



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 8, 2025.

Time: 11:01 a.m. – 12:29 p.m.

Commissioner Members

PRESENT:

Christopher Crothers (Vice Chair)
Jitan Kuverji (Secretary)

Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll
Jolita Wainwright

ABSENT (Excused):

Shantel Davis (Chair)

Dr. Megan Allyse

COJ Support Staff:

Kenny Logsdon (HCDD)
Sherry Pollock (OGC)

Neolita Maharaj (HCDD)
Kaylee Jones (HCDD)

Guests Present:

John Wyche (Community at Large)

Workshop Meeting called to order by C. Crothers at 11:01 a.m.

Section I.- Public Comments- J. Wyche expressed (1) his concerns about hospitals discharging homeless patients (2) homeless children, especially as schools' re-opens on 8/11/2025. He sent the children's homeless news link to City Council Members and COJ staff and (3) City Council cutting HIC dollars.

J. Kuverji commented that a school bus collects students from the Extended Stay America at Western Way, close to his hotel.

Section II.- Consultant RFP Workshop- C. Crothers reflected on August 7, 2025, budget hearing meeting. He reported that the annual 4% comes from the Economic Development Fee, which adds up to \$1.8M. The City can increase this allocated fund from the Community Benefits Agreement, however, at their discretion. \$6M went to the PATH program and CM Salem cut \$2.3M. He questioned the \$229,086 and analyzed if those funds were left over from homeless beds. Salvation Army (SA) are at a \$200,000 deficit for FY 2026; therefore, SA cannot renew their contract. This means that there will be 40 less homeless beds out of 100, starting in October 2025. Another issue is the lack of programming. He wanted to 'find' the missing \$229,000 because it diminishes HIC role to contract. If funds are decreased, then what is HIC role for City Council?

The Committee expressed the following concerns:

- C. Crothers- what is the plan for \$1.8M? The Committee needs to set the tone.



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- Rev. Kate-how do the funds get cut? There needs to be a clear path for delegation and consistency.
- J. Kuverji-will City Council support HIC? He wanted the expenses of HIC programs.
- C. Crothers-should we keep the RFP/Consultant if there is \$0 funding? Or stay on course and continue with the negotiations until October 1, 2025, when the Consultant starts.
- C. Crothers-who will manage the Consultant? K. Logsdon said the Neighborhood Department. C. Crothers said that he felt removed from the Procurement process and he wants to have open lines of communication moving forward with the Consultant. Communication with the Consultant may be in the form of weekly or bi-weekly zoom meetings and one representative from the Committee will answer questions. Questions will be posted for HIC members will respond based on their knowledge of the subject matter. Responses will be sent to the main representative to the Consultant.
- J. Wainwright wanted to document that "she never supported the RFP. Don't spend money on the Consultant. Members of this Committee can do a one-year plan... we know what needs to be done." She continued by reporting her research on other Cities and States successes with addressing the homeless. C. Crothers responded that the City and City Council want outcomes and metrics. Rev. Kate said that the City and City Council will listen to an outsider/Consultant, and this is what they requested.
- C. Crothers wants to meet with CM Salem, CM Arias and Cm Holland to talk about HIC. C. Crothers and Rev. Kate agreed that the City Council must have trust in HIC in order to secure additional funding.
- K. Jones commented that HIC can use other homeless organizations as a \$1 to \$1 match to increase funding; also, to implement a milestones payment plan for the Consultant: 30%, 20%, 10%, 10%, 10%, 10%, 10%.

Section III.- Other Conversations-

- J. Wainwright wanted to know what the talking points for meeting CM Salem would be.
- C. Crothers spoke about the 15-home pilot program with Sulzbacher on 8/27/2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Urban Rest Stop for me and the programs that will come to the City with the different business partners.
- C. Crothers also mentioned outreaching with community business downtown stakeholders and inviting them to HIC.
- C. Crothers wanted to know if the City with put funding into housing as a return on investment for homelessness.

Meeting Adjourned - at 12:29 p.m.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., 8th Floor, Ed Ball Building. HIC and the Public were informed about the parking changes.



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CERTIFICATION

**Homelessness Initiatives Commission
Special Workshop Meeting August 8, 2025**

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Logsdon", written over a horizontal line.

Kenny Logsdon, Commission Staff
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Kuverji", written over a horizontal line.

Jitan Kuverji, Secretary
Homelessness Initiatives Commission