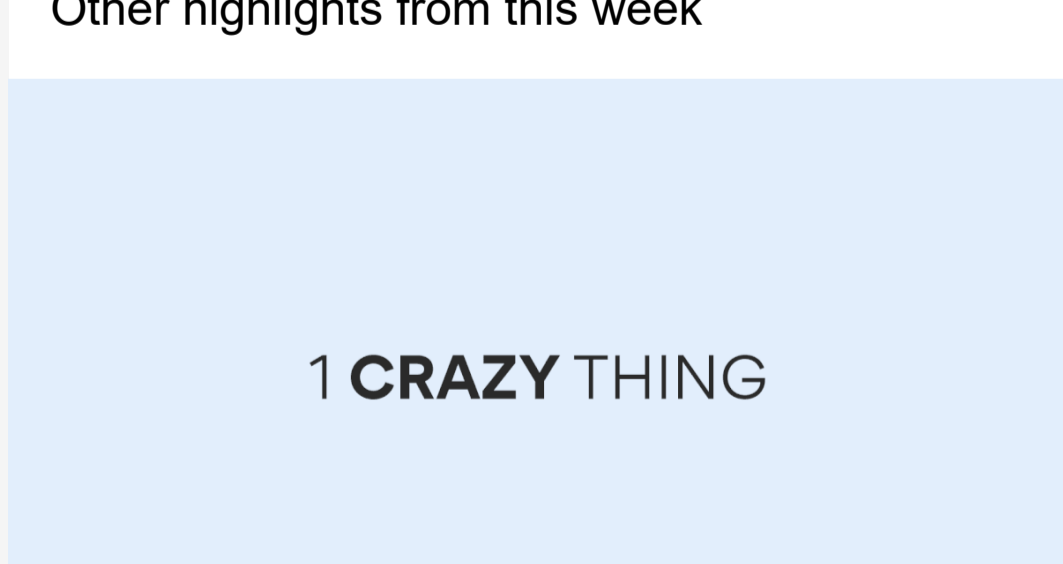
City Council Recap



Last week, the City Council took action on Winter Storm relief, meeting the challenge of homelessness, reimagining public safety, and more.

- Item 2 - Accepted the first installment of our federal American Rescue Plan Funding of \$97.9M
- Items 6/7 - Readied funding for Emergency Home Repairs related to Winter Storm Uri
- Items 10, 38 - Authorized the re-opening of APD's Cadet Academy in June (10) with independent monitoring of this new pilot class to ensure it meets the community's expectations (38)
- Items 14, 16, 20 - Approved contracts with Caritas, Integral Care, Family Eldercare, and FrontSteps to expand rapid rehousing, bridge shelter, and access to services for those without homes.

Other highlights from this week



Welcome Dr. Desmar Walkes, who is starting at the end of the month as the Austin/Travis County Health Authority, the position entrusted with providing the medical advice underlying our pandemic response. **A huge thank you** to Dr. Escott, soon to be Austin's new Chief Medical Officer (overseeing the city's clinical services) for all of his guidance over the course of the pandemic. That our local pandemic mortality rate is lower than half the Texas and national numbers is a real tribute to him.

Austin Public Health is hosting a LGBTQ+ Vaccine Event on Sunday, May 16 at 2 pm at Givens Park. For more info: [LGBTQ+ Vaccine Event](#)

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, follow the [Asian American Resource Center](#) as well as my social media channels to see ways we can celebrate our AAPI community in Austin.

Subscribe to my issues-based podcast "[Walk with Me Austin](#)" on Google Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor, Breaker, Pocketcast, and Radio Public.

- **Go deeper:** This week's episode "[The Good, Bad, and Ugly of the Texas Legislature](#)" with guest Jim Henson of the Texas Politics Project is out now!

In it together,

Mayor Adler