



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2024
Community Design Studio Nave
7506 E. Indian School Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Roger Lurie, Vice-Chair Mary Jung, Commission Members Neal Shearer, Patrick Dodds, Stuart Turgel, and Lee Cooley

ABSENT: Commissioner Jeff Jameson

STAFF: Kira Peters, Human Services Director; Sue Oh, Eugenio Munoz Villafane, Deana Owens, Kirsty Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Managers; Chad Beougher, Housing Supervisor; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Jessica Rapp, Operations Supervisor, Jeromie O'meara; Police Commander, Daniel Kiricoples; Police Lieutenant, Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director

Call to Order

Chair Lurie called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Chair Lurie welcomed Lee Cooley to the Commission and congratulated Commissioners Shearer and Jameson on their reappointment.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2024
COMMISSIONER DODD MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 HUMAN
SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR JUNG

SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR JUG, COMMISSIONERS SHEARER, DODDS, TURGEL, AND COOLEY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Camping in Public Places Code Amendment

Kira Peters, Human Services Director, Commander Jeromie O'Meara and Lieutenant Daniel Kiricoples from the Scottsdale Police Department provided an update on the Camping in Public Places code amendment that was approved on consent by Scottsdale City Council on Tuesday, August 20, 2024. Ms. Peters explained that the ordinance's language regarding the enforcement of camping rules was modified. Previously, enforcement could not occur if no shelter space was available, but with the new amendment enforcement can now proceed even if shelter space is unavailable. The change allows for the enforcement of public camping rules even when shelters are at capacity.

Commander O'meara elaborated on the impacts of the ordinance. He highlighted the department's past experience with urban camping ordinances and the current approach to addressing homelessness. Commander O'meara explained the department's holistic approach to addressing homelessness and their partnership with human services organizations to provide long-term solutions, beyond issuing citations or arrests. Lieutenant Kiricoples provided insight into the day-to-day operations of the police department in handling calls related to homelessness. He shared the legal advisory that was issued by the City's legal department, emphasizing the importance of providing individuals with a reasonable opportunity to leave a public space before any arrest is made.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Commander O'meara explained that most homeless individuals in Scottsdale have historical ties to the area and prefer not to venture far. Some people refuse services, but most have a place to go at night. He highlighted the collaboration between Scottsdale and neighboring cities to manage potential influxes of homelessness, noting that enforcement alone doesn't solve the issue, but offering services and using enforcement strategically can help. He clarified that officers generally provide ample time for compliance, and arrest for camping alone is rare.

Lieutenant Kiricoples explained that Scottsdale's homeless population is a mix of recurring individuals and new faces. He added that while outreach is primarily humanitarian, challenges remain, especially with individuals facing substance use or mental health issues. Commissioners expressed a desire for the Commission to assist in addressing resource gaps, particularly regarding family homelessness and related issues. Lieutenant Kiricoples said that families are typically found in vehicles rather than on the streets, and early interventions through schools have been successful. Sue Oh, Human Services Manager, mentioned that outreach efforts are in place to inform individuals about the new ordinance and connect them with available resources.

3. FY 22/23 HUD Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Chad Beougher, Community Development Supervisor, gave an overview of the 2023/24 HUD Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and accomplishments. His presentation included an explanation of the purpose of CDBG and HOME funds, the conditions of receiving federal grant funds, and a listing of projects and agencies that were allocated funds. The CAPER report is due annually on September 30th.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Beougher noted that comments are rare during the public comment period, however feedback was received during the annual action plan process. He explained that the numbers can look inflated when serving families versus individuals. He confirmed that the numbers do reflect unduplicated Scottsdale residents.

4. 2025-2029 Consolidated Action Plan Update

Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager provided an update on the 2025-2029 Consolidated Action Plan. She explained that the Consolidated Action Plan is a five-year plan that will range from July of 2025 to 2029 and that an Annual Action Plan ties back to the Consolidated plan and is completed on an annual basis. Her presentation included an overview of the five major components of the Consolidated Action Plan and a detailed list of current allocations of funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME programs and eligible activities under these HUD programs.

Ms. Witkofski highlighted the requirement to conduct an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, noting that Fair Housing mandates require the City to ensure that individuals and families have equitable opportunities to choose affordable, accessible, and safe housing. She said the current phase of the plan is needs assessment and housing market analysis development. The next phase will involve setting goals and developing the strategic plan, with work beginning in January 2025. The final plan will be submitted to HUD by May 16, 2025, following a 30-day public comment period.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Witkofski clarified that the survey focused on different development projects and those senior services, while important, do not require major improvements at this time. Commissioners encouraged the city not to delay the Paiute affordable housing project, emphasizing its alignment with the Consolidated Action Plan's goals.

5. Granite Reef Senior Center Congregate Meal Program Update

Jessica Rapp, Human Services Operations Supervisor, presented an update on the congregate meal program at Granite Reef Senior Center, which is run in partnership with Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA). She focused on how staff are promoting the program and increasing attendance. She highlighted the launch of the new "Live, Laugh, Lunch" program, which offers pre-lunch activities designed to encourage participants to stay for lunch afterward. Activities include bingo on Fridays, which has helped raise attendance to 30 participants on those days, compared to the usual 15 to 20 participants. Ms. Rapp noted that TCAA collaborates with

Pathway to Work, an Arizona nonprofit that helps adults with disabilities by providing support and training. This group manages the lunch program on a daily basis.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Rapp confirmed that there has been a decline in the number of people using the meal service, which she attributed partly to the shift to meal delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to build the program back up are ongoing, and they have collaborated with the city's communications team to raise awareness, even creating a promotional video with TCAA. She clarified that TCAA receives funding from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) and Scottsdale Cares. She said that the meal numbers might appear inflated due to the same individuals attending multiple times each week, accounting for the unduplicated count of 5,496 meals.

6. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Possible future agenda items include:

- Revisiting Residents at Paiute Neighborhood Center project
- Homelessness

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER SHEARER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS SHEARER, DODDS, TURGEL, AND COOLEY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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