



# CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## 10/19/2017

Public Safety Committee

October 19, 2017

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Adam Roof (AR)(Chair); Sara Moore (SG); David Hartnett (DH) (arrived at 5:41 p.m.)

Others Present: Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office (Committee Staff); Sarah George (SG), Chittenden County States Attorney; Marcy Esberg (ME), CEDO Assistant Director; Laura Hale (LH); Maeve McDermott (MM); Steve Marshall (SM); Jesse Aloe (JA), Burlington Free Press

At 5:41 p.m. Chair Roof commenced the meeting.

1. **Agenda:** Motion by SM; second by AR – passes 2-0.

1. **Approval of minutes of 9/25/17:**

Motion by SM; second by AR – passes 2-0

1. **Public Forum:**

None

1. **Committee Discussion – Community Safety Issues re Homelessness – Discussion with Invited Stakeholders**



## **CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **10/19/2017**

AR: How can City Council do more to provide supports to homelessness?

First would like to present Chittenden County States Attorney Sarah George

SG: Here to provide information relative to my experience professionally – how the courts encounter homelessness – see correlations between/with substance abuse and mental health issues. Frequently preferred resolutions are unavailable to the homeless because a residence is required.

Discussion

David Harnett arrives

DH: How many of our chronic offender who are homeless?

SG: There are ten to twelve Burlington homeless and perhaps another 10 homeless elsewhere in the county who fit the description of being chronic offenders.

ME: That's of a total number of homeless approximated at 300 last year – re point in time count

DH: It's hard when systems are in place but people don't avail themselves of those services.

AR: And I think we are further impacted in our ability to get the reluctant to engage by the loss of Matt Young and Justin Verette

ME: People want housing. You cannot persuade me otherwise.

SM: We need to constantly be asking who are the homeless? Most are transitional – coming in and out of homelessness

AR: discount students couch surfing





## **CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **10/19/2017**

Sara M: See the distinction in approach between the Warming Shelter and COTs

ME: Beacon Residence – HUD restrictions re criminal records – but not all receive HUD funding

Discussion:

- See Safe Harbor
- Streamline the system / paperwork
- Perhaps utilize a uniform form
- Provide ongoing support
- Barriers to entry
- Using CDBG to push uniform form

ME: Don't need complete uniformity – Just get some buy in and get it going – others will follow later

- Create mentoring/volunteerism among past homeless
- Create a buddy system

LH: See Circles of Support

Neighborkeepers

ME: We need to see opportunity in accessing the faith community – they want to help

Note – North Avenue Campground

AR: We will reconvene this discussion and then begin the process of drafting the report back to council – I have my notes from tonight which I will work into a sort of outline

Sara M – We should visit a warming shelter – individually or together





## **CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **10/19/2017**

#### **1. Other Business**

AR – November 9 at 10 a.m. and report by November 20th

#### **1. Adjournment**

Motion – DH moves

Sara M – Seconds

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.