

CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 10, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Members Present: J. Huettner, E. Sabin, C. Phillips Jr., A. Roth, N. Hogan,

Ex-Officio: V. George, N. Torres

Staff: V. George, T. Jefferson

Guests: E. Larkin, R. Thoreson, E. Rosenthal, T. Breen, N. Brussell-Faria,

M. Marichal, W. Davis, R. Dinuzzo

Members Excused Absent: - D. Ecton, V. Wilson,

Members Absent: - J. Hardy, E. Robinson,

Meeting called to order 6:05pm.

J. Huettner began the meeting with introductions.

September Minutes were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

2020 HAC Meeting Schedule was reviewed and approved.

Proposed Homeless Bill of Rights (HBR) Submission to BOA

J. Huettner gave a brief overview of the history of the HBR initial submission to the BOA. He went on to share that the students of the Law Clinic were the original authors of the HBR document and recently tweaked it for consistency. R. Thoreson, representative of the Law Clinic walked the group through the document and pointed out changes that were made "to add clarity and consistency throughout the document for better readability." There was lots of discussion on Right to enjoy public space, and Right to rest. Some were concerned that these rights could negatively affect downtown businesses and challenge the police ability to enforce the laws on the books i.e. Loitering. A. Roth asked for more time to go back through the document and review the changes prior to a BOA submission. The group agreed.

IMPACT STATEMENT

V. George expressed concerns over the efficacy of the impact statement concerning the public bathroom - more specifically the budget for cleaning and maintenance of the public bathroom. There was much discussion. E. Larkin shared that the bathroom was designed for low maintenance. She also shared that in their research, other municipalities did not report any issues with vandalism as the units consisted of graffiti free surfaces.

V. George agreed to convene a committee (to include advocates and police) to explore other designs, grants, fundraising and donors. E. Sabin volunteered to help.

Warming Center Update

V. George shared that this year the City advertised for two warming centers: one for women only and the other for women, men and couples. There were 3 applicants that responded to the Warming Center RFP, and these proposals were currently under review.

PIT Count

V. George reported that the 2019 New Haven PIT count revealed 501 people: 421 people in shelter/ transitional housing and 80 people unsheltered. Of the 421 people: 275 were single adults and 39 families. There were also 34 veterans in shelter and 8 youth (age 18- 24) counted. Statewide there were 2116 people in shelters and 456 people unsheltered. The 2018 Pit count reported 529 people 378 single adults and 97 children.

No CAN Update.

No YHAP Update.

Meeting adjourned.