

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Homelessness Subcommittee

May 27, 2021

Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister, Councilmember Sepi Shyne, Assistant City Manager Oscar Delgado, Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization Christof Schroder, Director of Public Safety Kristin Cook, Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck, Social Services Manager David Giugni, Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager Ric Abramson, Property Development Manager Brian League, Project Development Administrator Alicen Bartle, and Acting City Clerk Melissa Crowder

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Items 3.A. and 3.B. Report on Available Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resources and Update on Outreach Teams Presence in West Hollywood

Social Services Manager David Giugni presented information on available mental health and substance abuse resources as well as an update on the outreach teams' presence in West Hollywood.

Councilmember Shyne inquired about the number of people placed in permanent supportive housing. Mr. Giugni indicated that Step on Second and Ascencia are the two providers that work with permanent supportive housing. Councilmember Shyne inquired about unhoused community members that have substance abuse issues. Mr. Giugni spoke about the Tarzana Treatment Center and the process those individuals go through beyond detox. Director of Public Safety and West Hollywood Sheriff's Lieutenant Bill Moulder provided more information on the COPS team and Entertainment Policing Team that work with our unhoused community members. Councilmember Shyne inquired about the MOU between the Sheriff's Department and Tarzana Treatment Center. Lt. Moulder responded to this inquiry.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister indicated that we need more support teams out in the early morning hours. She appreciates the outreach returning to the Library; however, there is a need to address individuals who won't reach out for services. Ms. Cook commented that some of the Public Safety teams have been rotated to try and address this concern. Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck also commented that the social services teams have gone out at different times looking for specific individuals.

Councilmember Shyne inquired about a mechanism for Councilmembers to notify staff of notifications from residents about unhoused community members or when they see someone who needs assistance. Mr. Giugni responded to this inquiry. She further inquired about the unhoused BIPOC community members and if the City has diverse team that are familiar with working with the BIPOC community. Mr. Giugni responded to this inquiry. Ms. Planck also provided additional information to address Councilmember Shyne's inquiry.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister expressed concern with not addressing unhoused community members in the morning who may be sleeping in bus shelters or storefronts. This causes community members to feel unsafe. She indicated that it would be safer if our teams did that rather than a community member. Ms. Planck commented that unhoused community members on private property and bus shelters and working with the Chamber for a letter of agency. Mayor Pro Tempore Meister asked that staff reach out to the Chamber and small business owners to remind them of the letter of agency and a contact number if they need to reach out for assistance. Ms. Planck commented that staff is meeting with those groups on July 11th.

Item 4. Items from Subcommittee Members

Councilmember Shyne asked for an update on the outreach to LA County regarding the prospect of 24-hour bathrooms and showers in the City. Mayor Pro Tempore asked if staff could follow-up on the mobile unit similar to CAHOOTS and the coordination between a mobile unit and MET team.

Item 5. Items from Staff

Public Safety Director Kristin Cook responded to the inquiry regarding 24-hour restrooms. Social Services Manager David Giugni also provided information on previous inquiries staff has done around 24-hour restrooms. Strategic Initiatives Corri Planck also responded regarding past inquiries on mobile units. She also shared that the LGBT Center and Sabban have shower facilities and the individuals can also receive other services while at these locations.

Councilmember Shyne inquired where unhoused community members can use the restroom at night. Ms. Cook responded to this inquiry. Ms. Planck also responded. Councilmember Shyne commented that we need to do more.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister commented that her suggestion of the Metro surface lot was to address the concerns expressed by Councilmember Shyne and staff.

Staff addressed the following item:

- **Notice of Funding Availability for Local Housing Trust Funds** – Property Development Manager Brian League reported that the State of California announced a \$57 million in grant funding and further reported that staff is working on pursuing funding from these grant funds.
- **FY 2022 State HomeKey Funding** – Brian League the State of California is funding this program again in the upcoming budget cycle. He reported that he plans to bring some of those properties to the City Council Closed Session on June 7th. He also mentioned the housing as infrastructure project by the Biden administration.

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

- **Update on Metro Site Request** – Brian League reported that he reached out to his colleague at Metro. She informed him that the City could request use of the site, but Metro plans to expand the maintenance facilities at the site. Mr. League noted that he emailed her and hasn't received a response. Mayor Pro Tempore Meister commented that the subcommittee is interested in the surface parking lot. She further commented that the City needs to make this an issue. She suggested that an item be taken to Council to get approval to send a letter to Metro for use of the site. Ms. Planck provided information on the feasibility study for a brick-and-mortar space in the City to serve the same purpose as the proposed use of the Metro site.
- **Update on COVID Vaccination Clinics for People Experiencing Homelessness** – Ms. Planck reported that 24 unhoused community members received vaccinations. Councilmember Shyne inquired what time period this covers. Ms. Planck indicated that these numbers are for the 2nd clinic that the City hosted.

Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager Ric Abramson provided a presentation on the Crescent Heights/Santa Monica Boulevard site. Mayor Pro Tempore inquired about the next steps. Mr. Abramson responded to this inquiry.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Melissa Crowder
Melissa Crowder, City Clerk