



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, 14 April 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Committee Members

PRESENT:

Dr. Megan Allyse
Jitan Kuverji
Shantel Davis

Christopher Crothers
Jolita Wainwright

ABSENT:

Isaiah M. Oliver (Unexcused)
CM Jimmy Peluso (Liaison)
Capt. Jennifer Parramore (Excused)

Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll (Excused)
Chief James Ricks (Excused)

COJ Support Staff:

Kenny Logsdon
Shannon MacGillis (OGC)

Neolita Maharaj

Guests Present:

Paul Stasi, City Rescue Mission
Dimitri Demopoulos, Urban Core
Schnell Chin, COJ
Major Keith Biggers, The Salvation Army
John H. Wyche, Community at Large

Carol Register, COJ
Clarence Harper, COJ
Brenda Boydston, The Salvation Army
Kym Maye, Community at Large
Jake Gordon, DVI

Board Meeting called to order by S. Davis (Chair) at 9:04 a.m.

Section I.- approval of the following minutes: January 16, 2025, Board; February 10, 2025, Board; February 18, 2025, Special; March 10, 2025, Board; and March 14, 2025, Special.
Moved by Jitan Kuverji, Second by Jolita Wainwright; Voice vote: pass, unanimous.

Section II.- Guest Speaker, Paul Stasi, from City Rescue Mission. He thanked CM, C. Miller, for today's invitation. He described the success of his program from a mental health perspective. He reported that most homeless models treat the symptoms, and not the cause. His organization deals with cause by using the wrap around delivery of services. Based on the 5-Step Model, Step 1 is to avoid homelessness or exit quickly; Step 2 is the trauma-informed compassionate care; Step 3 is the service connectivity; Step 4 is imparting purpose and dignity, with special societal reintegration; and Step 5 is support to maintain success and sustainable living. S. Davis asked about the organization's funding sources. The speaker reported that they have private funding since the inception of the organization, 79 years ago. He stated that he is currently working with the



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

Mayor's office to secure 26 beds, and that the Department of Corrections provided extra treatment beds for court ordered individuals. C. Crothers asked what success would look like and the speaker reported that they have a 1-year tracking program that monitors income, employment and remaining drug-free. The success rate was 76% for this current program year. He (Speaker) also recommended that the Consultant for the program should have different perspectives on homelessness.

Section III.-K. Logsdon read the email report from J. Parramore that stated: "As of 4/2, City Rescue Mission beds went online. We currently have 26 additional beds which are currently filled. The total number of beds we have for JFRD PATH are 70. City Rescue Mission- 26, Trinity beds-26 male and 18 females. In the very near future, we will be getting 40 more beds through the Salvation Army."

The following questions were asked: J. Wainwright-how are they addressing the physically challenged and she requested a more comprehensive report. C. Crothers- how many arrest reports are because of lack of beds? J. Kuverji wanted to know the cost for each arrest. S. Davis and K. Logsdon will follow up.

Section IV.- S. MacGillis reported that there is no filed litigation against the City regarding the "Anti-camping" laws. MacGillis noted that an ordinance was passed at Council, 2025-223, to extend the deadline for the interim report to December 31, 2025, which should allow the consultant to be engaged and do the work necessary for such report. The ordinance awaits the Mayor's signature.

Section V.-K. Logsdon reported that the RFP will be scored on 4/25/2025. As a result, the Special Meeting on April 18, 2025; then the tentative Special Meeting on May 2, 2025, were cancelled.

Section VI.- Public Comment (1)-J. Wyche reported that he assisted a mother and her children recently because a shelter did not accept this family. The committee said that Sulzbacher will not separate families. (2)-K. Maye spoke at length about the processes and policies at one of the shelters.

Section VII.- S. McGillis reported that CM J. Peluso is assigned to Council's standing Neighborhoods Committee, the meeting dates and time often conflicts with HIC meetings. She reported that meeting assignments will change in July 2025.

Section VIII.-No new business discussed.

Other-J. Wainwright asked about the treatment of bed-bugs and how shelters address these problems. She requested health inspections reports. Major K. Biggers said that at the Salvation Army, they have bed bug tents and regular maintenance for pest control.

K. Logsdon spoke about the Housing Fair Expo 2025, scheduled for April 26, 2025.

Meeting Adjourned- Meeting ended at 10:32 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., 8th Floor, Ed Ball Building.



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

CERTIFICATION

Homelessness Initiatives Commission
Board Meeting 14 April 2025

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:



Kenny Logsdon, Commission Staff
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

Approved by:



Jitan Kuverji, Secretary
Homelessness Initiatives Commission