



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday November 7, 2024
10:00 - Noon

Committee Members

PRESENT:

Rev. Kate Moorehead-Carroll
Christopher Crothers
Shantel Davis
Isaiah Oliver

Liaisons

Council Member J. Peluso
Asst. Chief J. Ricks, JSO

Joelle Dillard, OGC

ABSENT:

Jolita Wainwright, Excused
Jitan Kuverji, Excused
Capt. J. Parramore, JFRD
Dr. Megan Allyse, Excused

COJ Staff Support:

Barbara Florio
Schnell Chin

Guests Present:

Dawn Gilman
Kaylee Jones, COJ
Major Keith Biggers
Brenda Boydston
Joshua Hicks
Jon Brooks
Gary Judd
Carol Register
Neolita Maharaj
Art Westcott
Connie Doucette
Tracy Gebgavy
London Shell
Brian Snow
Dominic D

Cindy Schwartz
Tracye Polson
Will Evans
Karri Lockhart
Robert Ownby
Linzee Ott
Ernest T Smith III
Shannon Nazworth
Vanessa Cullings Hopkins
Kelly Frazier
Kenny Logsdon
John H. Wyche
Travis Jeffrey

Call Meeting to Order, Welcome

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 10:04 welcoming members and visitors. Quorum was present.

CM R. Salem spoke to Commission. Provided an update that President White and he were working with JFRD about getting beds. Beds at Trinity and Salvation Army. Legislative bill may be one cycle to expedite action and funding for renovations and preparations to house homeless. City Council may stagger the implementation of actions.

Encouraged the Commission to hire consultant – there are funds in the account for this action.

Commission needs to determine details, actions, hours and cost. He is happy to work on the filing of bill to approve expenditure.

11/7



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Assistant Chief Ricks provided update for JSO and JFRD in Capt. Parramore's absence. JSO and JFRD working diligently with City Council addressing HB 1365 implementation and action within our city. They continue to warn street sleepers and have arrested some. Less people on the streets and concentrating on the downtown area at this time. JFRD began their 3-week training course this week and will go live 11/21.

Cindy Schwartz was the speaker for this Special Meeting. Cindy played a critical role in the Miami Dade Criminal Mental Health project. She is a mental health professional. Those with a primary diagnosis of serious mental issues were desperately homeless – 85%. Efforts addressing the homeless issue were effective through community collaborations. This consisted of sober housing agencies, apartment complexes, partnering with behavior health centers, law enforcement, funding through Miami Dade County State Allocation, peer specialist, and others. One major impact was training of law enforcement. Training consisted of crisis intervention, teaching them de-escalation, mental health intervention, post booking diversion-change from felony to low level infractions. They taught monthly reaching 8,000 law enforcement officers. Able to obtain support through County Court Judges to move them out of the criminal justice system to outpatient treatment resulting in positive outcomes. In addition to the Miami Dade County State allocation, they sought out grants with positive outcomes and grants that sustained their efforts. The Miami Dade Homeless Trust received funding through the state. Facility for homeless and mental health treatment for specific population, diversion facility, comprehensive crisis stabilization residential treatment beds, living room model, and peer special vocation training. Currently working with Sulzbacher – forward thinking and seeing around the corner. Justice Assistance Grant for 1.2 million. Sulzbacher is diverting people from jail and assisting them with housing. The goal and objectives are to establish Jacksonville as a national model serving people, providing housing, and creating connections and partnerships. Cindy Funkhouser can provide a narrative of the Sulzbacher program with strategies and early goals. Also, services being provided, comprehensive understanding of where the gaps are, vertical-what they are, and what is in place currently. Cindy was asked to share her narrative, project information, and project status at the next meeting.

**THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING IS DATE.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH**



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CERTIFICATION
11/7/2024

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:

Barbara Florio, Commission Staff
Homelessness Initiatives Commission
Operations Manager, Housing and Community Development

Approved by:

Shantel Davis, Chair