



## OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

### HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

#### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, 11 August 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### Commissioner Members

##### PRESENT:

Christopher Crothers (Vice Chair)  
Jitan Kuverji (Secretary)  
Dr. Megan Allyse

Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll  
Jolita Wainwright

##### ABSENT (Excused):

Shantel Davis (Chair)

#### Liaison Members

##### PRESENT:

Commander James Ricks  
CM Jimmy Peluso

Captain Jennifer Parramore

#### COJ Support Staff:

Kenny Logsdon (HCDD)  
Laura Hartung (OGC)  
Schnell Chin (HCDD)

Neolita Maharaj (HCDD)  
Kaylee Jones (HCDD)

#### Guests Present:

John Wyche (Community at Large)  
Matthew Singleton (JDH Developers)  
Ernest J. Smith, III (CPAC)  
Karissa Hepley (Ability Husing)

Amish Patel (JDH Developers)  
Malloy Tinhomme (Sunshine Digital Design)  
Michelle Isley (Community at Large)

**Board Meeting called to order by C. Crothers at 9:01 a.m.**

**Section I.- Approval of Minutes-** Approval of minutes (Board Meeting on 12 May, 2025; Special Meeting on 16 May, 2025; Board Meeting on 9 June, 2025; Board Meeting on 18 July, 2025; Special Workshop Meeting on July 25, 2025) met with the arrival of Dr. Allyse and Rev. Moorehead at 9:15 a.m. Quorum satisfied with 4 members. Conducted by the C. Crothers, second by Dr. Allyse and moved by Rev. Moorehead.

**Section II.- JFRD and JSO Updates-** Comm. Ricks reported the following as of 7/28/2025, for camping violations-note that these were arrests and NTAs since 11/1/2024: warnings, 1,130, arrests, 313, NTAs, 93. The homeward bound program from 10/1/2024 to present is 485 and said that these numbers are increasing.



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J. Wainwright asked if they had monthly report numbers, and Comm. Ricks said no. C. Crothers said that there are individuals at the Lift Every Voice and Sing Park and Comm. Ricks stated that emergency beds are great, but they must have daily programs to keep individuals engaged and off the streets.

Capt. Parramore reported that they encountered 1,180 individuals in the PATH program. All beds are at capacity-92 males and 18 females. She announced that there are no resources for single women (beds), and there is an increase in female homelessness. Currently, Sulzbacher has accommodations for women and children.

### Conversations during this Section:

- K. Logsdon said that the \$200,000+ will change after October 1, 2025.
- C. Crothers will call some Council Members to clarify what they want in the 5-year strategic plan; and would like HIC to make immediate recommendations by 10/1/2025.
- J. Kuverji said that the 5-year strategic plan is around \$20M.
- C. Crothers inquired about HIC 1-year and 5-year plans outside the Mayor Comprehensive Plan in association with the \$1.8M, does this include services to the City and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Rest Stop which cost \$400,00+, as well as the need beds and programs?
- Comm. Ricks said that the Urban Rest Stop has full funding.
- Rev. Moorehead requested a budget with hard, clear numbers and wanted to know when HIC can get it.
- Dr. Allyse questioned if HIC needed to wait until the budget hearing to receive the numbers.
- K. Logsdon will get an excel spreadsheet by the end of the week with funding, noting that the Council votes in September 2025.
- Rev. Moorehead is concerned about the crisis with a lack of single female beds and questioned if HIC can request funds for this.
- J. Kuverji asked how long the beds are used. He reported that the Salvation Army has good wrap-around services. Capt. Parramore said that HIC can gather information from Changing Homelessness' HMIS (Homeless management Information System), which can track service usage and collect information.
- C. Crothers asked Capt. Parramore if the unavailability of beds increased and what is the reality. Capt. Parramore stated that there are no beds, and an additional 20-25 beds are needed for single female beds.
- Comm. Ricks asked Capt. Parramore if there are extra individuals from other cities and states using the emergency beds.

**Section III.- Consultant RFP Workshop-** J. Wyche introduced the guest speakers, JDH Developers, A. Patel and M. Singleton from Atlanta, GA. See PowerPoint. They have acquired 135 rooms, 2 beds hotel located at 10885 Harts Road, Jacksonville under New Hope Housing. Currently, they have two locations: Chattanooga TN, and Charlotte, NC. Both Cities rent rooms to individuals. Chattanooga is based on 'in need' whereas Charlotte rents all rooms.

J. Kuverji asked which City works better and the guest responded, Charlotte. He wanted to know if there were storage pods and pet policies. The guest replied that there was no storage and that there was a \$25 pet deposit, but there is a weight limit for cats and dogs.



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Dr. Allyse asked about transportation and the City rates. The guest speaker said that transportation is not provided, and the rates are \$30-\$40 weekly or a monthly flat rate. There are no provisions for food, only beds and laundry. The hotel in Jacksonville is furnished with microwave ovens. Dr. Allyse also asked about ADA compliance.

J. Wainwright asked about the length of stay and the guest answered it 'depended on the need'. Also, he reported that 100-200 left the hotel for permanent homes.

C. Crothers inquired about liability and voiced how JDH can partner with the City based on the RFP and the Consultant. He requested a copy of both contracts (Chattanooga and Charlotte). JDH will send the contracts to J. Kuverji, who will then send them to K. Logsdon. C. Crothers will review the contacts and the spreadsheets.

**Section IV.- OGC- Update and Impact of Legislation-** L. Hartung reported that there are no new filings or litigations about the Homelessness Statues. She said that the trust fund is 'north of' \$200,000.

### **Section V.- Public Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)-**

1. J. Wyche (Community at large) mentioned the article on homeless children and encouraged HIC to work with the School District. He suggested getting the budget list as a priority. He said that he placed 7 homeless individuals that past weekend.
2. E. Smith (CPAC) appeared to be an advocate who wholeheartedly wanted HIC and City Council to understand the importance of working with the homeless.
3. M. Isley (Community at Large) explained the challenges that homeless individuals encounter, such as navigating the system, stressing about meals, hot showers, and where to sleep. She stated that her monthly income of \$967 cannot maintain the basic life expenses for survival. She stressed that 'the homeless need help!'
4. CM Peluso spoke during this section. He stated that the budget process is not finalized and asked if the RFP was accepted. K. Logsdon said yes. He reported that the overall CBA dollars would be reduced and the current funds in the prior agreements will be a part of CBA for city-wide projects.

### **Sections VI. - Consultant-RFP Update; VII Unfinished Business; and VIII New Business- Conversations:**

- J. Wainwright asked why the Salvation Army lost emergency beds. C. Crothers reported that they may not be able to cover the financial gaps for the new fiscal year. As a result, they will have less beds. The City contract did not cover all basis of the program, like security.
- K. Logsdon said that OGC will lead negotiations with the Consultant and recommended not waiting until October 1, 2025.
- C. Crothers wants another emergency workshop for recommendations for the \$1.8M-what was covered outside these dollars and how to spend the money, for example, women beds.
- Comm. Rick mentioned a meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist/Gateway Building and invited HIC. More information to follow.
- There was a motion to get the budget for HIC by Rev. Moorehead. The second motion was by C. Crothers. J. Kuverji, said all in favor, there was unanimous consensus. Rev. Moorehead said that you 'cannot plan without numbers.'



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**Meeting Adjourned** - at 10:30 a.m.

The Special Meeting scheduled for August 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ed Ball Building is cancelled. C. Crothers will send a poll to determine the next date and time for a Special/Workshop Meeting.

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### CERTIFICATION

**Homelessness Initiatives Commission  
Board Meeting August 11, 2025**

**Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:**

Kenny Logsdon, Commission Staff  
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

**Approved by:**

Jitan Kuverji, Secretary  
Homelessness Initiatives Commission