

**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