

**HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES & REDEVELOPMENT POLICY
COMMITTEE**
March 2, 2023

Members Present: *Council Member, Chair Crystal Murillo*
Council Member, Allison Coombs

Others Present: Mattye Sisk, Adrian Botham, Tim Joyce, Andrew Rael-Trujillo, Angela Garcia, Emma Knight, Sandra Youngman, Alicia Montoya, Emily Fuller, Andrea Amonick, Jessica Prosser, Jennifer Orozco, Daniel Brotzman, Bianca Lopez, Joseph DeHerrera, Jeff Hancock, Sarah Carroll, Scott Campbell, George Koumantakis, Omar Lyle, Saadia Aurakzai-Foster, Michael Bryant, Spencer Christian, Jad Lanigan, Jacquelyn Bayard, Austin Burdette, Daniel Krzyzanowski

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council Member Murillo welcomes everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

February 2, 2023 minutes are approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEW ITEMS

City of Aurora – Civitas-HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Draft

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Alicia Montoya, Manager of Housing and Community Development, presents this item. The City of Aurora awarded \$4.1 million in HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds as a one-time allocation to assist individuals or households experiencing homelessness, risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations by providing affordable housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter. A plan to define use of these funds is being developed within Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the funds will be made available for HUD activities once the HOME ARP plan, public participation process, and HUD approval are completed. A consulting firm, Civitas, was hired to help implement the plan and organize community involvement to receive HUD approval.

Jessica Prosser, Director of Housing and Community Services, adds that this plan has been a part of a consistent stack of about \$25 million of leveraging funding for the homeless navigation campus.

Spencer Christian presents Civitas's work with HUD regarding the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Civitas completed a data-analysis and stakeholder consultations required community needs assessment for HUD's one-time allocation of \$4.1 million to the city. The qualifying populations under the CPD notice for whom these grant funds can serve are homeless, at risk of homelessness, those fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking, and other populations. Other populations

defined as those who were previously homeless and are now housed but need continued assistance, and that are at the severe cost burden level and making below 30% area median income. Eligible activities the grant covers include: Affordable Rental Housing Development, Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) Development, Tenant-based Rental Assistance (TBRA), and Support Services Activities.

- Affordable Rental Housing Development
 - Eligible costs:
 - Acquisition
 - Construction costs
 - Rehabilitation of rental housing.
 - Eligible cost development:
 - Hard and soft costs
 - Relocation expenses
 - Some of the operating costs for assistance and reserves
- NCS Development
 - Eligible costs:
 - Acquisition
 - New construction
 - Rehabilitation
 - Eligible cost development:
 - Hard soft cost and acquisition
 - Ongoing operating costs of NCS cannot be paid for with HOME ARP funds
- TBRA
 - Eligible costs:
 - Rental assistance
 - Utility cost
 - Security deposits
 - Similar to the HOME program, however, tenants can receive up to 100% of rent and utility costs
 - Being that the assistance is tenant-based, it is tied to the tenant, not the household
- Support Services Activities are divided into three categories
 - Direct homeless supportive services
 - Eligible costs:
 - Outreach services
 - Mental health services
 - Childcare
 - Food and case management
 - Homeless prevention
 - Eligible costs:
 - Outreach services
 - Mental health services
 - Childcare
 - Food and case management
 - Housing counseling
 - Eligible cost:

- Staff that provide these services
- Meant only for rentals and life skills needed for housing
- Cannot go towards home purchase nor first time home buyer assistance or counseling

Civitas surveyed and interviewed qualifying populations and found the lack of rental housing and supportive services are major needs. Stakeholders and eligible populations were surveyed and interviewed asking if the city would benefit from a non-congregate shelter. 61.5% voted “Yes,” 38.5% voted “Unsure,” and 0% voted “No.” Rankings of how funds should be used were spread evenly across the four eligible activities. Ranking eligible services showed Landlord/Tenant Liaisons and Substance Abuse Treatment Services to be the two highest needs, respectively, with Homeless Prevention and Mental Health Services tying for third.

Spencer says the updated budget has 90% (a total of \$3.7 million) of the allocation going towards development of Non-Congregate Shelter and 10% with a cap of 15% (a total of \$414,971) of the allocation going to administration and planning.

Questions/Comments

CM Coombs asks how the navigation campus model defines non-congregate sheltering since the model it is based off of, Springs Rescue Mission, includes a large portion of congregate shelter. Jessica says the facility will likely provide both congregate and non-congregate shelter, with the \$4.1 million the grant provides out of the estimated \$55 million for the overall construction going to the smaller non-congregate portion.

Alicia and Sarah Carroll share that recommendations are live on the website. They are receiving customer and community feedback until March 16. Afterwards, the recommendations will be made final and they can move forward with allocating the funding.

Outcome – This item is informational only.

Chapter 94-107 Disturbing the Peace/Unnecessary Noise Draft Ordinance Change and Analysis for a Pilot Program

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Sandra Youngman, Manager of Neighborhood Support, presents this analysis. After working with the budget office, it was found that a onetime cost of \$177,000 would be needed for Code Enforcement Officers to acquire radios, noise meters, vehicles, body worn cameras, and uniforms in order to respond to noise complaints. Another one time cost of \$462,000-\$463,000 would be needed for staffing. This totals \$640,000.

If this program was implemented, the Code Officers responsible for enforcing this ordinance would respond to calls, monitor 911 dispatch to listen for the noise, disturbing the peace or noise calls, and then respond accordingly if it fell into their purview. They would also be expected to follow up on the research investigation if a summons would be issued and court follow up.

If the pilot program is unsuccessful, the radios would be transferable to police and could be assimilated into their inventory.

Jad Lanigan, Division Chief with Aurora Police Department (APD), expresses concerns about Code Officers going out after hours without police assistance to parties where alcohol or drugs could be present since they do not have the same level of training as police. Chief Lanigan is also concerned that, according to the ordinance, if someone who agrees to file charges and stand as a witness does not show up in court, they cannot stand in court in a future complaint. He says defining probable cause after the fact is difficult with just video and there is confusion as to whom the summons is issued.

Questions/Comments

CM Murillo asks for further information about the witnesses. Chief Lanigan explains that the ordinance says “any witness who fails to testify at a trial on an unreasonable loud or unnecessarily loud noise complaint shall not be considered as a witness willing to testify at trial for any subsequent, unreasonably loud, or unnecessarily loud noise complaint.” Currently, no infrastructure exists for APD to track court no-shows for unreasonably loud or unnecessarily loud complaints. CM Murillo, Sandra, and Jad agree to discuss this further with CM Marcano.

Outcome – This item is informational only.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

Updates from Community Members

Joseph Deherrera, Manager of the Youth Violence Prevention Program, presents an update about the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for Youth Violence grants which goes live March 6 and will be open until March 31. Joseph will share a link with Council so they can share with their networks as appropriate. Joseph also introduces Austin Burdette, the program Data Analyst, who started on Monday.

Saadia Aurakzai-Foster, Manager of Community Engagement, shares that the Dream Big Bronco Youth Funding surveys went out ten days ago. Rachel Whipple is leading the effort with the Community Engagement team and has already received over 110 survey results. The team is surveying community groups, preschools, recreation centers, schools, and anywhere families and kids attend, asking where people would like to see money being used in our community. The survey is live and on social media sites.

Next meeting: 4/6/2023

Meeting Adjourned: 10:38 AM

APPROVED: *Crystal Murillo* 08/21/2023
Crystal Murillo (Aug 21, 2023 19:08 MDT)
Committee Chair, Crystal Murillo