

CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

November 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members: Present: D. Ecton, C. Spears, E. Robinson, C. Mendez

Ex-Officio: V. George, N. Torres,

Staff: V. George, S. James- Marquez

Guests: K. Dubois- Walton, K. Fitzgerald, C. Yun,

Members Excused Absent: R. Handler,

Members Absent: -

Chair D. Ecton called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

V. George welcomed R. Handler the new YHHAP representative.

Minutes:

October meeting minutes were reviewed. The vote on the minutes was postponed due to lack of quorum.

NEW BUSINESS:

V. George introduced S. James -Marquez as the new Homeless Community Outreach Worker to the commissioners. She will work with the CAN and Outreach and Engagement to ensure the unsheltered homeless get connect to services for shelter/ housing and healthcare, and field encampment complaints from residents and businesses.

Spotlight Agency: Elm City Communities

Executive Director Karen DuBois-Walton of Elm City Communities (ECC) gave an in-depth overview of their current projects and accomplishments. ECC is the umbrella company for the three entities: The Housing Authority of the City of New Haven (HANH), The Glendower Group (the development arm), and 360 Management Group (the property management arm).

ECC provides housing and supports for 6,200 families (over 14,000 individuals) daily. In recent years they were able to offer increase housing choice options while promoting increase self-sufficiency. Karen shared that they have completed 80% of their remodeling portfolio. Their current portfolio consists of elderly, elderly/ disabled, families, and mixed income communities.

ECC Short- & Long-Term Goals:

- Ensure a sustainable organization
- Expand access to quality affordable housing
- Develop strong community partnerships
- Advocate for housing policy on local, state and federal levels

Karen shared that they are launching new initiatives:

- Partnership between health and housing
- Partnership to address youth homelessness with Youth Continuum and New Reach
- Creating affordable housing in new neighborhoods and areas – i.e. senior units in Branford, CT
- New models for transition from unhoused status with Christian Community Action
- Emergency housing vouchers

Through the CARES ACT COVID funds, ECC received 37 vouchers for people unhoused or at risk of being unhoused. They are working with the CAN to manage this wait list.

The Glendower Group redeveloped and modernized over 2,300 units with approximately 400 units currently in the planning stage – total cost \$776 M. She went on to share a slide show of successful developments with before and after photos.

A very fruitful discussion followed.

Shelter Update:

V. George shared that the additional cold weather beds (270 beds) for the warming center and shelter for males, females, and couples are scheduled to come online the following week between two hotels. She shared that the delay in opening the beds was due to staffing shortage. Agencies were having difficulty finding applicants. She also shared that there were 20 families in other hotels. As a result of low housing stock and other individual barriers, families were staying in hotels longer as shelter beds were full.

CAN:

K Fitzgerald shared that there were 2000 calls to 211, and 545 CAN appointments attended last month. Response time for appointments are occurring same day to next day. She also shared that there were 127 people added to the waitlist and 81 diverted.

YHHAP: No representative this month.

Announcements: None

Adjourn 7:10