



BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on Friday, February 26, 2016, commencing at 10AM in the African American Research Library & Cultural Center (AARLCC), Seminar Room 2, located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.

Council Members Present:

Chair, Randall Vitale	Monica Navarro
Richard Barkett	John Peters
Ann Deibert	Commissioner David Rosenof
Frances Esposito	Frank Schnidman
Lee Feldman	Ralph Stone
Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness	Lisa Vecchi
Gino Moro	

Council Members Absent:

Robert Baldwin
Vice Chair, Caryl Hattan
Mercedes Nunez

Staff:

Angela Chin, Planning and Development Management (PDM)
Mark Journey, Office of the County Attorney
Vena Paylo, PDM
Henry Sniezek, Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

Guests:

Carlos Rene

ROLL CALL: Roll Call was conducted by Vena Paylo with a quorum present.

I. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: *It was moved by Monica Navarro and seconded by Gino Moro to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council Meeting of October 23, 2015. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Vitale had one follow up item to make a connection with Operation of HOPE and they have agreed to come to a future meeting.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sniezek informed members that the next meeting will be held at HFCD and that Mr. Feldman offered City Hall to be a location for a future meeting. Mr. Stone said Tim Wheaton from Pinnacle offered to host a meeting and give Council members a tour of the new mixed income development at Third Avenue South. Members agreed that the April meeting can be held at either location, starting with Mr. Feldman's offer of City Hall.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carlos Rene Broward County Charter commission introduced himself and thanked the members for inviting him. Monica Navarro said she encouraged the new executive director to observe the BHC meeting when his schedule allowed because our shared vision.

Charter update by Mr. Rene: the Charter review commission members were selected in June 2015, legal counsel was selected in December 2015, Mr. Rene was appointed on Feb 8th, and a meeting will be held on March 12th, being held at Long Key Nature Center, will be addressing issues of public concern. Subcommittees will meet in April and work concludes recommendations have to go to County Commission in June of 2017 for voters to November 2018. Ms. Navarro encouraged members to get involved.

V. HOMELESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (HIP) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Wright, the administrator of the CoC, passed out two handouts pertaining to the CoC and spoke about the various items. Mr. Wright said there are approximately 35 agencies with over 70 programs for homelessness. They are trying to get the community to realize that there is a system of care in place in the community, Countywide.

The County and partners are involved in the Zero2016 Project. The goal of the project is to achieve functional zero for both veteran homeless by December 2015, and chronically homeless by December 2017.

Referring to the Permanent Housing Placements hand-out: Mr. Wright said the takedown goal was 527, but Broward County housed 742 homeless veterans in 2015. Two national initiatives count veteran homelessness; one is the Mayor's challenge (signed on by six local majors), and the other is the Community Solutions' Zero2016 Project. They exceeded the goal and now have to get that achievement approved by the US Interagency on Homelessness. They expect to make a huge community announcement to highlight the achievement in late March or early April.

In addition, they are going to do a landlord recruitment event; looking for members of the community to get involved and looking for a landlord champion, who can get people to join them. The County Commission is very big on the landlord event. Citing the statistics, in 2015 they housed over 1900 households with funding from County, HUD CoC, HUD ESG, HUD HOME and other Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) funding. 2015 was first time they were able to collaborate with VA, so now they can give monthly statistics.

The Point in Time Count was conducted January 26, 27th and 28. They have put all of the data into the Homeless Management Information System and they expect to give a preliminary report in two weeks. Projecting a decrease in veteran homelessness and a decrease in street count unsheltered homelessness. The County conducted two procurements. A HUD request for letter of intent process for a new bonus project. We have two applicants moving with this and this project would fund new permanently

supported housing for the chronically homeless individuals and families in line with Coc Board and HUD and the State's and County's priority.

In addition, there is a County funded request for proposal process presently on the street. There are applicants who applied to the homeless helpline to coordinate assessment services. The HUD services will start in 2017 and the County's funding services will start on October 1, 2016.

Last year, a request was made that the County contribute 6 million dollars and the cities would make up the other 5.9 million dollars. The purpose being to increase homeless services, achieving functional zero chronic homeless and family homelessness. Functional Zero means whenever anyone applies for assistance from the CoC, they will be housed within 30 to 90 days. The request for funding will be issued to the cities in March through the League of Cities and other direct means. The Chair asked if it is prorated by population request and Mr. Wright answered yes. The Chair asked if there's any information or indication yet from the cities to have this done and if there's a gap, how will the gap be filled. Mr. Wright stated most cities have pushed the issue back and none has asked where they sign the check.

Discussion on how to acquire homeless services' funding and timelines ensued. The topic of using the stockade to house homeless and homelessness within the County was discussed. Mr. Wright closed the discussion by commending the supportive housing strategy.

The Chair and Council members were all in favor of having a presentation to learn more about Operation Lift Hope at one of the upcoming Council meetings.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: The Proposed Linkage Fee

Mr. Sniezek said that in December, the County Commission had an agenda item and they did two things:

1. They gave the County Attorney permission to work with staff to come up with an ordinance that would include the linkage fee via proposal that would be in our land development code.
2. They also asked staff to go out and present to various groups who were interested in this topic and get their feedback.

Mr. Sniezek gave a presentation about the proposed linkage fee and Mr. Stone spoke about other programs that would receive funding.

The Chair stated the Council's options are to take no action, but to be in support, or not in support, of the proposal or to voice the general opinion as the Housing Council so that if and when the Commission takes it up, they have the Broward Housing Council's opinion on the issue. The Chair opened the floor to questions or comments regarding Mr. Sniezek's presentation.

Mr. Carlos Rene spoke at length against the proposal stating it is not effective enough. He supports a penny sales tax or any other kind of tax that produces more useful amounts of revenue.

Commissioner Holness pointed out that the penny sales tax is well under discussion and effort is being made to get the City and County to agree to something that works. He stated the penny sales tax would generate three hundred million dollars. The problem is if it's on the ballot for transportation, it can only

be used for transportation. State law requires it be put on infrastructure or transportation. This has been discussed with the MPO for the better part of a year. But an infrastructure surtax could be implemented, although it cannot be used for transportation or a very limited amount. The Commissioner stated this was also discussed at last year's workshop and that there is an urgency to do something now in terms of getting it on the ballot and the County and City coming to an agreement on how to create funds for affordable housing and to help homelessness. A bill was put forward which states that if this were to be pursued again, the County will need 60% of the population to vote for it.

The Chair expressed being in favor of looking for larger solutions providing larger amounts of dollars to create more units. Mr. Sniezek said he will make a formal recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the Council's consensus.

VII. 2015 Work Program Completion Status Update

Mr. Sniezek spoke about the BHC's work program and that the Community Reinvestment Act was removed. The Needs Assessment can be discussed at the next meeting. He asked the Council to review the strike outs and underlines and bring back suggestion for a new work program which will be discussed at the next meeting. The Chair stated that members agree and proposed the next Council meeting be held in May to avoid meeting to close to Christmas.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16AM.

Disclosure: The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting (#16-SC-21) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-6634.