

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness

January 27, 2022

Present: Mayor Lauren Meister, Mayor Pro Tempore Sepi Shyne, Assistant City Manager Oscar Delgado, Director of Human Services & Rent Stabilization Christof Schroeder, Public Safety Director Kristin Cook, Director of Community Services Yvonne Quarker, Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck, Social Services Manager David Giugni, Property Development Manager Brian League, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Diane Kahn-Epstein, Social Services Program Administrator Katie Egan, Strategic Initiatives Specialist Jenny Ivanova, Assistant City Clerk Alyssa Poblador, City Clerk Melissa Crowder.

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M.

Item 3.A. Consultant Abby Arnold provided an update on the City's Feasibility Study on homeless services, including interim and permanent housing. Ms. Arnold spoke about the application for funding on the City's purchase of the Holloway Motel property, with work on the Phase I environmental study and physical needs assessment required by the funder. She noted that the agreement with Ascencia to oversee the project is finalized. Ms. Arnold also mentioned the upcoming Community Update on the West Hollywood Homeless Initiative scheduled for February 16th via teleconference and hopes to receive more input from the community at the meeting. Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck provided additional information on the Project Homekey application, and a few challenges with the acquisition of the property. Ms. Arnold concluded her presentation by providing additional information on the design of the project.

Item 4.A. Social Services Manager David Giugni and Social Services Program Administrator Katie Egan sought input on social services priorities for the 2022-2025 funding cycle. Mr. Giugni briefly touched upon the current service agencies. He explained that staff is currently working on the RFP for the next 3-year funding cycle and is seeking input from some of the City's Advisory Boards, Commissions, and partner agencies. Mr. Giugni noted that after input has been gathered, the item will go to the City Council in September for contract approval in October.

Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne inquired if staff would like input on current service agencies or on the future RFP. Mr. Giugni responded that input on both the City's current social service providers as well as suggestions for additional items to include in the RFP would be helpful. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne further queried how this input ties into the Behavioral Health Crisis Response units.

Social Services Program Administrator Katie Egan asked the subcommittee to provide recommendations on the significant social services needs of unhoused community members that aren't currently being addressed. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne responded that mental health services and workforce development assistance are needed,

especially for our unhoused LGBT youth. In response, Ms. Egan shared that a culinary services and hospitality work development program is available through the City's contract with the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Mayor Meister responded that drug and substance abuse assistance are needed as well as mental health services. Mr. Giugni shared some of the substance abuse services provided by Being Alive. Mayor Meister commented that she'd like to see more evening and weekend outreach for unhoused community members. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne mentioned the challenges for survivors of domestic violence that lead to them becoming unhoused. Lastly, they discussed some barriers to access and services for people experiencing homelessness. Mayor Meister mentioned unhoused people who have animals may not enter shelters if their animals are not allowed and the safety of shelters for young children. Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne commented that Ascencia does allow pets.

Item 4.B. Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator Diane Kahn-Epstein provided an update on the City's Guaranteed Income Pilot Program. The program provides unconditional, regular cash payment once a month to a targeted group of people in need of an income floor. For example, youth exiting the foster system, formerly incarcerated people, and LGBTQIA older adults aging in place which is West Hollywood's focus for this pilot. The City will provide \$1,000/month for 18 months to 25 people who are West Hollywood residents, identify as LGBTQIA, and are age 50+ living with an annual income of \$41,400 or less. A timeline of the pilot launch was provided, as well as the plan for outreach.


Mayor Pro Tempore Shyne commented on a past discussion on access to public restrooms. A long-term solution could be a self-washing standalone 24/7 restroom. She suggested that the City could fund these restrooms by utilizing technology and digital signage on a standalone restroom where it could potentially pay for itself.

Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck mentioned the February 16th Community Update on the West Hollywood Homeless Initiative. She further commented that the City's Communications Department will utilize Social Media to provide information to the community about the meeting. She noted that more feedback will be acquired for the feasibility study and that larger work is ongoing. She also shared that the LAHSA homeless count has been postponed to February 24th.

Mayor Meister requested that communication about the upcoming community update town hall be widely publicized and with advance notice.

THESE INFORMATIONAL NOTES ARE PREPARED BY THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ARE NOT APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 A.M.



Alyssa T. Poblador, Assistant City Clerk