

## **HSC Community Outreach Meeting Minutes – August 1, 2023**

Human Services Campus, Inc. hosted a Quarterly Community Outreach Meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. This report is submitted per Ordinance G-6799.

Invitations were emailed to 550 people, and hard copy, postcard mailed to 466 people.

Approximately 42 individuals participated.

The following is a report of the meeting:

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS UPDATE**

Lisa Glow provided updates from CASS:

- The single adult shelter scaled up last summer to 600 beds and 24/7 services.
- In July, there has been an average of 609 people nightly.
- Some renovations were done in the shelter and bathrooms thanks to funding from the City of Phoenix.
- Recently some new water heaters were installed and HVAC units have been repaired.

Amy Schwabenlender provided updates from the HSC:

- Every organization that has indoor space on the campus is letting as many people inside as possible during the day and overnight.
- The Thirst Aid bottled water drive continues with 120,000 bottles handed out monthly, including through the outreach team that engages with unsheltered individuals.
- The Planning Hearing Officer meeting took place last June and we are awaiting the report from the Planning Hearing Officer because a recommendation was not made during the hearing.
- The HSC will be renovating in the 1214 building and permits will be submitted to the City of Phoenix. The building will be used for administrative offices, training space, and meeting room space.
- The HSC outreach team continues to regularly engage people within a mile radius. The total count this morning was 706 with 524 in the immediate area and 182 in the expanded area up to a mile.

#### **PHOENIX CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 7 & 8 UPDATE**

Not represented.

#### **CITY OF PHOENIX UPDATE**

Commander Brian Freudenthal gave an update from the Phoenix Police Department:

- 79 arrests have been made in the last three months, 300 reports were taken, over 100 field interrogations were conducted, and 25 citations were given.
- One gun was recovered and incidents involving guns have decreased.

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- Calls for service are still high due to the heat and calls made to the fire department.

Chief Tim Kreis gave an update from the Phoenix Fire Department:

- He reminded the group that the International Fire Code does not prohibit warming or cooking fires and it does not contemplate urban camping.
- There is guidance regarding these fires being located away from combustibles or construction.
- This code allows the Fire Marshall to draft explanatory policies to apply to fire code's intent in the community.
- The fire department has drafted a policy explaining what a non-compliant fire is and this policy is currently in effect. This includes fires that are more than 3 feet in diameter, fires that cause thermal damage to surrounding objects, and fires burning rubbish. Fires must be in an approved container such as a fireplace, firepit, or barbecue grill.

Rachel Milne gave a presentation on the Safe Outdoor Space (presentation attached).

Scott Hall discussed heat relief and water around the campus.

### **MADISON PIONEERS COALITION UPDATE**

Bill Morlan gave an update on behalf of the Madison Pioneers Coalition:

- Bill acknowledged that the enhanced outreach engagements have been successful and that the number of people outside has reduced.
- He commended the pressure that has been put on the city to help with these improvements.
- Several members of the Madison Pioneers Coalition and some of the service providers came up with a plan similar to what will be implemented in the Safe Outdoor Space program in late 2021. The members are happy to see many of these recommendations are going to be put into place.
- He noted that he was happy to see that the setup is meant to be temporary.

### **COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND RECAP**

Question – Jing Curtiss: How many tents can be accommodated in the Safe Outdoor Space?

Answer – Scott Hall: Several mockups of the area have been done and the estimation is 200-230 tents.

Question – Pamela Fitzgerald: Of those who have accepted services, how many have remained in services?

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Answer – Scott Hall: The City is preparing for an in-depth analysis of the people that we have worked with but it will take some time and a collaborative effort because there are several different projects and services available with varying measurements of success.

Question – Eva Olivas: What is the plan for after the three years and who will be accountable for following this plan? How can we ensure that stipulations are enforced so that the community can feel confident with this plan?

Answer – Scott Hall: A lot of coordination and resources go into sunseting a program and the City of Phoenix and the Human Services Campus plan to work together to ensure the placement of people into alternative shelter spaces once the program concludes.

Rachel Milne: The resources to help people find alternative placements are currently being used, so we are not waiting until the end of the program to make sure that people receive the services they need.

Question – Bill Morlan: What is the mechanism that guarantees the sunset of this program?

Answer – Rachel Milne: There are several mechanisms in place and the city does not plan to deviate from these stipulations. City Council voted for approval with the caveat that the program would not extend over three years.

Gina Montes: The City would need to go through a process to extend the program beyond three years and there is no desire to do so.

Question: Angela Ojile: I could use more trash bags at my property. The neighborhood wants a guarantee that things will be done.

David Schwartz asked Ms. Ojile to clarify what she was referring to.

Angela Ojile: Things are supposed to be done that are not being done and the neighborhood wants assurance that the promises that are made to them will be honored.

Answer - David Schwartz: The Human Services Campus does have stipulations that are enforced and has put in a lot of effort to work with the community to improve the neighborhood.

Question – Rob Anderson: Has the city considered prioritization for the neighborhoods surrounding the campus for the GAP program, community grants, or additional cleanings?

Answer – Spencer Self: The City Council did allocate funding for the GAP program a couple of years ago and those neighborhoods are being prioritized. Fernando Felix with

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Neighborhood Services is a great contact to get more information on that program. Additional funding has also been allotted for private property cleanup and Neighborhood Services is coordinating with other departments to look into other issues such as right of ways.

Question – John Westerdale: There are some concerns about the Safe Outdoor Space being considered inhumane due to high heat of the asphalt. Will that area be used for outdoor camping? Why is the timeframe three years and how does the cost of this project compare to the cost of an indoor shelter?

Answer – Rachel Milne: The intention is to have people camping in the shaded areas and create a turf area to protect from the heat of the asphalt. Cooling fans will also be brought in. Throughout the duration of this program, the intention is to create more indoor shelter options.

Question – Dianne Langmade: Are the streetlights all repaired and have the new ones been put in place?

Answer – Brian Freudenthal: Yes, repairs have been made and new streetlights have been installed.