



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Thursday, September 10, 2020

6:30 PM

Electronic Meeting

[https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/91975125449?](https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/91975125449?pwd=cnpCWnZLWmtiSFllUmxsL2dZR3INU)
[pwd=cnpCWnZLWmtiSFllUmxsL2dZR3INU](https://a2gov.zoom.us/j/91975125449?pwd=cnpCWnZLWmtiSFllUmxsL2dZR3INU)

T09

Or give public comment via phone, 888
788 0099 Enter Meeting ID: 91975125449

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CONVENE MEETING

G. Pratt, chair, convened meeting at 6:33 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

Board introduces themselves, and A. Foster clarifies board
procedures for HHSAB meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

P. Sher moved to approve revised agenda; A. Foster seconded.
Motion passed
unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Foster moved to approve minutes; A. Carlisle seconded. Motion
passed unanimously

Approved by the Board and forwarded to the City Council

BUSINESS

A REVISIT 2015 RESOLUTION REGARDING TENT ENCAMPMENTS

Chief Michael Cox gives an update that AAPD is not removing people from encampments on public property. They will do everything possible to connect them with other services to provide shelter. There are calls and texts alleging that they are removing people, but they are not. Private property is different because it is trespassing, but even then, they try to connect them with PORT or other supportive services.

A. Foster: In the last meeting, it was acknowledged that people were being moved, but it wasn't reported who was doing it. It's great to hear that your department isn't responsible, but do you have any sense of who might be doing it?

Chief Cox: The last time we did this was pre-COVID at an abandoned property. Ultimately, the Parks and Sanitation people took that property more seriously. The remainder of the events is harder to put finger on because when we find out about it, it's hard to track down if we were involved. We are not looking to remove people and currently not even looking to evict people.

D. Blanchard: Thank you for coming to us and giving us an update. What is the protocol for running across a tent or shelter at an abandoned property? Also, is this topic about eviction and managing tents discussed with other jurisdictions?

Chief Cox: For the second question, we haven't had conversations about this, but it's a nationwide problem that many sheriffs and police chiefs should be aware of. For the first, we knew that the property wasn't really abandoned, but it was the encampment that was abandoned. The extent of the property there was a cardboard box and an empty backpack. We waited to see if anyone came back for it. The protocol would be that we would put notices up and leave cards/references to PORT. We would give them 48 hours first, and then a week before coming back. The goal is to reach the people and connect them to services. We try to wait beyond the seven days and as long as reasonably possible to locate the person to avoid throwing away their property and to connect them with services.

D. Blanchard: Would you be interested in making this a topic with other police departments, such as UMPD?

Chief Cox: It takes multiple partners to create policies like that for people to know their roles/where they fit in. I'm always willing to participate to help serve community.

A. Bannister: I wanted to make an announcement that Chief Cox has made many community engagements/presentations, and there's an additional one on Sunday. Email me for more information. It's the United Methodist Church diversity and outreach meeting on Sunday on Zoom from 11am-12:30pm.

G. Pratt: The Continuum of Care (CoC) has two other police agencies and previously with the 2002 resolution, in conjunction with all the partners, they came up with the 2015 resolution. It might be good to bring the discussion to the CoC. Perhaps we push that to CoC unless there's other suggestions as they did outreach meetings for the 2015 recommendations. So, I'm suggesting that with our discussion with Chief Cox, we can bring it up to the CoC and come up with a more comprehensive resolution.

D. Blanchard: If other people are okay with it, I think it's a good way to go. I would hope that we can bring UMPD into that discussion. I think we would naturally be aware with what came out of that. It'd be great if there was consensus with those groups and police departments.

G. Pratt: I don't think we need a motion on this. I think we can move onto next topic if there's no opposition.

B UPDATE ON AVAILABLE PUBLIC BATHROOMS

T. Gillotti: There isn't a lot of public bathroom facilities in Ann Arbor. So, we coordinated a meeting and talked about what we can do and why we removed porta potties from Liberty Plaza. It was the vendors that removed them due to dirtiness and used needles. We confirmed there was at least one porta potty in West Park. Also, Wheeler Park's bathrooms are opened. Derek Delecourt is going to find a vendor to get a porta potty back in Liberty Plaza. We will also talk to AATA and Library to see if we can open up a bathroom in that area. Ypsilanti had porta potties near Transportation center there. We're trying to see if we can provide more than just the one in Liberty Plaza. That's the tentative plan, and I'm hoping to know more

next week and will send updates.

A. Foster: Can we ask for more hand washing stations? I can't see pushback on vendors on that since it's hard to put needles down there. At the least, we can do that.

A. Bannister: The Center of the City taskforce is hoping to have benches, trashcans, bathrooms, etc. If we need to expand to the district library or Blake Transit Center, we can look into that.

Z. Ackerman: I can push Foster's point and email Derek about this. The hand washing station is there from the removal of the porta potty.

C EVICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM UPDATE - CDC RULING

A. Carlisle gave an update on the Eviction Prevention program. The CDC issued the eviction moratorium. The details are that it is in place until December 31, 2020. It is for tenants that are facing eviction due to non-payment of rent, but doesn't cover property damage or criminal activity. They'd have to have taken multiple actions like obtaining rental assistance, show that they are unable to work or had loss of income, that they are making best effort to pay partial payment, that they'd be homeless if evicted, and an income requirement of under \$99,000.

The biggest thing is that it doesn't provide rental assistance and is just a moratorium. We do have some eviction diversion program dollars and encourage people to contact HAWC or Legal Services for Southeast Michigan. We want to make sure that people go through those two services if facing eviction. Folks will end up with pretty big bills if they are unable to pay rent completely. If people are able to make partial payments, they're encouraged to do so.

T. Gillotti: We are also waiting for clarification and guidance from the State Supreme Court. The three courts that have tenant dockets have decided that they're going to wait until they get guidance. More will be coming down as it's a national moratorium and that requires more detail. There is funding for back-rent available and people just have to call HAWC.

A. Carlisle: If people were rejected last month, we would encourage them to reapply as there are expanded and more lenient changes.

A. Bannister: Catherine McClary has been working on personal finance materials that show that the moratorium is not free money and rent still has to be paid. The UMCU also has robust series of wellness workshops that touch on this as well.

D. Blanchard: I'm keeping an eye on the December deadline and am worried that people won't see the looming situation. It'd also be in winter so that makes it more concerning.

A. Foster: The AAPL has large window space that may be a good place to post flyers and information. Also, could send HAWC fliers to the principals at AAPS? I imagine that principals are sending more emails, and it seems like way to increase awareness for HAWC.

Board discusses other locations to post information.

D MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM

S. Crutchfield: The CARES act recently provided CDBG funds for \$100,000 for Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance Services. We're looking to issue an RFI next week for organizations to submit proposals to help residents in urban county to receive assistance to prevent mortgage foreclosure. It would provide up to \$3,000 per household, and they would to be below 80% AMI. We're looking to release RFI a week from today and would look to get back information around October 22.

P. Sher: How did you decide on \$3,000?

T. Gillotti: Two people in our office did an analysis on similar areas for the 2008 crisis as they both worked in similar programs. We're putting that out as a number for now and could change to a more appropriate number. Also, we're asking to do interference with lender if they can provide forgiveness and/or payment plan.

E. Canosa: If the RFI is due late Oct, when would information become available to homeowners?

S. Crutchfield: We are hoping by the end of November.

E EXPANDED SHELTER UPDATES

T. Gillotti: The county and city are contributing to expanded shelter at Red Roof Inn North. The Delonis Center is at reduced capacity due to social distancing measures, but are testing often to hopefully relax that. The concern is that it's getting colder and we're trying to reduce hotel usage down to 50 rooms for those who are most at risk. Avalon is working with 15 clients at Red Roof each week to get them placed. The goal is to have new interactions every week to place them. We're encouraging folks at Red Roof and the Delonis Center that if they have actions, now is time to take it. As we are reducing at Red Roof, we are working with churches to join the warming shelter rotation and are also looking to provide day-time shelter. We are looking to explore larger congregant sites like AAPS, but we will be checking in a few weeks as sports facilities may conflict with those plans. Our intent is that hopefully, it'll be a good transition from the hotel to congregate sites.

A. Foster: What are other options?

T. Gillotti: We are looking at other places and ideas, such as enhanced tent encampments. One of the problems though are the lack of shower and bathroom facilities.

Board discusses possible alternate shelter ideas.

F COORDINATED FUNDING PRESENTATION

This update is pushed to October or November as Morghan Williams, the presenter, is sick.

G AFFORDABLE HOUSING MILLAGE UPDATE

A. Carlisle: City Council unanimously passed ballot language in Nov (Prop C). This is the best opportunity to add more affordable housing units in our community. There's a big push to get to "Yes" vote. They are estimating 1500 units for affordable housing. I wanted to provide opportunities for people to learn more if they are interested. Our website is partnersforaffordablehousing.org. They are also on Facebook and Twitter. I encourage folks to go to the website for more information. There are also opportunities for people who want to volunteer to campaign.

G. Pratt: Affordable housing, in this case, is for people making \$0-42,000 a year in Ann Arbor and for people who have vouchers.

We are trying to make sure we get this out to voters so, outside of social media, we are trying to take literature and put it on people's doors.

A. Foster: Partners for Affordable Housing is campaigning for the millage. The council worked hard with Jennifer Hall to further clarify the millage. On the website, we have link to the millage language and guiding documents. You can apply for yard signs at the site. There are also Facebook profile photo frames to push awareness. Please email website, me, or Greg if there are any more questions.

Board discusses methods of raising awareness of Prop C

CITY COUNCIL (COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATE)

Z. Ackerman: For our new members, the HHSAB meets once a month. During that time, City Council votes twice between those meetings. So there's about a month of updates for each update. City Council is moving forward with the development on Plymouth that is giving \$75,000 for the affordable housing fund. Also, they did initially decide to move forward with purchase of Lurie Terrace. CC voted to adopt the affordable housing waitlist policy, and we passed it!

T. Gillotti: The first lease was signed!

A. Bannister: Council Member Hayner also has been emailing with Jennifer Hall, and one of his goals is that the whole block of Dhu Varren and Pontiac Trail would be developed. Council Member Hayner also reached out to Teresa and James Daniel for possible cooperative housing.

E. Canosa: Can anyone summarize the affordable housing waitlist?

T. Gillotti: We wanted to create a centralized waitlist to help with this. There are the 15 units at Broadway for now, and we're hoping to update with other available units at other places too.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

GENERAL UPDATES

E. Hall: Was my voting status approved?

Z. Ackerman: Sharde pushed it to mayor and we will get it on agenda as soon as possible.

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A. Erickson moved to adjourn meeting; A. Carlisle seconded. Motion passed unanimously

G. Pratt, chair, adjourned meeting at 8:17 pm.

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