

## **SUMMARY MINUTES**



### **STRATEGIC ACTION COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS**

- Increase Access to Permanent Housing
- Increase Access to Services to Support Exits from Homelessness
  - Expand Services for Subpopulations with Special Needs
  - Prevent Homelessness for Those at Risk
- Strengthen Public Engagement and Community Partnerships

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – 5:30 PM**

### **ZOOM Meeting**

**<http://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lcOivriquGdJPBAvpTZ5WUDNbsHUpmntG>**

**Public Call-In Number: 559-972-4124**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Canfield, Dave Clevenger, Samantha Gomez, Susan Henard, Charles Miguel, Terry Sayre, Rosemary Wade, & Carolyn Wong

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Christenson, Art Duron, Chaz Felix, Aaron Gomes, Artie Gonzalez, Julian Grijalva, Joseph Hamilton, Wes Hensley, Adrianne Hillman, Gypsy Jones, Ella Murphy, Jim Piegon, David Schlick, Michelle Smith, Sara Souza, Louis Sparks.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

C. Canfield called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

W. Hensley gave the pledge.

#### **III. INVOCATION**

D. Clevenger gave the invocation.

#### **IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS** – Comments from the public are limited to items listed on the agenda (GC 54954.3a). Speakers will be allowed 3 minutes. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your city of residence.

David Schlick addressed the Committee regarding Tulare School District. He further commented on caring for homeless individuals, as well as how the City of Tulare was going to enforce and follow CDC guidelines.

W. Hensley from the Tulare Police Department provided update about keeping physical distance and taking reasonable precautions.

## **V. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- (1) Approval of the minutes of March 10, 2020. Committee members received minutes to review via email prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes, C. Canfield. Second by S. Henard. No abstentions, motion carried.

- (2) Traci Myers, City Director of Economic Development presented information on supportive housing and other city funding available for the homeless population.

E. Murphy provided comments on how to get funding to provide food for homeless, as well as concerns for homeless and weather changes moving into the summer months.

C. Miguel questioned T. Myers on food bank resources.

J. Grijalva questioned T. Myers on potential funding and funding requirements.

- (3) Chaz Felix, HHSA Homeless Task Force Update.

C. Felix informed attendees about current hotel opportunities and the three levels of service:

1. "Covid-19 positive and not needing hospital care."
2. "Non-Covid-19 patient/under investigation."
3. "Vulnerable populations, 65 and older, homeless."

C. Felix informed attendees that there are currently 40 rooms secured to help treat Covid-19 patients. In addition to keeping city folks in Tulare rather than transporting them to the city of Visalia.

M. Smith provided updated information on testing centers and testing statistics.

- (4) Wes Hensley, Tulare Police Department Update.

W. Hensley informed attendees that the "railroad encampment clean-ups" have been postponed. It is likely that this project won't take place until the state is in Stage 3 or Stage 4 of reopening.

W. Hensley informed attendees about Covid-19 funded wash stations, as well as his staff providing info on CDC guidelines.

W. Hensley also addressed information on closed parks and not allowing homeless individuals to camp out.

T. Sayre questioned W. Hensley on sanitation cleaning, upkeep of washing stations. Update to follow next meeting.

A. Gomes questioned W. Hensley on the number of homeless individuals currently within city limits.

(5) Dave Clevenger, Lighthouse Shelter Project Update.

D. Clevenger presented information on an emergency shelter project through Lighthouse and the five goals Lighthouse is working towards.

1. Ending Encampments
2. Provide Centralized Services
3. Provide Jobs
4. Provide Supportive Housing
5. Provide Peer Support

After main discussion questions from attendees included:

- Risks associated with homelessness individuals and freedom.
- Requirements: Low barrier housing with a “come as you are, no violence or substance use” rule.
- Location pros and cons.
- Accountability of individuals
- Liability concerns

E. Murphy questioned D. Clevenger about potential substance abuse problems.

D. Schlick questioned D. Clevenger about the risks of building housing and more people becoming homeless. Questioned if there are incentives. How are we going to keep up with increased PIT counts?

C. Felix questioned D. Clevenger about working with Salt & Light.

W. Hensley questions D. Clevenger about enforcement.

T. Sayre informed attendees that D. Clevenger will present to City Council.

Action committee concluded a consensus that D. Clevenger could present at the next city council meeting.

(6) Future Agenda Items for May 26, 2020 will include: City Council update from D. Clevenger, City presentation regarding property, C. Felix county

update on Covid-19, M. Smith update from Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance.

(7) Next meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020 (Location/Time TBD)

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Miguel adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.