

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 26, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Daniel Behrendt called the regular meeting of the Culver City Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Gable Room.

Present: Daniel Behrendt, Chair
Bubba Fish, Vice Chair
Amy Cherness, Committee Member
Darryl Cherness, Committee Member
Rachel Feldstein, Committee Member
Khin Khin Gyi, Committee Member
Leonardo Wilborn, Committee Member

Absent: Emily Dibiny, Committee Member
Lizbeth Mendez, Committee Member

Staff: Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Manager
Christina Stoffers, Homeless Outreach Coordinator

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The Pledge of Allegiance

Member Amy Cherness led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On The Agenda

Chair Daniel Behrendt invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Dan Marioko expressed concern with public safety related to fire hazards with a homeless person in a tent near Carolina

Avenue and the bike trail at National Boulevard, and he expressed appreciation for the trash clean up in the area.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding staff awareness of the situation; the Fire Marshal; ensuring that the encampment does not infringe on the bike path and walkways; efforts to get the people in the area housed; and appreciation to the public for sharing concerns.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Manager, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness Meeting of September 20, 2022

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the incomplete nature of the minutes and agreement to postpone their consideration until a complete version is received.

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Order of the Agenda

Item A-2 was discussed before and after Item A-3.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Update Regarding Discussion with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for the Culver City 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Data

Chair Daniel Behrendt provided background on the item;

discussed information reviewed at the last meeting; questions regarding consistency of the numbers; a phone call with LAHSA (Los Angeles Housing Services Authority); the science behind the numbers; support from USC (University of Southern California) in estimating the numbers; the difficulty in drawing conclusions; flawed collection procedures; and fluctuating methodologies used for calculation.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Manager, discussed previous collaboration between Culver City and USC; clarification regarding maps used; LAHSA confusion with borders; statistical information regarding surrounding areas; raw data; adjustment factors; changing methodologies; and patterns.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding lack of clarity on issues raised; variations from SPA (Service Provider Area) to SPA and from year to year; benefits to having larger or smaller numbers; funding; performance; the traditional date and time for conducting the count; and the LASHA number vs. the number from Culver City Police and Fire.

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Item A-2

Discussion on ACOHH By-laws and Committee Member Meeting Attendance

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Manager, proposed deferring the discussion to allow for participation by all Committee Members.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the number of absent Committee Members; relevance to the discussion; and agreement to discuss Item A-2 after Item A-3.

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Item A-3

Quarterly Report from Culver City Fire Department and Police Department

Andrew Bellante, Culver City Police Lieutenant, provided a

presentation and introduced members of the MET Team; distributed handouts; discussed ongoing challenges; maximizing outreach capabilities; partnerships; refuse collection; distribution of supplies to the unhoused; remediation of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) violations; he provided information on specific cases and actions taken to assist various unhoused individuals in Culver City; discussed jurisdictional boundaries; areas with the highest call volume for unhoused individuals; types of calls; types of crime; the growing trend of encampment fires; violent crime involving unhoused individuals; property crime; assault; he summarized noteworthy crime reports; discussed high visibility patrols; outreach from the MET Team; identification of new unhoused individuals and development of rapport; the Partnerships in Policing Team; education on Police Department response and the law as it relates to the unhoused; collaboration with the Mobile Crisis Response Team; and continued work on Project Homekey.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding appreciation for the presentation; conviction rate for those arrested; percentage of assaults that are homeless against homeless; Culver City being viewed as a safe haven for homeless individuals; interaction between Officer James Thomas and homeless individuals; the responsibility to keep the unhoused population safe; holding people accountable for violent crime; issues at Overland and the Creek; frequent calls for service; overdose calls; Fentanyl usage; demographics; causes of fires; non-criminal calls for service; the time-consuming nature of mental health calls; crimes captured on video; predators; reporting procedures; the Regional Communications Center (RCC); 911 emergency calls; non-emergency calls; dispatch; public comment making reference to the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) not being able to take action; response time; investigation; the job of the Police to enforce the law; trespassing calls; petty theft; the Private Person's Arrest Process; willingness of victims to prosecute; changes to what is enforced; guaranteed CCPD response and assessment; what is considered a minor crime; notification of parents about crimes involving juveniles; percentage of the population that generates the calls; people that come in from the city of Los Angeles that generate calls; repeat offenders; other ways to make the job of CCPD easier; education; laws associated with homelessness; the prohibition on taking possessions and kicking people out; opening a direct line of communication with the public;

providing extra patrols for hot spots; tailoring response to individuals; increases to violent crime; and changes to reporting procedures.

Chair Daniel Behrendt invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Gary Silbiger discussed persecuted groups; people with issues; the importance of presuming someone innocent until proven guilty; people who are found eventually to be innocent; he quoted a song by Phil Ochs: "There But for Fortune Go You or I"; lack of support; the work of the Committee to assist people in recuperating from their problems; the origin of the Homelessness Committee; and the role of St. Josephs Center (SJC).

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the role of SJC to visit the camps and establish relationships; criminal activity handled by CCPD; and response teams for non-criminal activity.

Paul Vorhees, Fire Department Captain, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, indicated that he was impressed by the presentation from CCPD; discussed the proactive response to the unhoused situation; the reactive role of the Culver City Fire Department (CCFD); mitigating hazards; helping people in need; use of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS); statistics to date; total calls for service involving homeless individuals; EMS (Emergency Medical System) related calls; use of Narcan; alcohol related calls; miscellaneous calls; CCPD response; people sleeping on the sidewalk; water flow alarms; and hot spots.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding appreciation for the presentation and for the presence of Captain Voorhees at Committee meetings; CCFD team response; maintaining strict policy guidelines; and the effect of new bus lanes downtown on response time.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Manager, indicated that SJC would be providing a presentation at the next meeting, and SJC representatives introduced themselves.

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Item A-2
(Continued)

Discussion on ACOHH By-laws and Committee Member Meeting Attendance

Chair Daniel Behrendt discussed attendance issues; instances when there has been a lack of a quorum; concern with hampering the ability of the Committee to execute on their mission; taking a spot from someone who may want to participate; the section in the by-laws regarding absences; forfeiture of membership; and a Member who is no longer able to serve.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Manager, provided historical context on the issue; noted that definitive language had been derived from Landlord Tenant Mediation Board by-laws; she discussed a Member with educational obligations; and excused absences vs. no shows.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the importance of communication; staff communication with Committee Members regarding meeting dates; codification of meeting time in the by-laws; the regular schedule and meeting place to allow certainty for the public; providing early awareness of changes to meeting time and/or location; a recommendation that Committee Members who miss a meeting be responsible for finding out when the next meeting is; the importance of Committee Members making use of their City email; and a reminder that email is part of the public record.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Daniel Behrendt invited public comment.

No requests to speak were received.

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Items from Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness Members/Staff (Continued)

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding items for the next agenda; the upcoming Homeless

Count; dates for the next two meetings; clarification that meetings are hybrid for the public, but Committee Members need to attend in person; difficulty for members of the public to attend when meeting dates are changed; and scheduling subcommittee meetings.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:11 p.m., the Culver City Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness adjourned to a meeting to be held on November 15, 2022.

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TEVIS BARNES

SECRETARY of the Culver City Advisory Committee on Housing
and Homelessness, Culver City, California

APPROVED

Daniel Behrendt

CHAIR of the Advisory Committee on Housing and
Homelessness, Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date