

HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES & REDEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
April 23, 2019

Members Present: Council Member, Chair Crystal Murillo
Council Member, Vice Chair Allison Hiltz
Council Member Johnny Watson

Others Present: Michelle Wolfe, Malcolm Hankins, Andrea Amonick, Sydney Hawkins, Tim Joyce, Chris Davis, Sandra Youngman, Shelley McKittrick, Mary Lewis, Gayle Jetchick, Chance Horiuchi, Hassan A. Latif, Ellen Woo, Leanne D. Wheeler, Margee Cannon, Claudine McDonald, Jill Farnham, Anne Byrne, Cheryl Ternes, Anna Bunce, Melinda Townsend, Vern Adam, and Deana Foxen.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council Member Murillo welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

The March 27, 2019 minutes were approved by Council Members Murillo, Hiltz, & Watson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Lewis invited everyone to the Second Chance Center Second Annual Spring Gala on May 4th at The People's Building. Shelley McKittrick announced the Mile High Behavioral Health Care Women in Recovery Program is hosting a fashion show at The Stanley on Thursday April 25th at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. On behalf of Aurora Warms the Night, Mary Lewis announced that the shower truck is fully operational, and provides folks in need with a meal and an opportunity to shower or use the restroom. The truck is behind the Aurora Mental Health Center at Colfax and Elmira on Mondays and Fridays, and on Wednesdays at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Del Mar Circle. With approximately 25-40 people participating at a time, they hope to increase truck availability to a couple more times per week.

NEW ITEMS

FAMILY TREE/GOALS PROGRAM

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Shelley McKittrick, Homelessness Program Director, introduced Scott Shields, CEO of Family Tree, Inc., and Cheryl Ternes, Director of Arapahoe County Human Services. Mr. Shields began by describing Family Tree as a regional organization that partners with all 7 metro-area counties and has been in operation in Denver for nearly 43 years. The mission of Family Tree is to help people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong, and self-reliant. In cooperation with Arapahoe County Department of Human Services (ACDHS), Family Tree is working to implement a new program designed to serve Aurora and Arapahoe County families experiencing homelessness beginning in mid-late 2019. The program, *Generational Opportunities to Achieve Long-term Success* (GOALS), utilizes a Two-Generation (2-Gen) model in support of a whole family approach that assists in breaking the interconnected and intergenerational cycles of poverty and homelessness adapted from research conducted by the Aspen Institute. The Family Tree/GOALS program is the first structured program that combines transitional housing with wrap-around 2-Gen programming in the metro Denver area.

Family Tree has entered into an 80-year lease with The Urban Land Conservancy, who purchased the campus of the former Excelsior Youth Center at 15001 E. Oxford Avenue, which closed in late 2017. The property, renamed Oxford Vista, is planned to house up to 15 families, with no more than a maximum capacity of 40 people at any

given time. Families will reside in private rooms for up to 9 months as they work through stabilizing, utilize program services, and create long-term self-sufficiency plans. The continuity of care will be extended for up to one year post-exit through on-going support and program services. Mr. Shields added, Family Tree is requesting a one-time, \$400,000 grant award from the City of Aurora to support initial capital needs and improvements for the four buildings on the campus being leased by Family Tree for the GOALS program. The funding for this request will come from money that has already been allocated from the marijuana tax revenue sub-fund for the homelessness program. This funding will specifically come from the balance of uncommitted one-time sub-funds. Staff recommends developing an RFP Process for future one-time or ongoing program funds to be allocated for additional needs in alignment with solutions to end homelessness.

Questions/Comments – Council Members Murillo and Watson expressed concerns of the amount being requested, specifically in comparison to the information provided on what the county is allocating. Mr. Shields answered the request for the city is for capital projects, and Arapahoe County is providing financial support for operating services, to which Family Tree is not requesting from the city. Council Member Watson has requested information on what other cities and counties in the metro area are allocating funds into their homelessness programs. Mr. Shields was not able to provide specific information. Does the Committee recommend approval of the \$400,000 funding request, and moving the item forward to Study Session?

Outcome – The Committee supports moving the item forward to May 13, 2019 Study Session for review, with the level of financial support to be determined by City Council if approved. Council Member Watson requested other city and county financial data that is allocated to fund their homelessness programs. Staff will add a future agenda item to develop an RFP process that would tie-in to the formal budget process for unassigned revenue in the marijuana tax revenue homelessness sub-fund.

MORRIS HEIGHTS INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Council Member Murillo previously shared that a constituent, Ms. Ellen Woo, had shared concerns with her regarding traffic and infrastructure insufficiencies in the Morris Heights neighborhood. The neighborhood's location near the Anschutz Medical Campus, the impact of light rail, and the transit-oriented development projects in the area all contribute to traffic congestion for those living there. Council Member Murillo requested staff research any prior concerns reported, and provide an update on the infrastructure improvements in Morris Heights. Vern Adam, Engineering Services Manager with Aurora Water, and Anna Bunce, Public Works Traffic Manager, reviewed a summary of projects that Storm Water, Waste Water, and Traffic recently completed, or are currently in process. These include the Fitz-Peoria flood mitigation project, waste water infrastructure improvements, and enhanced pedestrian crossings and recent updates to signal timing on the Peoria corridor.

Questions/Comments – Council Member Murillo introduced Ms. Woo, who shared her frustration is primarily due to the traffic signal and the RTD Light Rail at 30th and Peoria making it impossible to exit the neighborhood. Ms. Bunce reviewed information on signal timing and operation procedures pertaining the Public Utilities Commission's oversight of the light rail commuter system.

Outcome – Ms. Bunce will ask Traffic Operations and RTD to evaluate the operation of the signal at 30th & Peoria. Council Member Murillo asked staff to follow up with Ms. Woo, and encouraged her to connect with staff if her questions were not answered or if she was still experiencing issues.

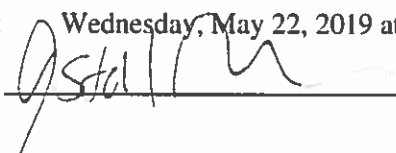
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were none.

The next meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



Committee Chair, Crystal Murillo