



**Minutes**  
**Ad Hoc on Homelessness & Solutions**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Brown called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Council Member Brown, Chair  
Council Member Hussain, Vice-Chair  
Council Member Spitzley, Member- excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager  
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA  
Matt Staples, OCA  
Judge Cynthia Ward, 54- A District Court Judge  
Jody Washington  
Tamara Carter  
Ulises Rosa, 54-A District Court Advocacy

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**DISCUSSION – Establish the AD HOC on Homelessness & Solutions Goals and Timeline**

Council Member Brown read the resolution into the record;

WHEREAS, the City Council has a duty to represent the citizens of Lansing and ensuring a safe and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, an Ad Hoc Committee on the Homelessness and Solutions will be established to review policies, services and resources to recommend assistance to connect the homeless to those services and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Solutions will meet with service providers in the community and city staff to address the best path in providing direction to the homeless population in the City of Lansing.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, Lansing City Council President Wood appoints Council Member Brown as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Homelessness and Solutions, Council Member Hussain as Vice Chair, and Council Member Spitzley as Member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Homelessness and Solutions will report their findings and recommendations to the Committee of the Whole no later than September 11, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Solutions, the Council President has also reviewed the functions of all the standing committees and those functions are consistent with the duties outlined in Council Rule 16.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Homelessness and Solutions will meet on the days and times set by the Committee and will be dissolved by December 11, 2023.

Council Member Brown started the conversation with talking about the plans for the Committee and asked Council Member Hussain for his thoughts on goals.

Council Member Hussain began by stating Review policies, services and resources to recommend assistance to connect the homeless to those services and resources;

-Meet with service providers in the community and city staff to address the best path to addressing homelessness (we also need to include some of the top advocates in our community that work on behalf of the homeless population, and engage members of the homeless community)

- Will report back to COW by September 11th

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Our HMIS analyst position has been vacant since September 2021. Who manages HMIS and how is this vacancy affecting the efficacy of HMIS? We need to ensure we are following federal law when it comes to our HMIS system.
- [Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool \(SPDAT\)](#); supposed to be used by Continuum of Care by law. This is an assessment tool for front-line workers at agencies that work with homeless clients to prioritize which of those clients should receive assistance first.
- Inventory of and audit City of Lansing Supported Agencies. What are the services being provided? Is there unnecessary duplication? Have we conducted a void analysis to determine what services we are not providing that we should be?
- Regional outreach and collaboration. What are our municipal partners doing to address the homelessness crisis? How do we partner?
- Work with LHC (Public Housing Agency) and others that administer vouchers in the region to ensure timely payments and better access.
- Delve into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program which provides rental assistance for hard-to-serve chronic homeless individuals with disabilities and chronic homeless (two-person) families with disability issues with a Housing First approach. How many units does Lansing/Ingham County have? Do we know what the need is in terms of units? Who do we partner with to increase the number of units?
- Address the idea of a 24-hour warming shelter

Council Member Brown agreed, noting that fact finding will be handled, what is the true accessibility and talking to speaking to homeless individuals for accurate examples, what are the qualifying eligibility to receive services, and start with groups with the City. This would include HRCS, City housing services and programs, and then work out to agencies and advocacy groups; DLI, Mayor's Officer, LPD, LFD, HRCS and get the stance on what they are seeing. As an outside agency, they would invite CMH. Council Member Hussain agreed to all statements by Council Member Brown.

Council Member Hussain referred to the recent arrive of public and noted that there was public comment at the Council meeting on 1/23/2023 and those same people are present and he would like to hear their public comment now.

Council Member Brown noted each member of the public would be given two (2) minutes and Council Member Hussain disagreed and asked not to time the speakers, but then added it is up to the Chairperson.

Ms. Washington spoke on her experience with working with the homeless in the community, her frustration with the funding being given but services not being provided and asked for research into agencies on what they are doing with the funds they are getting. She expanded on educating the homeless when they are provided housing, to teach them how to maintain their homes. She then provided statistics on low income housing units with Grand Ledge having 2 multi-family and Council Member Hussain asked how many units in those and she was not able to provide that but stated the Committee should research that. She then expanded on the numbers:

East Lansing – 7

Holt – 4

Haslett 3

Williamston -2

Lansing- 57

Meridian Township-0

Ms. Washington provided examples of services the homeless should be provided.

Council Member Hussain stated that the Committee should plan to have LHC, CMH, LFD, CATA, CADL and the Cardboard Prophets.

Ms. Washington asked them not to include Homeless Angels, and she would compile a list also and provide at the next meeting.

Council Member Brown acknowledge the information and stated the Committee will take inventory, ask for documentation on the services the agencies provide, who are the individuals doing the services. He also intends to individually go into the shelters and area to see what is happening. Ms. Washington recommended he visit shelters unannounced, and added that if HRCS cannot address the issues the department should be eliminated, and not to rely on anyone who receives funding from COC.

Council Member Brown added he will also include and add the court systems to the invites so they can provide documentation on what is taking place.

Mr. Rosa provided an updated on the court program and his role as the eviction diversion facilitator. His goal is to work with the families to help them elevate themselves so they don't need eviction funding.

Council Member Brown wrapped up the meeting by detailing to the public that the Committee needs to report by 9/11/2023 and dissolve 12/11/2023. This allows for 13 meetings before the 9/11/2023 date with the last one being 8/22/2023. There are options to add meetings after that if needed, but the last meeting he will invite people for input will be 7/25/2023 allowing the Committee two meetings to finalize the report.

Ms. Carter voiced her concerns on the access to funding the need for an organization that can provided funding. Council Member Brown stated his intention is to invite groups that provide for support services, one on one support, to make sure there are life skills, advocacy and they have the means to access what is available.

Council Member Hussain asked to prioritize who Council Member Brown invites and start with the people on the front-line, and Council Member Brown agreed.

**Adjourn**

Adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee February 28, 2023