

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

October 30, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Room at City Hall.

Present: Karlo Silbiger, Vice Chair
Kim Gibson, Committee Member
John Helyar, Committee Member
Mark Lipman, Committee Member
Melissa Vollbrecht, Committee Member
Deborah Wallace, Committee Member*

*Member Wallace arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Absent: Ira Diamond, DPM, Committee Member

Staff: Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator
Ashleigh Blackman, Housing Authority Clerk
Roland Miranda, City Attorney's Office

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The Pledge of Allegiance

Melissa Vollbrecht led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Vice Chair Silbiger challenged Committee Members to define priorities and establish a vision for the coming year, and he invited meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

Meeting attendees introduced and provided background on themselves.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, introduced and provided background on Kristina Stouffers, the new Homeless Coordinator; discussed the City's application for Measure H funding for cities that have approved homeless plans; the Housing Navigator position; the study done by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on rejection of voucher holders; the HUD listening session with the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA); landlord concern with bureaucracy; and work with the subcommittee to determine property owner incentives to address concerns voiced at the listening session.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2018

Vice Chair Silbiger pointed out that Melissa Vollbrecht had been listed as a Committee Member in the minutes when she had not yet been sworn in.

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS PASSED A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 28, 2018 AS AMENDED (ABSENT MEMBERS DIAMOND AND WALLACE).

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

**Administration of the Oath of Office to Newly Appointed
Committee Member**

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, administered the Oath of Office to Melissa Vollbrecht.

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Item A-2

**Subcommittee Vacancies: Receive Nominations for Vacancies
for the 2019 Homeless County Subcommittees**

Vice Chair Silbiger discussed the process for creation of subcommittees.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, clarified the process for filling vacancies.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding purpose and commitments for the various subcommittees; and the Committee agreed to wait to see if Member Diamond would like to serve on the Bylaws subcommittee.

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS PASSED A MOTION TO WAIT TO THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ADDRESS THE BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENT, AND APPOINTED MEMBER VOLLBRECHT TO SERVE ON THE HOMELESS COUNT SUBCOMMITTEE (ABSENT MEMBERS DIAMOND AND WALLACE).

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Item A-3

**Election of Officers: Receive Nominations for the Election
of Officers for the Committee on Homelessness**

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, clarified the duties of the positions.

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS APPOINTED KARLO SILBIGER TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (ABSENT MEMBERS DIAMOND AND WALLACE).

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS APPOINTED KIM GIBSON TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (ABSENT MEMBERS DIAMOND AND WALLACE).

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Item A-4

Receive Quarterly Updates from Saint Joseph Center, Upward Bound House and the Culver City Police and Fire Departments on Homeless Activity in the City and Services Provided Through City Contracts

Tiffany Anderson, Saint Joseph Center, provided a summary report on activity from July - October; discussed encampments in the City; requests for assistance for individuals living in their cars; new faces in the City; and the difficulty of engagement for a transient population.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding vouchers; the Rapid Rehousing program; Shelter Plus Care; appreciation for the thorough weekly reports from Saint Joseph; increased numbers of homeless individuals in the City; people who work but lack a fixed nighttime residence; positive interactions between first responders and homeless individuals; the perception of Culver City as a safe place to camp out; average size of encampments; the number of Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal (LA-HOP) requests; size of the RV population; strict RV parking regulations; and coordination with the Didi Hirsch Center.

Chris Oliver, Upward Bound, distributed a report to Committee Members; discussed on the number of people served; children served; the School District; activities and services available; and he reported that the Housing Authority of Los Angeles had awarded fifteen advocations for vouchers.

Discussion ensued between meeting participants, staff and Committee Members regarding the standing invitation to community and Committee Members to visit Upward Bound;

contact information; follow-up services for retention; voucher conditions; resources available; advocating for people once they are housed; coordination between Upward Bound and Saint Joseph; increased diversion; motel vouchers; demand; pricing; and motels willing to deal with City policies.

Allen Shepherd, Culver City Police Department, provided a report on homeless related calls; discussed the process for tracking calls; mental health related calls; increased numbers of homeless females and people sleeping in their vehicles; and willingness to accept requests for specific data tracked.

Discussion ensued between meeting participants, staff and Committee Members regarding individuals served; repeat calls; appropriate police calls; moving people along; providing services; the obligation for officers to respond to calls whether they are police related or not; limited resources during nighttime hours; regular calls; ways to assist the police department; education; public urination; the fact that most people do not want to press charges; actually addressing issues; issuing tickets that lead to warrants; people who call the police on people that they just do not like; the Homeless Tool Kit; the mission of the police to help out the homeless; building awareness in the community; clarification that the police are not a private security force; the importance of measured police response; targeted neighborhoods; referral procedures; people passing through vs. people who stay in the City; collaboration; information sharing; concern with criminalizing homelessness; the Office of Diversion and Reentry; and general policies of the Culver City Police Department.

Daniel Dobbs, Culver City Fire Department, provided a report on homeless related calls; discussed calls made by people concerned with the health of people they see laying on the sidewalk; coordination with the Police Department; public intoxication; repeat customers; City boundaries observed by the Police Department vs. the Fire Department; ensuring that care is not delayed; the influx of people into the City at night; and Exodus Health Care.

Discussion ensued between meeting participants, staff and Committee Members regarding 5150 holds; occasional difficulty for people who are released and do not know how to get back to where they came from; people who ask the

Fire Department take them back to Exodus; appreciation for hearing other perspectives and aspects of the homeless issue; chronic homelessness; seeing the same people over many years; the difficulty of getting through to people who are in an altered state; use of hospital emergency rooms as sobering centers; due diligence; hospital outreach staff; and the 23 hour policy of Exodus.

Meredith Berkson, LA County Homeless Initiative, discussed the independent contract with Saint Joseph Center; success coordinating outside help with psychiatric emergency rooms; co-location; and E6 Teams.

Discussion ensued between staff, meeting participants and Committee Members; regarding linkage; frequent fliers; people who need additional intervention; City facilitation of a meeting between Saint Joseph and Exodus; outreach hours; nights and weekends; Measure H funding for one weekend team per Service Provider Area (SPA); the Saint Joseph contract with Saint Johns in Santa Monica; hiring out of homelessness; required peer support; vocational training programs; an invitation to Committee Members to ride on ambulance calls; and encouragement for City partners to let the Committee know what could make their jobs easier.

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Item A-5

Update - Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative Subcommittee

Member Helyar discussed support for the housing study; bringing in a navigator, landlord incentives; and space conversion.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, discussed setting seed money aside; City Council support for converting motels to permanent supportive housing; the due date for the RFPs; motel owners; and challenges with market values.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the county meeting in Culver City to prioritize actions for the county initiative; the need for land; the county courthouse; a suggestion to invite Homeless and Housing Deputies from the Second District to a Committee

Meeting; 10000 Jefferson; making addressing homelessness a priority; and circumventing the developers.

Member Wallace jointed the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Additional discussion ensued between meeting participants, staff and Committee Members regarding establishing a point of contact with the county; costs to buy out existing apartments and houses vs. giving developers density bonuses; shared housing; the recent practice of HUD to allow use Section 8 vouchers in a group home setting; property purchased through the Redevelopment Agency; and support and feedback for the subcommittee.

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Item A-6

Update - Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee

Chair Silbiger reported on the recent meeting of the Outreach and Engagement subcommittee; discussed focusing on different outreach strategies; the need for a roundtable with landlords to gain insight as to why they are not renting to homeless individuals; combining a resource fair with a larger meeting to encourage landlords to join the program; outreach to neighborhood associations; identifying who to invite in order to have a successful program with landlords; and determining what questions to ask.

Member Lipman discussed inviting groups who are providing low cost solutions like Showers of Hope and Tiny Homes; calling the event a resource fair vs. a solutions fair; and the Del Rey site for seniors and formerly homeless.

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Item A-7

Review an Update on the Implementation of Goals and Actions Under the Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness. Approval of Action 2B - Homelessness Tool Kits

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, discussed the Homeless Tool Kit; filling in blank pages with iconic pictures of Culver City or affordable housing projects; different

formats for the Tool Kits; distribution; the release of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the various studies; applications for Measure H funds; progress to date; the Food Harvest program; relationships with markets for fresh produce; ensuring that the quality of the food is up to standards; having a farmers market for homeless families and the Section 8 program; information gathering for the economic empowerment grant; and implementation of the homelessness plan.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Committee Members regarding food programs available through the schools; use of Veterans Auditorium as an emergency shelter; what constitutes an emergency; use of the facility as a weather activated homeless shelter; Parks and Recreation jurisdiction over the facility; temporary sheltering; current heavy use of the facility; Committee agreement to agendize a discussion of weather activated shelters; including LA-HOP in the Tool Kit; and final corrections to the Tool Kit.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Silbiger invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receive and File Correspondence

None.

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Items from Committee on Homelessness Members

Member Lipman reported communication with Herb Wesson's office regarding a property that is partially in LA and partially in Culver City for a bridge housing project or a safe parking program.

Tevis Barnes, Housing Administrator, discussed the advisory nature of the Committee; clarification that staff does not

engage elected officials unless directed to do so by the City Council; the need to ask permission from the City Council before communicating with Herb Wesson's office; and she suggested that the Committee agendaize a discussion of whether to pursue the matter and if so, request permission from the City Council.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding acting as a private citizen vs. acting as a Committee Member; having the backing of the City Council to help move things forward; concern that having meetings every other month is stymying progress; the process for changing meeting frequency; the Bylaws Subcommittee; and date of the next Committee meeting.

THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS PASSED A MOTION THAT THE NEXT COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING BE HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 2018 (ABSENT MEMBER DIAMOND).

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:01 p.m., the Culver City Committee on Homelessness adjourned to Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

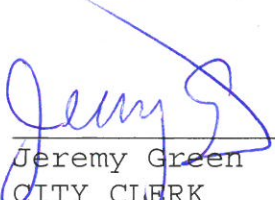
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 12/4/18
TEVIS BARNES
SECRETARY of the Culver City Committee on Homelessness,
Culver City, California

APPROVED

 12-4-18
KARLO SILBIGER
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

10 DEC 2018
Date