



**MINUTES**  
**Ad Hoc on Homelessness & Solutions**  
**Tuesday, September 18, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.**  
**City Council Conference Room, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

**PRESENT**

Council Member Jeffrey Brown, Chair  
Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice-Chair  
Council Member Patricia Spitzley, Member

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager  
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA

**MINUTES**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2023, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

DISCUSSION – Committee Recommendations and Reporting

DRAFT – Ad Hoc on Homelessness & Solutions Committee Report

Council Member Brown went through the document, beginning on page 1 which outlined the purpose of the Committee and stake holders who attended over the year. Council Member Brown took a moment to recognize the Committee for their assistance in the meeting.

On page 2 the Committee started to review the recommendations beginning with Support for Lansing School District Families Overcoming Rough time (FORT). Council Member Spitzley asked for the Committee to consider adding a recommendation for the administration along with HRCS and NEC to seek funding and partners to assist with FORT and a priority with HRCS Grant applications.

Ms. Boak read back to the Committee and it was confirmed:  
Strongly recommend the Administration along with Human Resources Community Service (HRCS) and Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement to seek funding and other partners to assist with FORT and consider this as a priority when reviewing HRCS grant applications.

The Committee reviewed and recalled the discussions with Sparrow Hospital on their Medical Respite Clinic.

The Committee consensus was to change the language to:

**\*\* Advocating for Medical Respite Clinic:**

There is difficulty in the homeless population when they have medical needs, and a homeless shelter is unable to accommodate. We do encounter many of these very vulnerable, and often very ill, adult patients. In the Detroit market, the Salvation Army has initiated a “Medical Respite” clinic. This innovative approach to care transitions for the homeless is something completely lacking in the mid-Michigan area.

Many of the Medical health plans subsidize this type of setting. This allows a homeless individual to recover and heal in a supportive setting, connects them to medical care, and transitions them to the appropriate housing situation when recovery is complete.

**RECOMMENDATION** - Recommend for the Administration partner with and seek funding with Ingham County Community Health Centers to establish a medical Respite Clinic.

The Committee began a discussion on the topic of Homeless Management Information System Card, questioning if it is needed if there is already a state system, if it is important to keep this to connect the services, and briefly spoke on this history when the City was the fiduciary for these types of services. The Committee consensus was to review each policy in the report and provide tangible recommendations. Everything would need an actionable recommendation or letter and/or resolution of support.

Committee consensus was to take action on the budget priorities for tonight’s action but address the remaining items in the report at their next meeting on September 26, 2023. The report will then go out to Council on October 2, 2023, by the Committee chairperson.

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO INCLUDE THE BUDGET PRIORITIES FROM THE REPORT INTO THE FINAL BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR ACTION BY COUNCIL.**

**++Budget Priorities for EDP -Adopted 9/18/2023 – Resolution 2023-**

1. Developing a comprehensive plan with HRCS and CoC to ensure that grant dollars are being utilized as intended with outcomes that can be defined and qualitative.
2. Complete the study of existing rental fees to ensure they are sufficient and consistent to meet the rigorous needs for safety housing with communities of similar size.
3. Create a landlord registry either through the BS&A portal or other platform that is publicly accessible that shows housing inspections and the status (i.e., in compliance, red tags, compliance).

**++Budget Priorities for HRCS- Adopted 9/18/2023 – Resolution 2023-**

1. Required DEI training by an outside organization to those provider agencies receiving HRCS funds who help the homeless, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.
2. Housing Ombudsman prepares education materials for renters. Included but not limited to:
  - i. Rights as a renter
  - ii. Know before you sign a lease.
  - iii. District Court Eviction Diversion information
  - iv. Conduct at least two housing fairs in City with MSU Law each year.
  - v. Creation of a brochure by the Administration on where tenants can go for assistance if they are forced to relocate due to red tags or violations by the landlord.
3. Utilizing all the Community Centers in the different areas of Lansing as warming and cooling centers during heat and cold events. This would require funding for after-hours operations, for security, staff and other expenses that may be included.

**++Budget Priorities for Law/Courts- Adopted 9/18/2023 – Resolution 2023-**

1. Support the creation of a Community Court within 54-A District Court and continued support for eviction diversion program.
2. Implement policy where Nuisance Actions filed against recalcitrant landlords enabling City Attorney to enter into voluntary compliance agreements.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**OTHER**

No other topics.

**ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 4:26 pm

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on October 2, 2023