

HSC Community Outreach Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2022

Human Services Campus, Inc. hosted a Quarterly Community Outreach Meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. This report is submitted per Ordinance G-6799.

Invitations were emailed to 576 people, and hard copy, postcard mailed to 576 people.

More than 38 individuals participated.

The following is a report of the meeting:

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS UPDATE

Amy Schwabenlender provided a few updates from the Human Services Campus.

- Heat relief efforts in public spaces continue at 12th Ave and Madison. Additional canopies have also been placed on the Campus lawn. The City is operating a heat relief space at 9th Ave and Jackson.
- Public toilets and handwashing station near Respiro continue to be open 24/7 other than when repairs and cleanings are needed.
- The Respiro sprung structure shelters up to 100 people and is open during the day for clients to stay indoors. 95 beds are currently occupied with the unoccupied beds being top bunks since many of the clients served have medical issues and are unable to get to the top bunks. HSC continues to work to fill these spaces.
- HSC has relaxed some of the parameters surrounding COVID-19, however maintains others such as the requirement to wear masks indoors.

Mary Glennon provided a few updates from CASS.

- As of June 1, CASS is at 600 beds. The next stage of the renovations is bathrooms and the focus is to make them more trauma informed.
- The next priority is to update the indoor and outdoor client spaces to include canopies and improved furnishings.
- CASS is looking to raise more dollars for case management and housing programs.
- In 2023, CASS is hoping to open a specialized shelter for seniors in North Phoenix.
- In 2024, CASS is hoping to open a 54-bed SMI shelter in partnership with Copa Health.

PHOENIX CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 7 & 8 UPDATE

Councilwoman Yassamin Ansari gave an update on behalf of Phoenix City Council District 7

- This past year, nine new positions were added to the homelessness division. Outreach capacity has also been increased and a position has been added to address blight on private property near the HSC.
- From the American Rescue Plan, \$70,000,000 has been allocated to add new shelters.

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- Councilwoman Ansari shared a story about a woman who had fallen into homelessness during the pandemic that volunteers had helped get into a shelter that night and she had a positive experience.
- The City is actively looking to finalize more sights for shelters and knows that the long-term solution is affordable housing.
- Last year, the City Council established the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, which has been a tremendous help. \$600,000 was secured to purchase cooling supplies in bulk. Heat relief outreach has been done across the entire City using volunteers to distribute these items.
- Some specialized outreach has been done in Laveen each week. A few weeks ago, several individuals were able to get into detox centers.
- Some misinformation has been spread regarding bathrooms and water - bathrooms and handwashing stations are available outside of the Campus, but sometimes need to close for repairs and cleaning due to vandalism.

Adriana Garcia Maximiliano gave an update on behalf of Phoenix City Council District 8.

- She offered stakeholders to schedule tours at the 27th St and Washington shelter. Business leaders have been providing great feedback.
- The City is looking at other options for heat relief centers in District 8.
- The City is working with Public Works to commit to a gated alleyway program south of the HSC.
- Prevention of eviction has been a large focus; the City is currently working with various organizations to help individuals that are at risk of eviction find other housing options.

CITY OF PHOENIX UPDATE

Scott Hall gave an update on behalf of the City of Phoenix.

- Scott thanked the HSC for consistently taking on the work needed to address homelessness and heat relief.
- The City has continued to do clean ups on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Several town halls have been hosted with the unsheltered population around the Campus to help ensure that the clean ups are beneficial to everyone. Cleanings will be more enhanced with more equipment and dumpsters.
- Maricopa County has a construction project on 9th Ave and Madison. This will be a fuel station for County vehicles. The County has been in close communication with HSC regarding this project.

Rachel Milne gave an update regarding the various shelters opening throughout the City.

- The Washington Relief Center at 27th St and Washington opened earlier this summer and serves 200 individuals.
- Project Haven, a new senior shelter, will be opening in the Summer of 2023 for 170 individuals.
- North Mountain Healing Center in partnership with CBI will be opening in the Sunnyslope area in the Summer of 2023 for 100 individuals.

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- St. Vincent de Paul will open a new shelter, Ozanam Manor 2, near their Watkins campus for 100 individuals.
- The City is working with Lutheran Social Services to get an I-Help program up and running. I-Help is a mobile shelter that works with various congregations and faith groups throughout the City to shelter individuals every night.
- The City is working with a nonprofit partner to lease a hotel this summer to offer temporary bridge housing for the next two years to help with the immediate need to shelter people.

MADISON PIONEERS COALITION UPDATE

Bill Morlan gave an update on behalf of Madison Pioneers Coalition

- The call for service report for the area has increased by 50% since 2019.
- 11 dead bodies have been found in this area in 2022 alone.
- He commended the amount of effort being put into establishing other shelters around the City.
- He noted that he had some neighbors that moved in across the street try to establish a coworking site and were not able to successfully launch their business due to the state of the neighborhood.
- He commended the hard work from the City to address homelessness.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND RECAP

Question - Laurel Langmade: What is the protocol to move the tents structures from the easement so a property owner can gain access to the outside of the fence to do maintenance (i.e. painting)? Then going forward, what is the law regarding maintaining access for an owner on an easement that is blocked by tents living on the street. Please advise.

Answer - Scott Hall: The City can perform an assessment of the situation and work with Neighborhood Services to give access to the property.

Question – Laurel Langmade: Any update when the street lights are going to be repaired and the new ones going to be installed? We had (33) out recently and not all have been repaired.

Answer – Fernando Felix: In working with the Streets Department and Madison Pioneers Coalition, several lights have been reported. A few of the lights have not been repaired due to parts being out of stock. Several are not working due to an issue with APS that is being addressed.

Question – Kristy McCann: It was mentioned during the Council update that there are new shelters planned for District 8. How many and where will they be located?

Answer – Adriana Garcia-Maximiliano: Different locations are being considered, but nothing has been confirmed.

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Question – Ryan Winkle: Regarding heat related deaths: <https://www.maricopa.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5456>. Confirmed 38 Under Investigation 256. What is the cities position on how a heat related death is classified? are there better numbers that specifically count “the zone”?

Answer – Scott Hall: The County determines cause of death, not the City. Heat related issues continue to be a priority for the City.

Question – Ryan Winkle: What is HSC's position on that same classification? and how that data is used to allocate funding?

Answer – Amy Schwabenlender: The HSC does not have an opinion on this classification and uses the data provided by Maricopa County.

At the request of several participants, Spencer Self with the Neighborhood Services Department shared some additional information about the gated alleyway program.

Question – Melanie Harmann: So how exactly is the city reducing heat related deaths? If the numbers have been rising shouldn't more funding get allocated based on that data?

Answer – Scott Hall: The City continues to increase its efforts regarding heat mitigation. He highlighted the equipment being used at the heat relief stations. Efforts have also been made to provide cool water for individuals who need it. The City also funds the EMTs in and around the Campus.

Amy Schwabenlender: The number of people experiencing homelessness has increased across the County, so naturally the numbers for heat related deaths and crime will be higher.

Question – Laurel Langmade: Is the City still funding the street cleaning with professional street sweeper machines/vehicles?

Answer – Scott Hall: Yes, the City is still doing street cleanings with the equipment and plans to enhance these cleanings.

Meeting adjourned.