



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - SUB-COMMITTEE

on Eviction Crisis Plans and Protocols

4/27/2017

Public Safety Subcommittee

Re Eviction Crisis Plans & Protocols

April 27, 2017

Minutes

Public Safety Committee Representative: Councilor David Hartnett (DH)

Additional City Staff: Chief Steven Locke (SL), BFD; Cap. Derek Libby (DL), BFD; Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office

Also Present: Laura Wilson (Cathedral Square); Sarah Russell (BHA); Sandy Baird (Caroline Legal Clinic); Jessica Radbord (Vermont Legal Aid); Corrine Yonce (VT Affordable Housing); Tammy Boudah (Howard Center – Street Outreach); Sandra Steingard (Howard Center); Susan Ainsworth-Daniels (CHT); Larry Crist (Vermont Parent Representation Center); Stephen Marshall (homeless advocate) arrives at 5:30 approx.

At 5:04 p.m. Councilor Hartnett commenced the meeting.

1 – Agenda

Motion by Sandy Baird (SB) to approve.

DH seconds.

Agenda approved.

2 – Minutes



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Discussion that Boarddocs was a problem getting the minutes posted with enough time for review.

Motion to Continue to 5/10 by SB

DH seconds.

Minutes continued to 5/10

3 – PUBLIC Forum – continue - to be held at time certain 5:15

4a – Committee Discussion – Burlington Fire Department – Protocols re Crisis relating to Housing – to incl. Eviction

DH introduces Chief Steve Locke (SL) and Captain Derek Libby (DL)

SL – First let me say that we typically arrive at a call with no information beyond what has been provided by dispatch.

With that as the backdrop, BFD is looking to install and maintain an information data base which would supplement the information we have in our calls.

Sarah Russell (SR) – When we call we try to provide dispatch with as much relevant information as possible. Same when they arrive.

DL – Yes. Frequently when we arrive there is someone at the residence to provide us with helpful background information

Street Outreach – where possible

3 (cont.) @ 5:15 p.m. – Public Forum (cont.) per time certain



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Larry Crist – Vermont Parent Representation Center:

Speaks to examples of caseload for the organization – requests consideration of raising funds for social service provider by and thru Vermont Legal Aid – so as to mitigate the potential conflict and the lack of trust which stems from social service providers being affiliated with the landlord/housing provider.

#4 (cont.)

DH – reintroduces BFD

SL and DL present examples of their experience/problems re housing crisis

DH inquires as to potential for BFD to maintain a data base of potential mental health concerns.

SL and DL discuss with the group

Conclude such a data base per se not realistic if only due to the confidentiality concerns

SR – The knowledge of these concerns is really w BPD and Street outreach

Tammy Boudah (TB) – trying to make sure people are not fall through the cracks

Susan Ainsworth-Daniels (SA) – Street outreach has the relationships. They are so important.

DH – So to take the discussion toward conclusions – let's discuss that scenario of when an individual has come to the edge of eviction – protocols – is Street outreach involved



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TB – yes – we are in place and working all of the avenues – try to stave off the eviction while also trying to arrange a potential next place to stay – and whatever social services are needed

DH – These are then people in crisis – so why can't we get the police into the dialogue at this point

Jessica Radbord (JR) – By the time the eviction is coming down – if the Sheriff – Dan Gamlin gives notice that he will be coming to evict – it is not a surprise – he is saying when he will come – and he will work with them to get Legal Aid and others involved

DH – But what I'm saying is that crisis equals public safety issue and why can't the police be on board – or at least flagged – get the morning roll call – make them aware

Group discussion as to where common sense applies – where risk of harm to self or others is in play – how frequently the police are aware

DH – so perhaps they are frequently aware but why just assume that they are aware – maybe there should be a protocol.

Sandy Steingard (SS) – codifying is a problem – there are many instances where bringing police in is going to escalate – there are instances where that is not proper

Steve Marshall (SM) – asks what is the demonstrable problem that the discussion is looking to address – are there examples? Is there a real problem warranting a massive investment of time, energy and dollars?

Sandy Baird (SB) – keep coming back to the injustice of homelessness – we should be offended that people can be put on the street with no place to go

TB – Points out however that there is no legal basis requiring a household of other people to be subjected to continuing harassment / public safety concerns due to an inability to remove a real problem

DH – hoping to bounce around ideas for coming up with better tools for dealing with people in crisis in these situations

TB – thinks that a social worker attached to the Sheriff who serves the eviction might make sense



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SR – But money should also be directed into prevention measures which can take place before and therefore head off the problem before it gets to that place.

DH – want to circle back to the points made by Nadine Scibek in an earlier meeting – initiating the eviction process – she said that more people are served eviction papers than we can imagine – but I also heard that serving someone with eviction papers can be the trigger to crisis – so how can we be more careful about that?

Group agrees to come to May 10 meeting with ideas for recommendations – will create a bullet list of proposals and conclude with consensus recommendations of the group which will be submitted to the full City Council as a document for their acceptance – may go on consent agenda – but could conceivable go on deliberative – that can be discussed – people can also speak to their concerns on their own to the Council even if just at public forum

5 – Other business

Next meeting – May 10 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

6 – ADJOURNMENT

SB moved to adjourn

DH seconds

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

