

CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION OCTOBER 11, 2018

AGENDA

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

1.0 Approval of September 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

2.0 Approval of 2019 H.A.C. Meeting Schedule

3.0 Homeless Criminalization: Presentation/Discussion of HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS-Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.--J. Huettner

4.0 Homeless Shelter Counts--V. George

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

6.0 YHHAP Update

7.0 Membership Update-REAPPOINTMENTS

8.0 Announcements/News/Events

9.0 Adjournment

City of New Haven Homeless Shelter Count Dashboard

September 2018

Youth: Under 18 / 18-24
Male: 0 / 7

Female: 0 / 5
Transfemales 0 / 0

Average Singles: 208
Couples: 0

Male: 133
Female: 75

Families: 42
Adults: 53
Children: 97

Emergency Shelter Management Services

Average Count Males : 68
Highest Nightly Count: 76
Lowest Nightly Count: 59

Columbus House Inc.

Average Count: Males -65 Females – 48
18-24 Youth (females – 2 males –3)
Highest Nightly Count: 75
Lowest Nightly Count: 63
Over Flow Shelter Average: CLOSED

New Reach

Life Haven

Families- 23 Adults- 23 Children - 49
Individual Female - 3

Martha's Place

Families -3 Adults- 3 Children - 5
Individual Females - 24

Christian Community Action

Hillside Family Shelter – Davenport

Families – 5 Adults-11 Children- 14

Hillside Family Shelter – Sylvan

Families -11 Adult- 16 Children- 29

Youth Continuum Inc.

Under 18	18 -24
Males - 0	Males - 4
Females - 0	Females- 3
	Trans-females- 0

Warming Centers - CLOSED

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS
ADVISORY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: J. Huettner, D. Ecton, N. Hogan, C. Phillips, V. Wilson, C. Gormley

Ex- Officio: V. George, N. Torres

Staff: V. George

Guest: T. Clark, C. Kidd, B. Huang, C. Dignan

Members Excused Absence: J. Hardy, A. Roth, E. Robinson,

Members Absent: E. Lynn-Green,

0.0 J. Huettner called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone 6:05pm.

1.0 July 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2.0 J. Huettner gave an update on the status of proposed Homeless Criminalization Resolution & Bill of Rights. He shared that Alder A. Roth was instrumental in the information flow to the Board of Alders(BOA) and getting this item to move up on the BOA agenda. J. Huettner is hoping to get a BOA workshop for this proposed legislation.

3.0 V. George shared that singles shelter counts continue to rise steadily since 2016. Data showed that the single male population has become older with increase health problems. Family shelters remained full throughout the summer months. Many FEMA families from Hurricane Maria have been added to the shelters and waitlists as their hotel stays expired.

4.0 T. Clark of United Way of Greater New Haven reported that the CAN continues to stream line their process – average wait time for CAN appointments are now at 3 days. During June 1 to August 30, there were 3,962 calls to 211. Of those callers, only 586 people showed up for their appointment. Ninety- four people were placed in shelters, 326 people were wait-listed, and 156 people were diverted. In addition, there were 200 households that were rapidly rehoused to permanent housing in this same time frame.

T. Clarke also shared that Governor Malloy recently issued a statewide challenge to reduce family homelessness by the end of this year.

5.0 C. Gormley stated that she is the new YHHAP representative – replacing E. Lynn-Green. She shared that YHAP will be partnering with the Columbus House Outreach and Engagement team for an initiative called New Haven Cares. She went on to list other initiatives that YHAP was working on: Y2Y Project with Youth Continuum, Life Haven, and Food Rescue. C. Gormley also announced the upcoming Fall Festival on September 30th on Cross Campus.

6.0 There were no membership updates.

7.0 J. Huettner formally opened the hearing on the Grievance of Timothy Yankee concerning the denial of his fee waiver application. For the record J. Huettner noted that this matter was delayed in hopes that Mr. Yankee would show up. This record reflects that as of 7pm, Mr. Yankee still had not arrived. J. Huettner opted to go forth with the hearing.

V. George presented Mr. Yankee's request for a fee waiver to the Commission and her response to his request. Because Mr. Yankee was not present, V. George read Mr. Yankee's grievance. The commissioners discussed the matter amongst themselves. J. Huettner asked the members to explore whether the application of the fee waiver policy was reasonable.

The commissioners deemed the application of the fee waiver policy to be reasonable as it encourages best practices, while instituting a coordinated response strategy to addressing the homeless crisis. Consequently, the Commissioners voted unanimously to uphold the decision to deny Mr. Yankee a fee waiver since his application did not meet the basic requirement of coordinating with other outreach services. The commissioners however were clear in stating that their above decision does not prohibit Mr. Yankee from using the New Haven Green. Instead, he will be subject to the fee structure as indicated by the Parks Department.

8.0 Announcements/ News/Events

Jessie Hardy will be having an end of the summer cookout in partnership with DESK and Church on the Green on September 22, 2018.

YHAP will be having a Fall Festival on September 30th on Cross Campus.

9.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:15pm

Ending Homelessness Today

The Official Blog of the National Alliance to End Homelessness



Court Says Cities Can't Criminalize Sleeping Outside Absent Other Housing or Shelter Options

Written by NAEH September 13, 2018

Written by [Eric Tars](#), Senior Attorney, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

Last Tuesday, September 4, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that **people experiencing homelessness cannot be punished for sleeping outside in the absence of adequate alternatives**. The case, [Martin v. Boise](#) (formerly *Bell v. Boise*), challenged Boise, Idaho's ban on sleeping in public.

The court stated that "as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter." Not only does that mean a bed must be available, but that it must be *practically accessible*. The court noted its concern that shelter policies such as religious or length-of-stay restrictions may make a bed practically inaccessible to a given individual.

Last week's case builds on numerous other [legal decisions](#), as well as the [federal Department of Justice intervention](#) at the lower level of the *Bell v. Boise* case. It is also consistent with the Department of Housing & Urban

Development's funding incentives in its Continuum of Care grant program to decrease criminalization, and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness's recently updated Federal Plan to End Homelessness.

Many cities' initial reaction may be one of frustration — that they can no longer use these criminalizing laws to force homeless people out of public view (and often, into jail cells). **But smart advocates should look to flip the script: this does not limit cities' options, but rather opens them up.**

Now, when a business or other constituent comes to a city councilor asking to “do something” about the homeless person on their corner, the councilor has the freedom to say “Well, the courts have said we can't simply arrest that person to remove them. But you can work with me. And we can develop better alternatives that will get that person off your corner and into the housing and services they need. And that will solve the problem for both you and the person experiencing homelessness.”

Service providers and other advocates in the community should then be stepping up to say “We have the alternatives you need. And, guess what — the evidence shows that they're not only more effective, but cost less than the criminalization approach you've been taking. Just transfer some of those law enforcement resources to us and we can take these proven low-barrier shelter and Housing First approaches to scale.” Solving homelessness is a win for businesses, a win for homeless people, and a win for the whole community (and for elected officials too)!

If advocates are seeking additional resources, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, together with the Alliance and more than 100 other organizations, launched the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign in 2016. Readers can go to the website to endorse the campaign and review model policies and communications materials to implement constructive alternatives to criminalization in their towns.

Follow the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty @nlchphomeless, @HNHCampaign, and @EricTars.

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

YEAR 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	<u>CITY HALL MEETING ROOM</u>
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #2
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019	6:00P.M.	ALD. MEETING RM #3

MEETING LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AND POSTED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE (200 ORANGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR) AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE (CITY HALL, 2ND FLOOR) PRIOR TO EACH MEETING DATE.

ALDERMANIC MEETING ROOMS (ALD) ARE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR, ATRIUM AREA OF CITY HALL, 165 CHURCH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.