

Human and Social Needs Committee Meeting Record

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017

Convened: 11:37 A.M. Adjourned: 1:21 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Council Member Casey Thomas, II, Chair
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano, Vice Chair
Council Member Sandy Greyson
Council Member Mark Clayton
Council Member Omar Narvaez

Committee Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine R. Caraway
B. Adam McGough

Other Council Members Present:

Staff Present:

Zenae Palmer
Kati Beth Wood
Juan Garcia
Dianne Gibson

AGENDA:

Call to Order

1. Mayor's Task Force on Poverty Update: Drivers of Poverty in Dallas

Presenter(s): Regina Montoya, Mayor's Task Force on Poverty, Chair/Council Member Adam Medrano/Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

This briefing provided the committee with an overview of the 9 drivers of poverty. CM Narvaez if there was anywhere where we factored race and age. He wants more detailed information based on those two factors. CM Narvaez questioned Dallas being the 2nd highest city of children living in poverty. Regina answered that is true of cities over 1M in population with Philadelphia being number 1; Philly at 38% and Dallas 35%. Additionally, he wants to know if part of the decline is due to the lack of affordable housing in Dallas that some families in poverty are being driven out to surrounding suburbs. Regina says more research can be done. CM Narvaez noted in the coming up budget T.C. has added \$200,000-250,000 into ESL budget; Regina says this contributes to the poverty successes. CM Clayton credited CM Medrano for the early childhood enrollment program. CM Narvaez wondered if housing vouchers were accepted across the entire city would that help those living in poverty. CM Clayton answered yes, but the real answer is it won't happen due to legislature not having the compassion to discriminate against poor people.

CM Thomas talked to the Mayor about which one driver from the task force would he like to address and he mentioned the high rate of teen pregnancy. CM Thomas asked if they saw any research on some of the challenges that are causing people not to seek post-secondary education? Theresa will email the committee the study over the 18-24 year-old demographic of disconnected youth and what is preventing them from being successful in the traditional job market once it is completed. CM Clayton mentioned working on a partnership with specific companies to target kids who is not going the education route to teach them other skill-based training.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion Seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

2. Office of Homeless Solutions Overview

Presenter(s): Nadia Chandler-Hardy, Chief of Community Services/Charletra Sharp, Homeless Solutions Manager

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

CM Clayton wants to know how do you go about hardening a camp. Nadia answered we are working on a by name list in the encampment to establish a relationship. Starting with questions such as, "What is your housing plan and how can we get you there?" They are also working with service providers to be able to have resources readily available, encourage to store or help discard items, and address HAZMAT issues. Once site is cleared and depending on location it will either be fenced off, hardened or reclaimed.

DMPT Medrano suggests we audit all the groups we fund including The Bridge. He would like to see a list of who runs/manages the programs included on the CoC and ESG Grant Budget slide. DMPT Medrano would like to know the 3 locations under the Gateway to Permanent Supportive Housing. He would like a breakdown of each position and how many in each position of the 46 City employees mentioned on pg. 6. Also, he believes there should be short-term and long-term solutions, and believes when searching for a solution they should engage the community. DMPT Medrano would like a meeting with himself, Nadia and community members to talk and look at solutions for the homeless. He would like for Nadia to get the auditor involved and look into The Bridge.

CM Narvaez wants to see a breakdown of youth and senior homelessness. He would like for the City to incorporate working with DISD. He also agrees with the transparency of the department and an audit of the service providers.

CM Thomas is calling on the faith-based community that wants to do more than feed, but is looking towards providing housing and hiring individuals. He also would like to know what is the role of street outreach when it comes to rapid re-housing and getting the information to the entity. Charletra answered Crisis intervention is now trained with HMIS which means they now have access to put them into the system which prioritizes the individual to receive housing. CM Thomas would like to know why is there a decrease in funding in terms of recommendation when it comes to Gateway to Permanent Supportive Housing. Charletra replied all agencies/service providers submit their applications then they are prioritized and approved by HUD there end up being a reduction for that program which led to an increase on the ESG side. CM Thomas asked how many of City Square's cottages are filled. C. Sharp answered 42 out of 50 are filled. Lastly, CM Thomas wondered about those who don't want to get off the street and the approach. Nadia wants people to know homelessness is not a crime but they will continue the outreach and monitor the behavior.

Casey Thomas, Chair
Human and Social Needs Committee

Zenae Palmer, Coordinator
Human and Social Needs Committee