



CITY OF
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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2017

Chaminade High School, West Hills

Revised October 20, 2017

Those in attendance were: Simone Best, Thomas Booth, Aida Abkarians, Marge Brown, Marie Javdani, Joan Trent, Brad Vanderhoof, and Joanne Yvank-Garb (arrived 6:42). Also present from Living Praise were Ruby Acedo and Kesha Hearn, and Leah Cohen – Supervisor Kuehl’s office (arrived 7:30).

Committee Co-Chair Simone Best called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was established.

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

4. Chair Comments: Simone introduced Kesha Hearn, Director for Missions and Outreach, and her assistant Ruby Acedo, from Living Praise Church. Kesha described their work with the homeless and underserved, and the programs offered through Living Praise.
5. Public Comments: None
6. Inter-faith Dialogue on Homelessness: Simone and Thomas presented the referral guide to services in the West Valley the working group prepared. Kesha will email the guide from the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission (includes services for the entire valley). Joan expressed the belief that resources are available from many sources in the Valley and the problem is they are largely unknown because there is no consolidated source of information. Thomas distributed a pamphlet, ‘Homeless Resources in our Community,’ from SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition. Kesha mentioned all homeless individuals should be registered through 211 as housing services want a referral. The working group will continue working on the list and report back next month.
7. LAFH Home Again Baskets and Adopt a Family: Simone discussed a variety of volunteer opportunities available. Aida informed the committee the Sunshine Club is preparing bags for Prince of Peace Church. Marie asked if the committee could join another organizations effort, and Simone answered in the affirmative. Aida will make inquiries to see if the local LAUSD schools need help from the committee. Simone will put an item on the January agenda to explore ways to work with LAUSD Title I schools.
8. Woodland Hills Homeless Connect Day: Simone stated there will be no shower facilities at the Connect Day. Aida added Prince of Peace still needs towels. Thomas described how a connect day works and the setup process.
9. Community Impact Statement (CIS) for CF 17-1092 Hepatitis A Outbreak: Simone distributed, ‘17-1092 Motion 9-26-27 / Public Toilets with Attendants,’ and, ‘Community Impact Statement Recommendation RE: CF 17-1092-Hepatitis A Outbreak / Portable Public Restroom Program / Solution Analysis.’ The following amendments were made to the CIS; The word “jointly” was removed from the paragraph beginning ‘We strongly advise...,’ and in the final paragraph beginning “Our West Hills neighborhood...,” the word “treatable” was changed to “preventable.” The Committee approved a draft CIS recommending a for vote on 17-1092 by a vote of five (5)-Yes and one (1)-No with no abstentions. Simone will send the revised CIS to the Board.
10. Community Impact Statement (CIS) for CF 17-1104 Encampments: Item tabled to November.
11. RV Parking and Bridge Housing: Simone announced Colin Crews, homelessness liaison for CD12, has offered to make a presentation on Councilmember Englander’s Neighborhood First Initiative to the WHNC. Item tabled to November.
12. Administrative: Item tabled to November.
13. CIS for CF 17-0274 Affordable Housing Linkage Fee: Tabled
14. Suggestions for New Agenda Items: Simone will review the committee budget to determine if there are surplus funds. Thomas wants to have guests, who have been or are homeless, with “lived experience” address the committee.

Committee Co-Chair Simone adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 6:30 PM, Chaminade High School Condon Center, second floor conference room.