

## **HSC Community Outreach Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023**

Human Services Campus, Inc. hosted a Quarterly Community Outreach Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. This report is submitted per Ordinance G-6799. Invitations were emailed to 520 people, and hard copy, postcard mailed to 637 people.

Approximately 30 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:

- Two weeks ago, with the help of the City of Phoenix, CASS was able to relocate 60 of its most vulnerable seniors to a nearby hotel for 4-5 months and part of the reason for opening this now is to be a pre-cursor to opening the 170 permanent senior shelter, which has had some construction delays.

Amy Schwabenlender provided updates from the HSC:

- The services and amenities at 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and Jackson will be open through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Some of this equipment will be moved to the Safe Outdoor Space.
- There is still no report available from the Planning Hearing Officer from the hearing that took place in June.
- HSC has been leading Project Connect events, which take services to different areas of Maricopa County. The next events will be in January and February.
- HSC is supporting Healthy Giving Council where possible as the holidays approach.
- The next Community Outreach meeting will be on February 6, 2024.

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

Maria Lopez from Vice Mayor Ansari's office stated that they had toured the Safe Outdoor Space recently and welcomed the group to send any questions or comments specific to District 7 to her.

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

Rachel Milne gave a general update on behalf of the City of Phoenix:

- The City of Phoenix has been permanently closing blocks surrounding the Campus to camping since May 10 through an enhanced engagement program.
- 718 individuals were engaged and 590 individuals went to an indoor location.
- The City is working on gathering some data on progress, i.e. where those individuals are now.
- The City is proactively engaging individuals who are still out near the Campus and encouraging them to connect with services.
- The Safe Outdoor Space opened on November 1 and currently has 26 guests and is still about one month out from operating at full capacity.

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Commander Brian Freudenthal gave an update on behalf of the Police Department:

- Since last quarter, over 70 arrests were made, 170 reports have been made, 117 interrogations have taken place, and 45 citations have been issued.
- A decrease in crime is noted since the conclusion of the enhanced engagements by the City, resulting in fewer felony arrests.
- A two officer unit was assigned specifically to the area around the Campus for patrol to help increase visible police presence and alleviate calls made to the fire department.
- The Police Department has continued its enforcement efforts for vendors around the Campus.
- The Police Department will also continue cleanup efforts in the neighborhood.

Fernando Felix gave an update on behalf of Neighborhood Services:

- Biohazard cleanup in the area has continued.
- A graffiti cleanup effort has been pushed in areas where private property has been vandalized.
- Neighborhood Services has been working with the Police Department to ensure all Authority to Arrest are up to date on private property.
- Another street light audit will be taking place within the next few weeks, as well as an audit for street signs.
- Efforts to engage the neighborhood on concerns and issues has continued.

Spencer Self added to the Neighborhood Services update:

- The department is excited to be engaging and partnering with the community on neighborhood solutions and beautification.

### **MADISON PIONEERS COALITION UPDATE**

Dianne Langmade gave an update on behalf of the Madison Pioneers Coalition:

- Noted the lack of participation from the Madison Pioneers Coalition.
- States that problems are not addressed as they are brought up.
- The lawsuit was a success for the neighborhood and no improvements would have been made without it.
- The Office of Homeless Solutions was also a success for the neighborhood.
- States that the real issues of crime and drugs are not be addressed.
- Neighborhood is concerned that the Safe Outdoor Space will be permanent.

### **COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND RECAP**

Comment – Jerome Parker: People are unhappy because things are not being done fast enough. Community members and organizations should do their part and work in unison with the City of Phoenix and focus on solutions

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Question – Jing Curtiss: Why has the Planning Hearing Officer not responded since June to the HSC regarding permits and stipulations? How do we set a deadline for reporting?

Answer – Amy Schwabenlender: The Planning Department does not have an answer yet and as the applicant, we do not have the ability to set a deadline. Racelle Escolar with the City of Phoenix Planning Department reiterated this.

Comment – Jessica Berg: Echo what Jerome said and thank you to the City of Phoenix and HSC for all of the efforts.

Question – Michelle McCormick: We have noticed an increase in unsheltered people in the neighborhoods a few blocks away from the HSC since the area has been closed to camping.

Answer – Rachel Milne: The City has noted the addresses and wants to address the increase in unsheltered people. Encouraged the use of the Phoenix CARES system. Call 602-262-6251. Or report online at:  
<https://phxatyourservice.dynamics365portals.us/phxcares/>