

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

JUNE 14,2018

MEETING AGENDA

0.0 Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions--J. Huettner

1.0 Approval of May 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

2.0 Evictions and Homelessness--J. Huettner

2.1 Presentation-Billy Huang--Legal Services

2.2 Discussion- Otis Johnson, Fair Rent Commission/LCI

3.0 Proposed Youth Shelter (Grand Ave.)—Paul Kosowsky Youth Continuum & Y2Y

4.0 Update on Homeless Bill of Rights (Planning for September Public Hearing)

5.0 Homeless Shelter Counts--V. George

6.0 Update on CAN 2017-18 Goals/Progress--T. Clark

7.0 YHHAP Update? E. Lynn-Green, et. al.

8.0 Membership Update

9.0 Announcements/News/Events

10.0 Adjournment

City of New Haven Homeless Shelter Count Dashboard

May 2018

Youth: Under 18 / 18-24

Male: 0 / 10

Female: 0 / 6

Average Singles: 189

Couples: 0

Male: 122

Female: 67

Families: 40

Adults: 48

Children: 73

Emergency Shelter Management Services

Average Count Males : 67

Highest Nightly Count: 74

Lowest Nightly Count: 60

Columbus House Inc.

Average Count: Males - 55 Females - 41

18-24 Youth (females - 4 males - 2)

Highest Nightly Count: 74

Lowest Nightly Count: 67

Over Flow Shelter Average: CLOSED

New Reach

Life Haven

Families- 23 Adults-25 Children - 35

Individual Female - 1

Martha's Place

Families - 3 Adults- 3 Children - 4

Individual Females - 25

Christian Community Action

Hillside Family Shelter - Davenport

Families - 4 Adults- 6 Children- 10

Hillside Family Shelter - Sylvan

Families -10 Adult-14 Children- 24

Youth Continuum Inc.

Under 18 **18 -24**

Males - 0 Males - 8

Females - 0 Females- 0

Trans-female- 2

Warming Centers - CLOSED

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MAY 10, 2018**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Members Present: J. Huettner, D. Ecton, N. Hogan, J. Hardy, A. Roth

Ex- Officio: D, Muley, N. Torres

Staff: V. George

Guest: T. Clark, C. Brown, B. Huang

Members Excused Absence: C. Phillips, J. Branham,

Members Absent: V. Wilson, E. Robinson, E. Lynn-Green

PRELUDE:

Prior to the start of the meeting a group of protestors accompanied by W. Hamilton entered the room demanding "Housing Now". J. Huettner acknowledged the group and invited their spokesperson to speak for the group. W. Hamilton shared that homeless residents need affordable housing and competent case management services. Other protestors voiced their dissatisfaction with current systems and requested additional assistance in finding affordable housing. T. Clark (CAN) took their contact information and agreed to follow up on their concerns.

1.0 The group departed and J. Huettner called the meeting to order at 6:16 J. Huettner entertained a motion to accept April 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Minutes were unanimously accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

2.0 V. George shared that the Homeless Provider Group gave a similar presentation and recommendations to the BOA as they gave to this commission the previous month. They shared the genesis of CAN, and gave statistical updates. A. Roth shared the BOA Committee's was frustrated with the limited New Haven specific data. The group's suggested next steps were to create more deeply affordable housing; and to increase intervention for encampments and the opioid crisis.

3.0 Update on proposed Homeless Resolution – J. Huettner opened the discussion by stating that the proposed Bill of Rights is an expansion of the state of Connecticut statues. He also stated that this document was created to help the homeless to not be targeted, and to make the distinction between homelessness and the pan handling. J. Huettner also shared that he would like to have more input from the City Chief

Administrator's Office and the Police Department. D. Muley shared that philosophically the Bill of Rights makes sense, however it places the City in a vulnerable position as it compromises City statutes and the police ability to maintain law and order. D. Muley went on to state that the business community should be included in this discussion. A. Roth shared concerns about the panhandling language and suggested that LEAD be included in the conversation.

Next Steps: Invite PD/ Lead to a meeting and Schedule a public hearing for September – to include merchants.

4.0 N. Hogan gave a presentation on Housing Tax Credits. He shared that tax credits provide an incentive for private investments and cover the gap in the financing of affordable rental housing. To be eligible the project developer must set aside a specified percentage of units for occupancy by low income residents. This set aside requirement remains in place for 15 years during the compliance period. There was a discussion on how the Livable City Initiative (LCI) works with area non-profits to create affordable units. It was suggested that N. Hogan contact LCI if he is interested in pursuing tax credits.

5.0 V. George shared that all warming centers and overflow shelters are officially closed for the season. She also mentioned that new encampments are on the rise – and the outreach and engagement teams are actively attempting to engage these people.

V. George distributed and discussed the new Homeless Services Permit Fee Waiver to be used by Parks Department for individuals and organizations wishing to deliver goods to the homeless in public areas (the Green and parks). They would be required to complete this application. The goal is to create a coordinated system that supports the goals of CAN and the Food Policy Council to not duplicate services; and to ensure that individuals being outreached to are being adequately connected to support services. The commission unanimously voted to accept the new Homeless Services Permit Fee Waiver Application.

6.0 T. Clark gave an update on CAN entry activity to date (2/1- 4/31/18). There were 3,343 calls for housing assistance to 211, with 609 people attending appointments. Of those that attended appointments – 59 were enrolled in shelter, 90 were diverted, 2 refused shelter and 414 were added to the waitlist. On the exit side of CAN (2/1/18 - 3/31/18), 536 households were served in Rapid-Rehousing.

7.0 No YHHAP Update.

8.0 Announcements/News/Events: Emergency Shelter RFP is due 5/22/18.

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NEW HAVEN RESIDENTS EXPERINCING HOMELESSNESS

A policy document concerning a New Haven Homeless Person's Bill of Rights.

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy and Purpose. - People throughout New Haven are experiencing homelessness. Many lack a permanent residence as a result of economic hardship, a shortage of safe and affordable housing, and other personal circumstances. The 2013 Homeless Person's Bill of Right's ("HPBR")-Public Act 13-251 enshrines basic rights retained by all Connecticut residents, regardless of their housing status. Building on the Connecticut HPBR, it is the intent of these recommendations to ameliorate the adverse effects visited upon families, individuals, and our communities when New Haven residents lack permanent housing and to create a society where all people, regardless of their housing status, are valued and treated with dignity and respect and where their human, legal, and civil rights are protected.

SECTION 2. Definitions

Homeless - For the purposes herein, "homeless" means lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate residence; or having a primary residence in a shelter, on the street, in a vehicle, in an enclosure or structure that is not authorized or fit for human habitation, or in substandard apartments or dwellings; or staying doubled up temporarily with friends or families; or staying in transitional housing programs; or staying anywhere without tenancy rights; or staying with one or more children of whom they are the parent or legal guardian in a residential hotel or motel whether or not they have tenancy rights.

Criminalization of homelessness - "The criminalization of homelessness" means laws that prohibit or regulate behaviors in which people experiencing homelessness must engage to survive and enforcement of laws that disproportionately impact people who are experiencing homelessness, as well as the practices--such as issuing arrests, citations, warnings, and requests to move along--that are used to enforce such laws.

SECTION 3. Bill of Rights

Every person, regardless of their housing status, has the following rights:

a) The Right to Enjoy Public Space. The right to use and move freely in public spaces, including sitting, lying down, sleeping, or resting in public spaces, both individually and while assembling in groups, which shall include but not be limited to public sidewalks, public parks, public transportation, and public buildings, in the same manner as any other person or groups and without discrimination on the basis of his or her housing status;

b) The Right to Employment Fairness. The right not to face discrimination in seeking, obtaining, or maintaining employment due to the lack of a permanent residence or a permanent mailing address, or because the mailing address is that of a homeless shelter, or a homeless or social services provider;

c) The Right to Medical Care and Dignity in Meeting Basic Needs. The right to medical care, free from discrimination based on housing status. The opportunity to perform basic needs, such as to defecate, urinate, and to access clean water and other living necessities, in public locations and facilities, which includes public parks and buildings, with dignity and relative privacy under hygienic circumstances and conditions, in clean, safe, highly accessible facilities, free to all persons regardless of housing status;

d) The Right to Vote. The right to vote, register to vote, and receive any documentation required by law to prove identity for voting, without discrimination due to housing status;

e) The Right to Personal Property and Privacy. The right to protection of personal property includes: 1) the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in his or her personal property to the same extent as personal property in a permanent residence; and 2) the preservation and safeguarding of un-housed peoples' property, including personal identification and records, including documentation of government benefits, legal proceedings, and familial records;

f) The Right to Personal Safety. The right to personal safety, which shall include protection from violence based upon housing status and effective law enforcement response to such incidents; 2) the right to temporary shelter during extreme (hot or cold) weather; and 3) the right for families to stay together in shelters.

g) The Right to Sit. The right to sit, rest or sleep in temporary shelter, such as any legally-parked motor or recreational vehicle or a self-erected shelter (e.g., a tent), as permitted by law, for the purpose of immediate survival of persons, and their pets, without harassment by law enforcement officers or others; and 2) the right to reasonable notice before encampments illegally created are swept.

h) The Right to Social Exchange. The right to give and accept food, beverages, and shelter, in public spaces or elsewhere (with permit, as others are required, where applicable), and to connect persons experiencing homelessness with organizations that provide shelter or transitional housing and social services, such as mental health or substance abuse counseling, medical care, and employment assistance. The right also to panhandle in public spaces, and to communicate to others in other reasonable ways for other similar purposes.

i) The Right to Equal Treatment. The right to equal treatment under the law by all New Haven municipal agencies, without discrimination on the basis of housing status or source of income, and equal protection of the laws and due process by law enforcement and prosecuting agencies and the courts;

j) The Right to Housing Fairness. The right to obtain housing free from discrimination including based on housing status, source of income, arrest record, conviction, or lack of a fixed or permanent mailing address;

k) The Right to Housing. The right to safe and affordable emergency and/or transitional shelter and permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, because housing is a basic human right, as stated in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

SECTION 4. Posting.

A notice entitled "DECLARATION OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS PERSON'S BILL OF RIGHTS" and containing the text in this resolution should be conspicuously posted in all public parks and on the notice boards of all municipal buildings.

SECTION 5. Application of this "HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS."

This "DECLARATION OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS PERSON'S BILL OF RIGHTS" shall apply to New Haven municipal agencies and employees, including all law enforcement officers and officials, as well as private actors.

SECTION 6. Documentation of Incidents.

To ensure equitable and cost effective enforcement of the New Haven Homeless Person's Bill of Rights, every local law enforcement agency should annually compile, review, and make available to any inquiring party, the number of citations, arrests, and other enforce activities made pursuant to laws and ordinances criminalizing homelessness, including at a minimum laws and ordinances prohibiting the following:

- New Haven Municipal Code sec. 17-35 (loitering);
- New Haven Municipal Code sec. 19-5 (16) (park curfew);
- New Haven Municipal Code sec. 19-5 (5) (camping);
- New Haven Municipal Code sec. 18-39 (public consumption of alcohol);
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-110a (simple trespass)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-109 (third degree trespass)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-108 (second degree trespass)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-107 (first degree criminal trespass)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-182 (disorderly conduct)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-181a (creating a public disturbance)

- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-182a (obstructing free passage)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-181 (second degree breach of peace)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-180aa (first degree breach of peace)
- Conn. Gen. Stat. 51-164r (failure to pay or plead)

Such documentation should include the housing status of each person subject to law enforcement action. Documentation shall ensure protection of individuals' privacy.

SECTION 7. Severable.

The provisions of this policy is

severable. SECTION 8. Enforcement.

Under the provisions of Public Act 13-251 any person who claims to be aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of these rights may bring an action in the supreme court for the Judicial District of New Haven. The court for the Judicial District of New Haven may grant, as it deems appropriate, any permanent or temporary injunction or other order, and may award to the plaintiff compensatory and punitive damages, together with court costs and reasonable attorney fees.