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TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tom Crawford, City Administrator

CC: Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator  
John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator  
Teresa Gillotti, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development  
Sara Higgins, Strategic Planning Coordinator  
Michael Rein, Community Relations Director, University of Michigan  
Cynthia Wilbanks, Vice President for Government Relations, University of Michigan

SUBJECT: Resolution [R-20-373](#) – Resolution to Partner with The University of Michigan to Provide Emergency Shelter in Ann Arbor

DATE: November 12, 2020

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This memorandum is in response to Council Resolution [R-20-373](#) – Resolution to Partner with the University of Michigan to Provide Emergency Shelter in Ann Arbor that had the following resolved clauses.

- RESOLVED, The City of Ann Arbor will immediately take steps to discuss with the University of Michigan the possibility of using available housing units at their Ann Arbor campus in anticipation of a possible resurgence of the COVID-19 virus and the winter season 2020-2021, to meet the increased need for safe, emergency housing in our local community;
- RESOLVED, The City Administrator is directed to seek to schedule a meeting between the City Council of Ann Arbor and the Regents of the University of Michigan to occur before November 1, 2020, to discuss Ann Arbor temporary emergency shelter needs;
- RESOLVED, The City Administrator is directed to coordinate a meeting to occur before November 1, 2020, among appropriate representatives from the University

of Michigan, the Washtenaw County Health Department, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development and any other local entities that would provide services for and coordinate the use of University housing units for emergency shelter this winter season 2020-2021.

In response to this resolution, City Administrator Tom Crawford, County Administrator Greg Dill and OCED Director Teresa Gillotti met with Cynthia Wilbanks, Vice President for Government Relations and Michael Rein, Director of Community Relations for the University of Michigan on Monday, November 2, 2020. Attached is a letter from OCED Director Teresa Gillotti that provides an update regarding this meeting and winter sheltering.

Attachment (1) Letter from Teresa Gillotti, OCED Director 11-12-20

Attachment (2) Letter from Cynthia Wilbanks, VP for Govt. Relations, U-M 10-12-20



Date: November 12, 2020  
To: Ann Arbor City Council  
THROUGH: Tom Crawford, City Administrator  
FROM: Teresa Gillotti, Director  
Office of Community and Economic Development

**Subject: Update on meeting with U of M regarding Winter Sheltering**

City Administrator Crawford, County Administrator Dill and OCED Director Gillotti met with Cynthia Wilbanks, Vice President for Government Relations and Michael Rein, Director of Community Relations for the University of Michigan on Monday, Nov. 2nd. The meeting was in response to the City Council resolution requesting a meeting with the Board of Regents to discuss the use of U of M dorms or other facilities for sheltering homeless population, and a follow-up to the October 12<sup>th</sup> response from the U of M (attached).

Since the resolution was passed, staff reached out to request use of U of M owned facilities for potential sheltering options.

Both Ms. Wilbanks and Mr. Rein expressed the University's willingness to explore possible partnerships with the City and County. They asked a number of thoughtful questions about the needs for the winter sheltering response, and details and specification for any possible spaces that could be utilized for daytime or overnight shelter. They indicated that they will be following up on a few potential locations to see if they are available and will be back in touch with any additional questions or leads. Residential housing would likely not be available given their planned use as well as the County's needs for a particular facility.

**Winter Sheltering update**

This year Winter Warming Shelter programming is starting early to allow for key transitions and additional shelter options for individuals experiencing homelessness, keeping with safety measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Winter homeless sheltering efforts will begin on November 2 as part of a community response.

Due to the need to maintain social distancing, the normal winter capacity of the Delonis Center has been reduced from 145 beds to 70 beds. Over time the Shelter Association, who operates the Delonis Center, has established long-term partnerships with six local congregations. These congregations have expanded their partnership to provide rotating overnight shelter (and in some cases daytime shelter) for an entire month each from November through March to help address the reduced capacity at the Delonis Center. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has agreed to allow use of Meri Lou Murray Recreational Center for overnight shelter overflow for up to 60 individuals as needed throughout the winter.

Additionally last week, the Shelter Association confirmed receipt of additional funding which will allow them to provide hotel stays for Shelter Association clients who are the most medically fragile. Those hotel stays will also begin on Monday, Nov. 2 at a different area hotel.

On November 2, the following shifts occurred:

- The Shelter Association transition their remaining 25 clients out of the Red Roof Inn to either the Delonis Center, the rotating congregation of a different area hotel, where a smaller block of rooms have been secured for those with the most significant health concerns

- Meal service has shifted back to Food Gatherers, who will be expanding meals made in their kitchen in the Delonis Center to accommodate clients off-site.

The next phase will be similar to winter warming season response led by the Shelter Association, but with extra precautions in place to provide safe winter shelter options for daytime and overnight. Weekly COVID testing is now in place for clients and staff, and existing protocols such as temperature screenings, mask wearing and social distancing are still in effect. The last positive case at the Delonis Shelter was in March.

Ongoing work continues to identify additional locations for daytime and overnight shelter for when the weather is colder. November is the mildest month, so it offers time for us to transition and work on finding additional sites. The Shelter Association and the County still welcome suggestions for space to accommodate Shelter clients during the daytime and overnight.

Additionally, work continues on accelerating permanent housing placements for individuals experiencing homelessness. OCED has been able to direct CARES Act funding for homeless populations to support case management and rental assistance through Rapid Rehousing to prioritize housing placements for Shelter Clients previously staying at the Red Roof Inn.

Statistics from the Shelter Association (March through October)

- More than 750 people served since March overall and more than 500 sheltered
- More than 120 have moved into permanent housing since the pandemic began
- Conducted over 40,000 health screenings
- Two positive COVID-19 cases (both in March)
- 42% of our guests are over 50

Please direct any questions to Teresa Gillotti, and as a reminder, direct anyone who is homeless or experiencing a housing crisis to Housing Access of Washtenaw County at (734) 961-1999.

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October 12, 2020

Mr. Tom Crawford  
City Administrator  
City of Ann Arbor  
301 E. Huron Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

*Sent via email*

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Thank you for your correspondence, received via email on October 1, 2020.

The University of Michigan appreciates the strong partnership that has been forged with the City of Ann Arbor and agrees that we have mutual interests that impact many areas of our organizations. The collaboration between the city and university is important on many levels, but especially during these months of the pandemic gives witness to our continuing commitment to partnership. I will especially note the successful agreement to allow the Ann Arbor City Clerk to open a satellite clerk's office in the U-M Museum of Art last month, as well as numerous efforts to support mutually reinforcing public health messages to our community.

The administrative interactions between our organizations on a regular basis provide a systematic approach to bringing issues forward for discussion and to make progress on policies, procedures and initiatives where mutual interests can be supported. These interactions are fundamental to a working relationship that respects our unique responsibilities and organizational differences.

While we respect and understand the underlying conditions that prompted the City Council resolution that calls out a request for the City Council to meet with the U-M Board of Regents, we believe the forum best suited to re-visit the potential of utilizing University housing to support temporary housing alternatives in the community is a meeting with university, city and county staff, as is our practice. The Board of Regents, as you know, is a governing body, not a legislative body, and as such, delegate responsibilities for day-to-operations to the University administration. This discussion on temporary housing will be useful to better understand the perspectives of the responsible entities among the government partners on the current and future issues and plans that are being considered in the coming months. We will also be able to share the U-M's current plans for the 2020-21 academic year.

My office will be in touch with your assistant to schedule this meeting as soon as possible. If you're agreeable, I'm recommending that the group include you and others from the city who work with county officials, including Greg Dill on emergency temporary housing. Mike Rein, U-M's Director of Community Relations will join me for this discussion.

Last, and in addition, I offer to any member of council an opportunity to meet with me and appropriate university administrators to engage in further dialogue on the interest in housing issues.

We appreciate the spirit of partnership and commitment to collaboration that is important to the city-university relationship.

Sincerely,



Cynthia H. Wilbanks

Cc: Mayor Taylor, City of Ann Arbor  
John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator  
Michael Rein, Director of Community Relations, University of Michigan  
Greg Dill, Administrator, Washtenaw County