

City of Richmond - Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force
Meeting held via Zoom: https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=38

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, 5:30 PM

**video recording available*

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - AGENDA REVIEW

Meeting called to order by Johann Fragd at 5:34 PM.

PRESENT: E. Chacon, L. Chacon, Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Killian-Lobos, A. Lee, J. Lee, M. Njissang, T. Pulido, D. Small, A. Soto, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore

ABSENT: D. Joseph, S. Leslie, L. Mangels, J. Schlemmer, N. Syon, D. Tucker, B.K. Williams

II. MEETING PROCEDURES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. No written or oral public comment was submitted or made.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

1. Fragd stated that a Zoom poll feature would be used for tonight's meeting for panelists to utilize for motions.
2. Fragd updated the Task Force on the status of a Council member liaison--there is still no one currently appointed.
3. Staff has a new interdepartment Finance liaison replacement that will be contacted soon. Contact has been made to a Police Department finance staff liaison that will follow up with information requests from the Task Force soon.
4. Fragd informed the group of scheduling changes on presentations for the Task Force.
5. Fragd mentioned her availability to support subgroup committees on requests and information and instructed the Task Force on how to upload documents to the Task Force Google Drive. A template has been provided to formalize City Council recommendations. She also clarified on requests to make the subgroup meetings public--Task Force members are welcome to make their subgroup meetings public but are not necessary. Task Force members will need to formalize an agenda to do so if that is what they desire.
 - a. Gosney made comments and disagreed on the subgroup format. He stated that the meetings need to be made public due to the Brown Act. Fragd clarified that ad hoc meetings are not subject to the Brown Act and therefore do not need to be made public.
 - b. Pulido asked when recommendations should be submitted and in particular for budget recommendations. Fragd clarified that it varies by subgroup and types of recommendations made and she can further assist on that.
 - c. Soto asked for follow up on informational requests to help assist with Council recommendations. He also asked for further clarification on whether ad hoc meetings need to be made public. He highlighted an issue with a Zoom link on an agenda. Fragd expressed interest in helping their subgroup further and added that staff is also waiting on hearing back from City staff. Fragd restated that ad hoc meetings are not subject to the

Brown Act but they are welcome to make them so. Soto stated he would like to contact the City Attorney's office for further clarification on ad hoc meetings.

6. Fragd suggested to Task Force members to recommend and outreach for panelists for the February 18 Round Table discussion.
7. Fragd provided an update on Co-Chair elections--she stated that due to constrained time with the Task Force, there will be no elections made at this time. Task Force members can escalate any concerns with the City Manager's Office.
8. Jim Nantell introduced himself as the new interim Library and Community Services Director. Nantell expressed interest in contacting the City Attorney's office on further clarification for ad hoc meetings but agrees with Fragd that if an ad hoc meeting has more than half plus one of its members, it has to be public but not less.

V. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS

1. [Contra Costa Homeless System of Care presentation](#) - Jamie Janett, MPH, Hillary Bowers
 - a. Member Comment
 - Njissang asked what kinds of subsidies are provided, as he works as a housing manager with the City of Berkeley. Janett stated that their housing funding is only for homeless individuals. Rapid re-housing is another type of funding provided. There is less transitional housing funding available because permanent housing is more of a priority at this point.
 - Soto asked about capacity for non-English speaking services, including Spanish but also other languages. Janette responded that it varies by agencies involved. 211 has a language resource line. CARE center also has several languages available. Michael Callahan added that they have several Spanish-speaking staff on their team that assist and work with Michelle Milam with Spanish-speaking people. Janette added that they do not ask about immigration status for their crisis services and non-federal housing programs. For non-Spanish and non-English speakers, they use the language lines and know there is a gap.
 - Small asked if the County has conducted additional surveys to ascertain the level of homelessness in the County since the pandemic. Janett stated that the County has not done so due to safety concerns over COVID-19. The County does continue to collect data but has annual reports available with information on homelessness. Impact of COVID-19 on homelessness will be seen for another year. Small asked about the impact of the housing moratorium and if the County is addressing landlord issues. Janett stated that it is not in their scope but Bay Area Legal Aid has that information. Small asked a question about access to sanitary services in encampments and unsheltered populations. Jannett stated that porta potties and handwashing stations are prioritized and disbursed through the community but showers are difficult to disburse and maintain.
 - Police Captain Simmons wanted Janett to expand on how PD works with CORE when needed. Callahan said that CORE is the bumper between the homeless and PD and they want to avoid arresting anyone. Janett further added that protocols are in place for County support when cities need to abate encampments--CORE comes out and connects residents of the encampment with services.
 - R. Joseph had questions but were previously answered by Small and Capt. Simmons.
 - b. Public Comment

- La'Tanya Dandie stated that she works with CORE and asked about resources for youth and young mothers who are homeless in West County. Janette stated that they have resources for youth aged 18-24 but usually get referred to services in Oakland due to the small number. Dandie responded that youth prefer not to be referred to Alameda due to transportation issues.
2. [Safe Organized Spaces Richmond \(SOS!\) presentation](#) - Daniel Barth
- a. Member Comment
- Njissang asked if transitional villages are theoretical or if they have been implemented in the past. Barth answered that it has been before throughout the country since the 90's and in the Bay Area. They are implemented for people who live in RVs and vehicles. It is a transitional placement and not a permanent placement. It is considered interim sheltering and is increasingly being utilized.
 - Kilian-Lobos asked if Cal-Trans notifies agencies about sweeping through the tracks. Barth referred the question to Michelle Milam but he stated that there is a disconnect with Cal-Trans and they have not updated their model for homelessness issues. Any updates need to go through Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks or Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. The issue is not bounded by City lines.
 - R. Joseph asked what is the cost of the SOS! Program. Barth stated that they piloted the program with ECIA funds and have matched funding, donations, and grants since then. R. Joseph asked about an average annual funding cost. Barth stated that it would be about \$250,000 for basic service. R. Joseph asked about the number of people served since piloting the program. Barth stated they have six to eleven staff available but contingent on funding available. Two locations that were serviced had costs of \$150,000 each. R. Joseph asked if transitional and/or tiny villages can be placed in the Hilltop area. He also contemplated the impact of housing due to the pandemic and wondered why funding from the City of Richmond is not directly funding programs such as these. Barth highlighted a funding example from HelloFresh due to encampments near their facility.
3. [City of Richmond Police Homelessness Efforts presentation](#) - Michelle Milam
- a. Member Comment
- Gosney asked to elaborate more on safety issues and how the Safe Parking program will address those issues. Milam responded that people living in RVs and vehicles are concerned with their own safety and neighbors are similarly concerned with litter and crime. Gosney asked for further clarification. Milam responded that these are built environments that provide safe features such as controlling who comes in and out and. People feel more safe and sheltered in a City-sanctioned area with basic amenities and a sense of community for up to six months.
 - R. Joseph asked if there is money set aside for public safety from the City of Richmond. Michelle stated that funding usually comes from the City general fund and sometimes from grants. CORE is funding that is set aside from RPD. R. Joseph asked why the public safety funding is in a bucket as a set aside from RPD. Milam clarified that agencies such as Police, Fire, and ONS all have separate budgets and Fire and Police are considered the only public safety entities. The set aside occurred because of a pilot project with RPD and the Homelessness Task Force restored it. R. Joseph asked why it is illegal to sleep in your car and that it criminalizes homelessness. Milam stated that there are differing views on that and it varies on who reports it but it is up to policymakers to make changes on that. They try to

partner with churches, local nonprofits, and agencies to provide space in their parking lots as a safe space.

b. Public Comment

- Carole Yu-Johnson asked about the Richmond housing moratorium and why are the courts and sheriff involved in evicting people despite this. R. Joseph stated that tenants need to be informed of rights.
- Jan Mignone commented that the City needs to bring a safe space for homelessness near City Hall and would like to see it near Barrett Ave.
- Marco Lemus asked Barth how they deal with donations.
 1. Barth mentioned their Venmo (@SOS_Richmond) is available for donations. There is a winter campaign for survival gear. Socks, underwear, and food are strongly needed.
- La'Tanya Dandie commented that everyone wants to help the homeless but no one wants them in their neighborhood and that there is a disconnect. This is everyone's issue to address.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Small asked about attempts by homelessness services to identify homeless families and students. Janett answered that every school district has a homeless and/or foster youth liaison who supports this. Small asked how this is working due to the pandemic. Janette stated she does not know but will follow up.
2. R. Joseph asked if there is a fast track for youth to help them get housing, especially with black males. He stated he is interested in learning more about tiny homes, the City of Richmond ordinance, and the City budget.
3. Milam followed up with information for Pulido on the Homeless Management Information System.
4. Pulido wanted to highlight the work with the tiny homes project in Richmond due to her personal work in affordable housing and highlighted that the funding is usually temporary and is meant to fill gaps. She also mentioned there are vacant seats on the Richmond Rent Board and wants to encourage renters to join the board.
5. Kilian-Lobos mentioned she watched the previous City Council meeting when they were deciding on the location of the safe parking space project. She stated that she wants to work with librarians who opposed the project to address the issue.

VII. ACTION ITEM RECAP & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Continue addressing questions and concerns from Request Tracker and those arised from meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by R. Joseph to extend by 30 minutes; seconded by Kilian-Lobos;

Ayes: E. Chacon, L. Chacon, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, T. Pulido, D. Small, T. Walker.

Nays: D. Gosney, M. Njissang, A. Soto, B. Therriault.

Abstained: J. Lee, L. Whitmore.

Meeting was adjourned by Johann Fragd at 7:53 P.M.

IX. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Community Round Table Conversation Series - Homelessness - Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force Regular Meeting - Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom.