



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

11/15/2018

Public Safety Committee

November 15, 2018

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Adam Roof (AR) (Chair); Brian Pine (BP); Ali Dieng (AD).

Others Present: Eileen Blackwood (EB), City Attorney; Deputy Chief Jan Wright (JW), Burlington Police Department; Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office (Committee Staff); David Hartnett (DH), City Council; Ron Redmond (RR), Church Street Market Place; Eleanor Witcomb (EW); Elissa Kestner (EK); Albert Petrarca (AP); David Przepijski (DP); Colin Hilliard (CH)

At 5:40 p.m. Chair Roof commenced the meeting.

1. **Agenda:** Motion by AD

Second by BP - passes 3-0

1. **Approval of minutes of 9/12/18:**

Motion by AR; second by BP– passes 3-0

1. **Public Forum:**

None.



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4.01/2 City Encampment Policy – Overview by City Attorney Eileen Blackwood **and Deputy Police Chief Jan Wright**

Intro by AR

Presentation of draft by EB

BP: Housing First Policy? Does this exist in document form?

AR: Housing First Policy is national – approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing – Burlington has an announced position of supporting the policy

- Note that in its principle the ethos to be mindful of is that encampments are home for the homeless – dignity and integrity of all individuals

EB: we are prepared to walk through the policy section by section.

SECTION 1 – Purpose - referring to connections to systems designed to get to

Housing re Coordinated Entry Process

AR – seeks to afford appropriate due process protections – uphold the dignity

SECTION 2 – Guidelines – process described for areas where camping is specifically prohibited

See written notification of prohibition provisions

Note that in general City Staff are expected to enforce these provisions for these designated lands





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JW: The two point people for BPD are Lacey Ann Smith – our Community Affairs Liaison and Carolynne Erwin, our Community Affairs Officer.

Objective is not to arrest – rather give opportunity to move – therefore the most effective way is to send these un-uniformed personnel – who have been trained to manage these situations

AD: requests a list of the noticed/posted areas – which specifically prohibit camping

EB: Will provide. There really are not that many. Example – our parks close for the night and are signed as such. The Barge Canal is prohibited for the obvious health risks associated with that land.

SECTION 3 – Where camping is not specifically prohibited

EB: but where one of the specific rationales/situations enumerated in the section has occurred and therefore the City needs to effect a removal.

Then the Community Affairs Liaison attempts contact - if contact is made then Street Outreach should be called – in order to attempt to engage any needed services

Note - This is not a homeless policy. This is a how to manage public lands policy

AR: Why contact Street Outreach

EB: So services can be made available if so desired.

Note: Use of Uniformed Officers should be limited per the policy

Look for coordinated entry





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AR: See – Sub B (1) – request that (c) and (d) more specifically articulate the nature of these items

AR: See – Sub B (3) – is it worth introducing language to articulate a policy that intends to respect personal privacy – just asking. Maybe we can see that in revisions.

BP and AR also request language that allows for abatement of the nuisance as an action which allows for the withdrawal of the notice of removal. Effective then allowing the individuals to stay.

Also – See page 4 – Sub B (8) – storage of belonging options

Protracted discussion of the City's inability to provide storage facility for removed property then takes place.

Note – AD requests adding BPD to the parties listed in Sub B (7) – in order to coordinate with Parks and DPW

AR – consider the number of instances where simply relocating the property in issue to some other area of the public lands may be possible – notes occasions where exactly that has occurred

AR & BP indicate that they are willing for the committee itself to undertake exploration of these issues – may be able to identify an independent third party that would be willing to provide temporary storage.

EB- reminds that the City itself cannot place itself in a position of being held liable for damage/destruction/disposal of property which for all intents and purposes meets the criteria of constituting abandoned property left on public land.

AR: Thanks everyone for their thoughtful participation. Committee hopes to see revised at the January meeting with a draft resolution that would go to the full council.

4.03 Resolution related to increasing public bathroom access





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AR introduces draft

RR: Would the City be willing to partner with the Marketplace & the private sector to pilot/test additional hours at City Hall?

AR: And possibly co-fund a Crowd Pleaser – would probably need to test a couple of sites – in order to identify optimal site/usage

AR: Will work with RR to build an additional Resolve Clause into the resolution and together we will approach the Mayor

AD: Why not have the whole City commit to encouraging participation in the Nice Toilet Program?

AR: Laudable Goal – and a goal we can look to advance over time – but we have looked at the situation and we want to explore something that is achievable short term given that there is a clear existing problem in our downtown presently.

As I understand it, you are supportive of the resolution but also want to go further after to explore a City-wide effort through this committee.

AD: Yes

5.01 Other Business:

None

6.01 ADJOURNMENT



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AR: Motion?

BP - So moved

AD – Second

Motion passes 3-0 – meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

