

MEETING DATE July 10 2006

AGENDA ITEM Consideration of Renewal of the Ad Hoc Committee on
Homelessness

ATTACHMENTS

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City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date April 4, 2005	Item Number A-3
AGENDA ITEM	
Consideration of Appointments to the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee	
Contact Person/Dept Marna Johnson/Tevis Barnes	Phone Number (310) 253-5780
Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒	General Fund Yes ☐ No ☒
Public Hearing ☐	Action Item ☒ Attachments ☒
Public Notification Public notices were placed in the March 24 and March 31, 2005 editions of the Culver City News and the Culver City Observer. All residents residing within six (6) blocks of Veteran's Memorial Park were sent Notification Postcards on March 21, 2005. Each applicant was sent a written notice on March 21, 2005 and a follow-up telephone call on March 30, 2005. Notification was also placed on the Master Notification List on March 30, 2005.	
Department Approval Susan Evans 3/24/05	CAO Approval Jerry Fulwood 3/20/05
City Controller Approval N/A	

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council consider the applications and appoint four (4) residents to serve as members on the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee ("Committee") for a one (1) year term.

BACKGROUND

The homeless population is steadily increasing in the Los Angeles Region and will most likely continue to increase due to welfare reform, "skyrocketing" rental rates, limited access to affordable housing and health clinic closures. According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), in Los Angeles County there are 300,000 persons living in places not meant for human habitation (i.e. cars, freeway underpasses, parks, streets, etc.) or without a fixed nighttime residence. The homeless include men, women, emancipated minors, seniors, families, and individuals dealing with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues. Specifically with regard to Culver City, it is estimated that five (5) to thirty (30) persons lack a suitable fixed nighttime residence and utilize cars, parks, bus benches and/or La Ballona Creek as their domicile. It is projected that this number will substantially increase during the cold weather months due to the activation of the Cold Weather Shelter located at the National Guard Armory, operated by LAHSA.

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The following persons submitted applications for consideration

- 1 Walter DeLorrell, Jr
- 2 Debbie Dinges
- 3 P Andrew Gauvreau
- 4 Kimiko Kelly
- 5 Emily Craig MacRae
- 6 Dr Dianne McLain
- 7 Dan O'Brien
- 8 Barry Tunick
- 9 John Wahlert
- 10 Thomas Wilson
- 11 Scott Yabroff

Ms Susan Gregory also applied to serve on the Committee, and would have been the twelfth applicant, sadly she passed away on March 23, 2005 In her memory, staff would like to acknowledge and recognize Ms Gregory's genuine dedication and active involvement in Culver City

All applications have been reviewed by staff and are included as attachments along with an applicant summary chart In addition, all applicants are nearby residents of the Veteran's Memorial Park neighborhood, with the exception of Debbie Dinges who is a Culver City business owner and resident Ms Dinges has already been appointed as the Culver City Chamber of Commerce's representative for the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee

FISCAL ANALYSIS

None

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Eleven (11) applications for the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee
- 2 Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee Applicant Summary

April 4, 2005

Item A 3

Consideration of Appointments to the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee

Tervis Barnes, Housing Programs Administrator, gave the staff report

The following applicants addressed the City Council, stating their desire to serve on the committee

Dan O'Brien
Andy Gauvreau
Tom Wilson
Barry Tunick

Christopher Armenta, City Clerk read written comments submitted by the following

Emily MacRae

Mayor Rose called for nominations

Councilmember Gross nominated Andy Gauvreau, Dan O'Brien, John Wahlert and Tom Wilson

Councilmember Silbiger nominated Walter DeLorrell, Jr , Kimiko Kelly, Barry Tunick and Scott Yabroff

Councilmember Corlin nominated Walter DeLorrell, Jr , Emily MacRae, John Wahlert and Tom Wilson

Councilmember Vera nominated Dan O'Brien, John Wahlert, Tom Wilson and Andy Gauvreau

Mayor Rose nominated Tom Wilson, John Wahlert, Dan O'Brien and Andy Gauvreau

The following motion was made

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GROSS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER VERA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS TO THE HOMELESSNESS AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SERVE A ONE (1) YEAR TERM TOM WILSON, JOHN WAHLERT, DAN O'BRIEN AND ANDY GAUVREAU

CULVER CITY HOMELESSNESS AD HOC COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7 10 p m

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Wilson, Resident, John Wahlert, Resident, Debbie Jones (formerly Dinges), Chamber of Commerce, Lt Chris Maddox, Police, Roland Miranda, Deputy City Attorney

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT

Gary Silbiger, Mayor Carol Gross, Councilmember, William La Pointe, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Director, Leslie Brandes Social Services Specialist, Armando Abrego, Senior and Social Services Manager

ABSENT

Anita Shapiro, Culver City Homeowners Association, Andy Gauvreau Resident, Jay Handal, DBA, Heather Iker, Legal, Scott Bixby, Police Dan O'Brien, Resident, Darryl Wells, Fire Captain

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr Tom Mullins introduced himself and gave a brief background on his involvement with the homeless population and offered his assistance to the Committee on helping with homeless issues

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was moved by Ms Jones, seconded by Mr Wahlert and unanimously passed to approve the Secretary s Report

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Notes provided to the Committee but no minutes due to lack of quorum at the May 23, 2006 meeting

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

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AGENDA ITEMS (taken out of order)

5 B Discussion and Recommendation Regarding St Joseph's Contract

Bill LaPointe provided an overview of the St Joseph's Contract and the accomplishments achieved over the past year. Discussion ensued regarding negotiating minor parts of the upcoming contract for fiscal year 06-07, as well as including redefining their goals for next year and where our focus will be regarding homeless needs in the community in the coming year. Gary suggested that a COLA be added to the contract or increase the contract amount so services could be maintained or increased. Tom suggested that we review their work before we make any decision about changing the contract amount. Ms. Gross suggested that someone from St. Joseph's come to one of the Committee's upcoming meeting and give an assessment of the homeless situation in Culver City and give an overview of their services.

Moved by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Wilson and unanimously passed to recommend to the City Council that they renew St. Joseph's Contract and continue to encourage them to fulfill their obligations and services in working with the homelessness population in Culver City.

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5 A Discussion and Recommendation on the Future of the Ad Hoc Committee

- (1) **Past Accomplishments** Discussion ensued on where we are now and what accomplishments have been achieved over the past year. It was the consensus of the Committee that much has been accomplished over the past year including better communication between the public and City departments regarding the homelessness situation. Ms. Jones felt that there was a cooperative relationship between the Volunteers of America which runs the cold weather shelter. The shelter was well received. The Committee also feels better educated about the homeless population in Culver City. Mr. Wahlert also felt that the past year has been a discovery phase and that we are headed in the right direction but not always as quickly as hoped. Mr. Wilson felt strongly that the Committee could have accomplished more in the last year.
- (2) **Should this ad hoc committee continue? If so, what should be the**
 - (a) **Future goals of the committee** Ms. Jones suggested that the Committee be aware of regional issues as well. Ms. Gross suggested that members attend the Council of Governments (COG) which is comprised of the Westside Cities dealing with the homeless population on the Westside. The Committee should know what some of the regional issues are and what issues may be coming our way. One goal would be to start an education

campaign to educate businesses and bring a greater insight to the community about homelessness and resources available to the homeless population Mr Wilson suggested that we need to set more goals and get more people involved (neighbors City businesses people from different areas) He also stated that we need to set concrete goals and then we can see if we have met them He also felt that the law should be enforced equally among all residents of the City regardless if they are homeless or not

- (b) Composition of Committee Discussion ensued It was felt the current composition should continue with the current number of members without the City staff as voting members The seats would be replaced by opening the seats through city process to include additional residents from specific geographic areas within the City

Moved by Ms Jones, seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously passed that the Committee be opened to replace the four vacant city seats with four different geographic areas of the City and that these vacant seats be appointed by the City Council

- (c) Frequency of meetings Ms Gross and Mr LaPointe suggested that the Committee meet quarterly every two months, every six weeks to allow more time between meetings to accomplish goals and report back to the Committee Discussion ensued between Committee members

Moved by Mr Wilson, seconded by Ms Jones and unanimously passed to recommend to City Council to continue to hold the Committee meetings monthly

- (d) Discussion continued on what items should be on next months Agenda It was discuss to limit the information on the next agenda because the new members of the Committee would not appointed by the next meeting The committee agreed to have the following items on the agenda

- St Joseph Presentation
- Appoint Temporary Chair
- Prioritize goals
- Discussion regarding the business information packet

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business it was moved by Mr Wilson seconded by Ms Jones and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9 04 p m to the next Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday July 25 2006 at 7 00 p m

Julie Cobb
Administrative Secretary

TOM WILSON
VICE CHAIR

**HOMELESSNESS AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEMBERS' COMMENTS RE THE COMMITTEE'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GOALS AND FUTURE DIRECTION**

COMMITTEE MEMBER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	GOALS	FUTURE DIRECTION
Debbie Jones CC Chamber of Commerce	- Enhanced the cooperative relationship with Volunteers of America in order to better manage the Cold Shelter - Successfully addressed homeless problem in Media Park - Worked with St Joseph's to make contact with homeless in the city	- Strongly recommend to the City Council to allocate increase budget resources for the St Joseph's contract. They are surpassing the terms of their current contract but it is only a drop in the bucket compared to the rate the homeless are moving into the area. - Contribute to the regional discussion regarding services/plan to address the regional homelessness problem with the least amount of negative impact to the city. - Devise and recommend to the Council an all-encompassing campaign directed towards citizens, businesses, and patrons to educate these audiences on what they can do to discourage homeless activity in Culver City and appropriate resources available to the homeless.	- It is clear that there are other areas in the city with a homeless problem other than Veteran Park. The official focus of the committee should be expanded to city-wide homeless concerns. - I suggest the original makeup of the committee is maintained and add representatives from other areas of the city such as residential neighborhoods and business thoroughfares where an increased level of homelessness is present. - Monthly meetings have helped the committee keep momentum and I suggest we continue meet on this schedule.
Jay Handal Downtown Business Assn	The past year has shown many accomplishments and has brought greater oversight to the issue.	- The committee should continue its focus on problem solving and problem identifying. - Working together with the police, fire, cold weather shelter, St Joseph Center, and the City Council will help to continue to identify issues and solutions with a group there to ensure that proper plan implementation is taking place.	- It is my opinion that the committee should be brought back and expanded. - I believe this committee was and will continue to be a very valuable committee for the city.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	GOALS	FUTURE DIRECTION
Scott Bixby Police Department	- I believe that some accomplishments have included revised Municipal Codes zero tolerance with regard to enforcing the laws available and tracking incidents and specific people - In addition I think the communication between the public and departments involved has been more efficient and productive	It is my opinion that the goals have been to clear the public right-of-way and identify programs and assistance for the homeless	I have no real opinion on term limits With regard to frequency of meetings I think they should be quarterly
COMMITTEE MEMBER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	GOALS	FUTURE DIRECTION
Anita Shapiro CC Homeowners Assn			- I feel that this should be sent to the Council to determine if we go on or what - I thought that this committee was just for Vets Park area if not then we should get direction from the powers that be to continue with what we were charged with or we enlarge the committee to encompass the entire city Also what they want us to do with this

COMMITTEE MEMBER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	GOALS	FUTURE DIRECTION
Andy Gauvreau Residential	• The CC Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness was convened to serve the City Council with two clear specific goals • The first concern was to evaluate Culver City's current and ongoing homeless situation with specific attention given to the immediate Veterans Park vicinity and the downtown business area • The second to prepare a proposal for the City Council with recommendations to address and serve this homeless population • I think that the Committee's first 12 months were a discovery phase • The Committee has become better educated about the CC homeless population, the current state of the Culver City services, and the intricacies that the local government faces in responsibly dealing with the homeless population • The Committee has also become aware of how the municipality functions and relates its programs into the greater Los Angeles area	• I would suggest that the contracts with St Joseph and Volunteers of America (Cold Weather Shelter) be renewed • I would recommend sub-committee formations to carry on projects for the committee. A subcommittee would be able to pursue projects on behalf of the committee and submit them to the committee • Specifically, the business cards/refrigerator magnet project seems like it would benefit from more attention	• In regards to recommendations for the City Council or as we move forward with the committee, I would suggest the following • First and foremost, I would recommend that the committee continue on. The committee members are now more familiar and educated to discuss solutions to the homeless issues. The first year has given us a more solid foundation to address the homeless issue • I would like to broaden the group to include additional residents from parks where the homeless are present—such as Tellefson and the Culver West area • In regards to the meetings, I would recommend continuing a single meeting a month • I would suggest that a single location be utilized for the meetings at City Hall • I would also suggest that field trips not be part of the regular meeting schedules but supplemental meetings for the committee to attend, schedule permitting • As a member of the committee for almost a year, I have a better understanding of the challenge that Culver City faces in serving its residents and the homeless population. I would like to continue on with the committee to help find solutions

COMMITTEE MEMBER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	GOALS	FUTURE DIRECTION
Thomas B Wilson Residential			• I happen to be on the fence about continuing this committee I don't think the idea is good and if we were doing something constructive would be worth going forward • However I do not think the city is backing us know they like to say they have a committee looking into the issue of homelessness but the solutions have so far proven to be too press unfriendly for the Councilmembers • I was chosen for this committee by making a speech saying that we should arrest anyone that violates the law in the city parks homeless or not I still believe that and mention it at most meetings • However our City Council seems to feel that the homeless are exempt from the law by the fact that they don't want to follow it With this kind of attitude I cannot see how any progress can be made • That being said I will probably stay on the committee because somebody has to keep reminding people of the law My fellow residents on the committee (and those who have to live near the parks in Culver City) feel the same and deserve my support Maybe when the Council changes again we will have a chance I will wait