

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Homelessness Subcommittee

June 24, 2021

Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister, Councilmember Sepi Shyne, Director of Public Safety Kristin Cook, Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck, Social Services Manager David Giugni, and City Clerk Melissa Crowder.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

3A. Identification of Facilities for Interim Access Centers

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister led a discussion and shared a Power Point presentation regarding the use of the Metro site as an interim location for unhoused community members to access services. Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck and Social Services Manager David Giugni detailed outreach services, including challenges during the pandemic. They indicated that we have contracted with 10 separate agencies that do outreach and that teams are back out on the street now that the public health orders are lifted. Ms. Planck reported that the City has housed 78 people during the last funding cycle, and that the outreach teams accomplishments in difficult circumstances have been impressive.

Public Comment:

- 1) Robert Stelloff does not support the proposal for use of the Metro site.
- 2) Mischke Butler does not support the proposal for use of the Metro site.

Director of Public Safety Kristin Cook described the participation of the mental health clinicians working on MET, the specially trained Mental Health Team through the City's contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She noted that the City Council will discuss Public Safety funding for non-criminal issues later this summer.

Property Development Manager Brian League shared that the City is looking at the possible use of several different sites including the property at Crescent Heights and Santa Monica for low-income housing. He also spoke about the time frame for developing low-income housing projects.

Policy consultants Abby Arnold and Jenny Swan spoke about her company's new contract with the City to explore both interim housing and permanent supportive housing options which will include extensive public outreach and funding source exploration.

Councilmember Shyne asked staff for more information about the drop-in center for services at the West Hollywood Library. Ms. Planck described the rotating team of agencies that provided services at the West Hollywood Library prior to the pandemic and current plans to resume services.

Councilmember Shyne shared that the City is planning a Town Hall on Homelessness and encouraged the individuals that spoke under public comment to attend so that they understand all of the tools the City is using to address homelessness.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister said that best we can do is provide outreach while being thoughtful about the location of services. She talked about the homeless needs assessment survey and expressed frustration at not having more tools to address the problems.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister shared the results of the City's Homeless Survey.

3B. November and December Subcommittee Meetings

The subcommittee agreed to cancel the November 25th meeting.

The meeting for December is re-scheduled for Thursday, December 9th at 8:30.

4. Items from Sub Committee

Councilmember Shyne said that we should look at temporary commercial locations for housing.

5. Items from Staff

Corri discussed both Federal and County housing vouchers that have become available, the City's Social Services team is working with LAHSA on these developments.

David Giugni added that the decompression order from the County requiring shelter occupancy to be reduced 50% has been lifted and that we now back at 100% bed capacity. We have been able to put more people back in shelter. He also mentioned the application for HCD trust funds for housing that is being worked on with possibility of Detroit Street as the City's matching project.

6. Public Comment

- Genevieve Morrill, CEO of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce talked about the Chamber's view of homelessness as a priority concern and their willingness to be of help

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and service. She talked about the Build Shelter Now Coalition and their efforts to make camping on the streets illegal.

- Robert Steloff shared that the old Versaille car wash might be a possible site for facilities. Mayor Pro Tempore Meister explained that this is in Los Angeles, not West Hollywood.
- Uriel shared that he operates a small personal homeless outreach effort, The West Hollywood Bread Basket on Wheels. His observation is that there is some success happening and services are being received.
- Dawna Zeeman requested information about homelessness and was referred for assistance after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned to the next Subcommittee meeting July 22, 2021.

Melissa Crowder

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk