

Human Services Campus, Inc. hosted a Quarterly Community Outreach Meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. This report is submitted per Ordinance G-6799.

Invitations were emailed to 513 people, and hard copy/ postcard mailed to 914 people.

Approximately 70 individuals participated.

The following is a report of the meeting:

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS UPDATE

Amy Schwabenlender provided a few updates from the Human Services Campus.

- Restrooms in the Brian Garcia Welcome Center are not yet 24/7 due to staffing and are currently open until 11:00 p.m. They will be open 24/7 as soon as there is enough staffing to maintain the operation.
- Funding has been approved by the Phoenix City Council for CASS to begin the process of adding shelter beds. Today the contracts necessary for the added shelter beds were signed, which means that CASS can begin the process of hiring an architect and designing the space for added beds. A sprung structure was also approved to shelter 100 people, which will place the campus at its maximum capacity of 700 shelter beds.
- A recent news article regarding street cleanings was released that left out much context and has been gaining a lot of attention. Amy clarified the intentions of her statements were to express sensitivity to unsheltered individuals during street cleanings.

CITY OF PHOENIX UPDATE

Tamyra Spendley with the Human Services Department gave an update about street cleanings, stating that they have expanded to three days a week and switched their start times to an hour later. The tonnage of debris being picked up is increasing due to the Holiday season. Signage is being worked on to be put up, so that individuals in the area are aware of when the cleanings are happening.

Tamyra discussed the City's partnership with the Healthy Giving Council to do proactive outreach to the community to discourage street feeding and encourage better ways of giving such as volunteering or donating to an organization.

Alan Stephenson with the Planning and Development Department discussed the sprung structure. It is currently in the review process and it is expected to have 100 shelter beds. It will be located east of the St. Vincent de Paul building. It will have restrooms and showers and will be able to be moved if necessary. The target date for opening is January 2022.

Commander Brian Freudenthal gave an update on behalf of the Police Department. Violent crime is up in the area surrounding the campus, as it is nationally and in the state. Property crime, however, is down. He summarized some serious incidents in the area and stated that the majority of these crimes have resulted in arrests. He clarified a few incidents in a neighborhood nearby were not related to the

campus or those receiving services at the campus. 20 beds at CASS have been reserved for police department use.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bill Morlan provided an update on behalf of the Madison Pioneers Coalition. He commended the Human Services Campus for improved cooperation and communication but expressed disappointment at the lack of tangible improvements in the neighborhood. He stated that he is hopeful due to increase focus from the City. He expressed disappointment in the campus for stating their intention to continue the process to include Andre House as part of the campus.

Angela Ojile echoed that the neighborhood has not seen a lot of tangible change and is concerned about violent crime.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Patty Gault - Pertaining to street cleaning. Our facility is still having a large problem with people using our back fence along Madison between 13th Avenue to 15th Avenue as a toilet. Especially at our gates midway down the street. Does the cleaning address that issue? They are also still coming into our parking lot along Jefferson causing the same problem. Thanks.

Answer – The City and HSC only clean public rights of way, not private property. The City intends to explore this area in particular to create some cleaning solutions.

Patty Gault – Cemetery on 14th Ave is public property – could it be part of the street cleaning?

Answer – Parks will follow up since this is their facility.

Ian Francis – How big is the Sprung Structure and where will it be?

Answer – East of the St. Vincent de Paul dining hall. 60 x 113, about 15000 square feet including the space around the structure.

Ian Francis – Neighbors are concerned about HSC seeking 100 additional beds at Andre House. What is the city doing right now to pursue other low barrier shelters?

Answer – City of Phoenix put out a \$14 million RFP last Spring to encourage additional shelter beds using Community Development Block Grant funds. The first award was for CASS to acquire Project Haven 2 and the second was for CBI to create a shelter in the Sunny Slope area. \$6 million is still available within this RFP. Maricopa County put out a \$10 million RFP last month to expand shelters in the region.

Bill Morlan – Are HSC’s intentions to include more shelter beds at Andre House a violation to the stipulations?

Answer – No, it is “legal” for HSC to revisit the stipulations within the subject site and make amendments to the permit.

Laurel Langmade – Are there plans to compensate business owners whose businesses are blocked due to street cleanings?

Answer – Businesses are not blocked during street cleanings.

Angela Ojile – Why are criminals allowed to stay in the neighborhood if they are not receiving services?

Answer – Everybody have the same rights to exist in spaces and law enforcement is bound by those rights.

Angela Ojile – Can there be drug dogs available in the neighborhood?

Answer – No, that is a violation of the 4th Amendment. Cannot use a dog to sniff a person's private property unless there is probable cause.

Jessica Bueno – Why has the city been selective about which stipulations they have been abiding by? There needs to be a designated team of resources for the neighbor to contact.

Answer – Budget for this was included in the current fiscal year and includes one neighborhood specialist (Fernando Felix) and a CAO is also designated to this area (Brandon McCombs). Public Works hired a supervisor designated to this area.

Laurel Langmade – What is the average monthly usage of beds?

Answer – Bed usage is charted every day and shared with City staff. The campus will release a public report. Beds are consistently full.

Laurel Langmade – Can you give a quick update on the expanded toilet facilities available, and hours of operation?

Answer – Restrooms will be 24/7 as soon as staffing is available.

Laurel Langmade – Give an update on how much of the population using the HSC are fully vaccinated, and what is being done to get this group of people to over 80% fully vaccinated?

Answer – The campus does not track COVID vaccinations. Circle the City still does regular testing and vaccinations. High turnover makes vaccine tracking very difficult.

Laurel Langmade - Can you give us an update of what work Vice Mayor Garcia is doing to put a low barrier shelter in his district per the City of Phoenix Homeless Plan? Remember, one neighborhood is NOT to bear the brunt of having the bulk of the homeless in the Madison Pioneer Neighborhood.

Answer – No discussions have been had with Vice Mayor Garcia regarding putting a low barrier shelter in his district.

Laurel Langmade – What is the campus doing to help prevent crime?

Answer – Cameras on the campus has been a huge asset to the Police Department.

Brandy Ryan-Cabot – Is there anybody I can share my information with to help with efforts in District 4?

Answer – Reach out to providers to help advocate for additional shelter beds and watch Council meetings for updates.

Laurel Langmade – Why can't the HSC hire unsheltered individuals in order to make restrooms available 24/7?

Answer – HSC operates as a Housing First model and is dedicated to helping individuals end their homelessness. There are ethical issues with asking an individual to work in a location where they are also receiving services. Clients serving other clients is shown to create issues of conflicts of interest. St. Joseph the Worker is having a hiring event on November 20 for any Campus partner organizations that need to hire employees.

Barbara Lewkowitz – What is the status of weather relief beds?

Answer – COVID relief beds have been available since April and will be available indefinitely (until the pandemic ends). Sprung Structure will put the total number beds over the 700 maximum so work will be done to decrease beds in St. Vincent de Paul and Lodestar Day Resource Center.

Aaron Lotten – Is there a plan for addressing the issue of unsheltered individuals using public places as toilets that go beyond the HSC, such as public restrooms or businesses providing restroom access?

Answer – City of Phoenix included a strategy to add more restrooms that will be available for unsheltered individuals to use.