

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
HOMELESS SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020  
VIA TELECONFERENCE, 3:30 PM**

Susana Sngiem, Chair  
S. Jolene Hui, Vice Chair  
Sheila Finch, Member  
Christopher Graeber, Member  
James Howat, Member  
Allison Kripp, Member



Julie Lie, Member  
Eboney Pearson, Member  
Susan Redfield, Member  
Jeffrey Johnson, Member  
Linda Wilson, Member

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**FINISHED AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee of the City of Long Beach convened at 3:35 p.m. via teleconference.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Sheila Finch, Christopher Graeber, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui,  
**Present:** Jeffrey Johnson, Julie Lie, Eboney Pearson, Susan Redfield,  
Susana Sngiem, Linda Wilson and Allison Kripp

Also present: Teresa Chandler, Interim Deputy City Manager; Joel Reynoza, Homeless Resource Coordinator; Michelle Mel-Duch, Homeless Services Administrative Coordinator; Michelle Lim, Community Program Technician.

Chair Sngiem presiding.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

20-007HS      Recommendation to approve the minutes for March 4, 2020.

**Committee Member Finch moved to approve the March 4th minutes as submitted, seconded by Committee Member Howat.**

**Yes:** 11 - Sheila Finch, Christopher Graeber, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Julie Lie, Eboney Pearson, Susan Redfield, Susana Sngiem, Linda Wilson and Allison Kripp

[20-008HS](#)

Recommendation to approve the minutes for April 13, 2020.

**Committee Member Redfield moved to approve the April 13th minutes as submitted, seconded by Committee Member Kripp.**

**Yes:** 11 - Sheila Finch, Christopher Graeber, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Julie Lie, Eboney Pearson, Susan Redfield, Susana Sngiem, Linda Wilson and Allison Kripp

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Community Capacity Building Ad Hoc Committee Updates**

Committee Member Hui provided an update. The ad hoc committee met to discuss and draft guidelines for agencies seeking to apply for the Mayor's Fund to End Homelessness. A final draft will be reviewed at the next meeting. Homeless Services staff will send the updated Mayor's Fund Allocation Summary.

Committee Member Kripp provided an update on efforts to promote the Mayor's Fund by working with Daniel Brezenoff, Senior Advisor to the Mayor. The ad hoc committee plans to discuss joint efforts to provide guidance on the application process.

Discussion ensued among the committee members regarding this item.

##### **Updates on COVID-19 response**

Teresa Chandler, Interim Deputy City Manager; Joel Reynoza, Homeless Resource Coordinator; and Michelle Mel-Duch, Homeless Services Administrative Coordinator provided updates.

- The winter shelter and King Park pop-up shelter was activated. The Silverado Park pop-up shelter can be reactivated as needed. The Caesar Chavez Park pop-up shelter can be activated and serving as a donation storage site.
- Atlantic Farms Bridge Housing Community (ABC) year-round shelter is on track to open in June and will have 145 beds.
- The City is working with community partners to provide job-readiness programs and mental health support for participants.
- The City is working with LA County to provide COVID-19 testing at encampment sites.
- The City's COVID-19 testing capacity has increased with more drive-up sites and more

access to testing in higher affected areas. Over 13,000 tests were administered.

- A Council meeting was held on May 5th and a presentation was given on the citywide response to COVID-19. The PowerPoint is available on Legistar.
- More handwashing stations were installed throughout the city and some stations were relocated near areas with encampments. Hygiene kits were distributed.
- The National Guard provided humanitarian support and assisted at shelter sites and drive up testing sites.

Discussion ensued among the committee members regarding this item.

Committee Member Chris Graeber joins the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

## **5. HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT**

### **Project Roomkey**

Teresa Chandler, Interim Deputy City Manager; and Joel Reynoza, Homeless Resource Coordinator; provided updates. Project Roomkey is a collaborative effort by the State, County and the City of Long Beach Homeless Services to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. Hotel rooms will provide temporary housing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. To qualify to participate individuals must be 65 years of age or older or 18 years of age or older and have underlying medical conditions or be medically compromised.

A first site was activated and is designated for participants who are not COVID-19 positive. 116 out of a total of 133 rooms are occupied. There are 124 participants. A second site was activated and is designated for participants who are COVID-19 positive. There is a total of 24 rooms.

Homeless Services began moving participants from shelters to Project Roomkey hotel rooms on April 24th and are close to full capacity. Shuttles are available for participants for appointments and essential errands. Participants will occupy hotel rooms on a month by month basis. The project will be funded by the State until June 30th and the order may be extended.

Discussion ensued among the committee members regarding this item.

### **Safe Parking Program**

Joel Reynoza, Homeless Resource Coordinator, provided an update. The goal of the Safe Parking program is to provide a safe place to park overnight for individuals who are residing in their cars, with access to basic amenities, and provide connection to social service programs that will assist with a transition to permanent housing.

Good News Church, at 1833 Harbor Avenue, serves as the program provider and will operate out

of the church lot which can accommodate approximately 15 parking slots. The parking lot is in the final stages of construction. Temporary accommodations are made at the Multi-Service Center (MSC) as of February 2020. The MSC can accommodate approximately 13 parking slots. There are currently 11 participants. 4 participants were moved into Project Roomkey. 2 participants were moved into permanent housing.

Clients can enter the lot between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. and must leave the following morning between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. Referrals for the program are screened and routed through the MSC. Referrals are made by agencies throughout Long Beach. Program participants are allowed to reside in the program for up to 90 days for initial permits and are connected to a case manager. Security staff is on site.

Discussion ensued among the committee members regarding this item.

## **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:14 p.m. Chair Sngiem adjourned the meeting.

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