

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 25, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness was called to order at 7:02 p.m. via Webex.

Present: Kim Gibson, Chair
Mark Lipman, Vice Chair
Daniel Behrendt, Committee Member
Rachel Feldstein, Committee Member
Khin Khin Gyi, Committee Member
Karlo Silbiger, Committee Member

Absent: Darryl Cherness, Committee Member

Staff: Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Administrator
Christina Stouffers, Homeless Outreach
Coordinator

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Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Administrator, explained meeting procedures.

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The Pledge of Allegiance

Rachel Feldstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Gibson invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Robert Zirgulis expressed concern with the homeless situation and the potential for expansion of the tents into parks; discussed property owner rights; other means for taking care of the homeless; the number of homeless with drug and mental problems; he felt people needed to be institutionalized; discussed state responsibility for addressing issues; concern with children being around people who have mental issues on the street; felt that issues should be tabled until after the election as the progressive City Council was seeking to defund the police; stated that people were intimidated by the "cancel culture"; and he noted that conservative people tended to contribute to charity more.

Frank Clark discussed living nearby the homeless encampment; social distancing; the worsening situation since camping had been allowed on the street; homeless people who refuse help; drug paraphernalia; the inability of his children to go out and play because there are people doing drugs or not wearing clothes; recent incidents; people who are on the streets because they want to be; and homeless who are facing hardship vs. those with mental illness or drug addiction.

Rosie Gabl expressed support for comments made by the previous speakers; provided background on herself; discussed the speed with which changes are made in the City; experiences with homeless individuals; and rights for the homeless vs. rights for others.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 28, 2020

MOVED BY CHAIR GIBSON, SECONDED BY MEMBER BEHRENDT AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT MEMBER CHERNESS), THAT THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS TABLE THE MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2020 TO THE SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Discussion 2020 – Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Results Discussion on the Results of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Reflecting a 13% Increase in Homelessness

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed increased numbers of homeless in Los Angeles County; those entering homelessness for the first time; additional information available on the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) webpage; the Upward Bound House shelter for families; methodology for the Homeless Count; viability of conducting a 2021 Homeless Count; use of information; programming recommendations to the City Council; homeless individuals in cars; and use of information to inform programming.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding increases in calls, tents, vans and make-shift shelters; the eviction moratorium; cars vs. vans; transitioning from cars to tents; timing; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and LAHSA; release of data; adjustment factors; the federal definition of homelessness; staff time and resources for the annual count; the demographic survey conducted by LAHSA; demographic information collected by Upward Bound and St. Joseph; improved assessment of data; the situation in January vs. the current situation; increased visibility of the homeless; the decreased number of people living in cars; people being pushed out of their cars into homelessness; the downward spiral; vans as less noticeable than RVs and allowing people to be less visible; the importance of moving from place to place to avoid being targeted; and the Safe Parking Program.

Chair Gibson invited public input.

The following members of the audience addressed the Committee:

Rosie Gabl declined to speak.

Frank Clark asserted that anyone who refused services should

be asked to leave the City because they want to be homeless.

Member Lipman discussed the Jones Settlement; evidence that most people want services; Project 50; no strings housing; criminalizing homelessness; the need to tailor services to the individual; the need to place people in permanent supportive housing so that they can get services; funding; and the proven success rate of Housing First and Project 50.

Marta questioned how mental health issues and drug dependency were addressed.

Jose Nuno, St. Joseph Center, discussed services provided by St. Joseph Center; work to build rapport; and the need to consider every person's needs individually.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding taking conservatorship over people; the process to determine that someone is unable to manage their life; and outdated federal and state rules.

Meg Sullivan discussed the Project 50 Program; the Housing First approach; government supported housing; providing close support; and regular market rate housing providers.

Stephen Johnson provided background on himself; noted the need for follow up after a 72-hour hold; and the need to address gaps in service.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding consensus to table Items A-2 and A-4.

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Item A-2

Update - Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness: Receive an update on the implementation of the goals and action under the Updated Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness Discussion and recommendations on the following:

**Goal 3/ Action 3g - Conduct Feasibility Studies/Motel Reuse
Goal 1/ Action 1b - Identify Viable Sites/Safe Parking Program
Goal 2/ Action 2c - Explore Rental Protection and Anti-Displacement Strategies/Rent Control Goal 3 /Action 3g -
Conduct Feasibility Studies/AM Vets Site**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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Item A-3

**Update - Bylaws Subcommittee: Receive an update from the Bylaws - Subcommittee including: Frequency of meetings
Scope and Mission of the COH Expansion of COH to a board or commission**

Member Silbiger discussed the recent meeting of the Bylaws Subcommittee; consideration of the name of the Committee; the mission statement; meeting schedule; composition of the Committee; subcommittees; and he welcomed suggestions for other items to consider.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Administrator, indicated that staff would formulate the actual language.

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Item A-4

**Discussion - Impact of COVID-19 on the Unhoused Community
Discussion and Recommendations on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Unhoused Community**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

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Item A-5

**Discussion - Housing Policies and Methods
Discussion on City Housing Policies and Methods to Facilitate Greater Housing Funding and Production**

Member Lipman discussed suggested housing solutions for Culver City; provided a brief overview of seven recommendations proposed; he asked that other Committee Members take time to review the suggestions and that the Initiative Subcommittee consider suggestions as well; he asserted that ending homelessness is achieved through housing; discussed the Housing First model; direct housing; providing stable housing to enable individual issues to be addressed; land banking; costs of building new homes in the region; asserted that it was cheaper and more effective to

buy homes and turn them into group homes; discussed the loss of public land over the past decade; racial justice; social equity in housing; the history of the City; removing racial covenants from deeds; the rent registry; creating a vacancy tax for units left vacant for an extended amount of time; affordability covenants; ensuring that the first units built are the affordable units; creating a roommate or owner-shared incentive program; the landlord incentive program; changes to housing with the pandemic; the need to update housing goals; the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) mandate for market rate units; changing demand; the need to reevaluate housing goals to meet current needs; and he asked for input to create an umbrella proposal to send to the City Council.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the housing justice movement; group homes; use of service providers to oversee management service coordination; permanent vs. temporary group homes; putting pressure on the City Council to approve projects with affordable housing; support for inclusionary zoning; landlord incentives; identifying the best actions to take within limited funding and limited political capital; the importance of the racial justice element; process; focus; timeframe; scheduling a joint meeting with the City Council; the previous Community Conversation with the City Council; revising and reprioritization of the Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness; SHARE Collaborative Housing in Culver City; the housing force approach; a suggestion to support trying a Direct Housing Pilot Program; the Safe Parking Program; and a request for time to digest information and for supporting data to provide context for the recommendations provided.

Chair Gibson invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Adham asked about taking a deeper dive into the homeless data and demographics; noted that not every strategy would be appropriate for every age group; discussed coordination of efforts with neighboring cities; concern that if people are re-housed, more people would just keep coming; and looking for a regional solution rather than one just for Culver City.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Programs Administrator, discussed data used to inform the plan; the Westside Council of Governments

Homeless Working Group; development of a regional plan to address homelessness; the misimpression that people are coming from other places; work to form a regional approach; data; and she discussed information and data used in program development.

Meg Sullivan felt that the discussion of racial covenants was meant to inflame; discussed the Fair Housing Act; the Housing First approach; and the need for wraparound services.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding acknowledgement that wraparound services are an integral part of Housing First; stabilizing the patient in order to treat the illness; pairing housing with services; the need to eliminate existing racial covenants on many of the deeds; the importance of addressing racial equity; the long and expensive process for a continuum of care; other cities enacting the Housing First model; funding; the Upward Bound and St. Joseph programs; a suggestion that the Homeless Subcommittee work on the item further; the need to identify items, prioritize them, and create a timeline; and development of a process to present items to the City Council.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Gibson invited public comment.

No public comment was received.

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Receive and File Correspondence

None.

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Items from Committee on Homelessness Members

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding scheduling; items for the September agenda; and having the Subcommittee meet in order to move items forward.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:00 p.m., the Culver City Committee on Homelessness adjourned to Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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TEVIS BARNES
SECRETARY of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness,
Culver City, California

APPROVED

KIM GIBSON
CHAIR of the Committee on 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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date