



**MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA  
CITIZEN TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS  
5:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942**

MINUTES  
June 17, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER (5:05 p.m.)
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Megan Dunn introduced herself. Jeanna Marie introduced herself and stated her support for law enforcement. Mike Williams introduced himself.

4. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Wayne Anderson	X
Bonnie Baranoff	X
Joanne Cattani	X
Jack Major	X
Mary Kate Miller	X
Stephanie Murphy	X

Others present: Carlo Tomaino, Assistant City Manager; Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst; Matt Nicholass, Captain, La Mesa Police Department.

Public: Anna Marie Piconi Snyder, County of San Diego; Megan Dunn, Attendee; Mike Williams, Resident; Jeanna Marie, Attendee; Monique Myers, District Attorney's Office; Lois Knowlton, Attendee.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Action: Motioned by Jack Major and seconded by Stephanie Murphy to approve the minutes from the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vote: 6-0

Yes: Wayne Anderson, Bonnie Baranoff, Jack Major, Mary Kate Miller, Stephanie Murphy, Joanne Cattani

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER CARLO TOMAINO

Bonnie Baranoff introduced this item and Carlo Tomaino introduced himself to the task force.

## 7. TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION

Bonnie Baranoff introduced the item and gave an update on where the task force left off from the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Wayne Anderson referenced and reviewed the outline of recommendations he submitted. Wayne stated that the City should make this effort as data-driven as possible. Wayne stated that we need to have boots on the ground interacting with homeless on a one-on-one basis with resources at their disposal. Wayne stated the need for boots on the ground and a list of resources that is up-to-date.

Bonnie Baranoff summarized that we need to recommend more outreach in the form of PERT or PATH support, education for those experiencing homelessness, and general resources.

Wayne Anderson emphasized the need for data compilation of those experiencing homelessness and the need to keep track of the homeless population and know their barriers, obstacles, challenges and needs.

Stephane Miller stated that we need a full time person in La Mesa to perform outreach services. Stephanie stated that we need to include protections for the library and that it function as a safe zone for the public to use as it's intended but also as a place where homeless can go for assistance and information about resources without having to resort to staying in the breezeway area between the library and City Hall. Stephanie emphasized the need to use all the resources and providers that are available locally and adhere to providing services at every location regardless of an institution's insurance requirements.

Bonnie Baranoff stated that we need to include something about the breezeway issue between the library and City Hall. Stephanie Miller stated that the solution should include another location or safe spot where homeless can go when they visit the library so that it is not used as a last resort.

Mary Kate Miller stated that data and statistics is a place where the task force needs to start to gain knowledge about La Mesa's homeless population. Mary Kate stated the need for tracking data to track the contacts that are being made and the follow up that is needed. Mary Kate stated the need to identify resources that are available in real time and identify gaps in services. Mary Kate emphasized the need to look at other community's programs that the City could model after such as a parking lot program or social worker program like is Carlsbad. Mary Kate stated the need for a hot line, complaint line, or communication tool for residents and businesses to communicate their concerns so that the City is not ignoring their input.

Joanne Cattani stated that it's important that we do not have too many different people making contact with the homeless because building trust is important. Joanne emphasized the need for continuity of care and the importance of getting those that need treatment into the right facility the first time where their insurance is accepted to avoid them being transferred or shuffled around.

Jack Major stated that there is a computer database for the homeless that he believes is managed by the Regional Task Force on Homelessness that is very comprehensive and that access to it by a full-time outreach workers would be a very valuable tool. Jack stated that this tool could be used with tablets in the field and that it would avoid redundancy with making contact and follow up efforts. The database is called Clarity.

Monique Myers stated that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or Clarity database is used by the DA's office to track homeless.

Jack Major stated that the task force heard from a lot of providers and that they need a database or list in real time that multiple agencies share and have access to so that when contact is made with those experiencing homelessness they can be referred to services that are available without transporting them around in an inefficient manner. Jack stated that a sharable, live list or database of available housing or an available services list is highly desirable.

Megan Dunn emphasized the need for data, implementation and logistics and how helpful it is to have the police utilize HMIS in a small community like La Mesa. Megan stated that if funding is available it's important that the outreach provider or social worker not only input data but also analyze the data so that data-driven decisions are made and information or updates are provided to either the task force or the City Council. Megan gave an update on the YIGBY project and stated that building housing on faith-based properties can work in a small city like La Mesa.

Jack Major stated emphasized the importance of data for tracking people and data for tracking available services.

Wayne Anderson stated that a majority of real costs are incurred in repeated emergency room visits. Wayne stated that a point of failure lies in the transfer of care after the emergency room visit and in the continuity of care after transfer of the patient has been made. Wayne stated that with the City's model we should limit the merry-go-round of services in and out of the emergency room that is costly by improving the transfer of care and continuity of care (case management).

Bonnie Baranoff stated that some of the task force has mentioned that a full-time staff person or provider is necessary.

Lyn Dedmon asked to confirm with the task force that what he's hearing is that the task force wants a full-time provider to be possibly selected via an RFP process or a city employee hired whereas the scope of work or job duties captures the recommendations for services that need to be provided. Lyn also stated that this may not capture every recommendation and that certain recommendations could be made independent of the scope of work depending on what they are.

Monique Myers chatted that the HMIS is not accessible to law enforcement.

Lois Knowlton chatted that Prop 63 funding to address homelessness may be out there and that City of San Diego Councilmember Todd Gloria has recently highlighted it.

Bonnie Baranoff stated the need for an emergency shelter and a solution to get people housed now, such as in a designated parking lot or area in La Mesa where a safe parking program can be implemented.

Carlo Tomaino stated that he likes the comments that he's heard and the outline provided by Wayne Anderson. Carlo stated that what he's hearing is that we need to focus more on centralizing our resources and the need for a dedicated outreach person and providing more education and partnerships for our homeless population. Carlo stated the benefits of partnering with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies in addressing homelessness and the emphasis the task force has made on data collection and analysis. Carlo stated that if we find the right provider we can avoid the doubling and tripling of efforts that is often seen when services aren't centralized. Carlo mentioned CityNet, a provider that City of Lake Forest hired and the positive experiences and results that were achieved with them. Carlo suggested the City look at using housing resources and pooling them with neighboring jurisdictions or the county to build permanent supportive housing that is extremely accessible to the homeless population.

Mike Williams chatted information about the Housing First model.

Carlo Tomaino stated the need to include a concise action plan and executive summary along with the recommendations.

Stephanie Miller stated that it's important that we deliver a concise document with recommendations; something that is immediate and mid-term because the tasks and priorities may change over the long term.

Jack Major stated that it's important that we include and identify available resources in the plan.

Anne Marie Piconi Snyder stated that the city managers of four cities recently met with County Supervisor Dianne Jacobs before COVID-19 to talk about developing an MOU for emergency sheltering and that the task force should follow up to see what resulted from this meeting.

Matt Nicholass stated that HMIS is not accessible by most law enforcement agencies however there are select members of HOT Teams that have relationships with members of providers that have given them access to it.

The task force decided to have Lyn Dedmon summarize and bullet point the recommendations discussed by the task force and bring Bonnie Baranoff in to meet with Lyn and Carlo Tomaino to develop an executive summary and action plan with the recommendations made by the task force.

#### 8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lyn Dedmon stated that he would brief the task force on the NOFA at the July meeting.

Carlo Tomaino stated he's happy to be a part of this group and to be with the City of La Mesa working on this important issue.

Matt Nicholass stated he's happy to be back together and that he feels this group is ready to move forward.

Bonnie Baranoff made an announcement that the County of San Diego is doing homeless sector tele-briefings every Friday at 11:30 am. Bonnie also announced at July 15<sup>th</sup> nationwide virtual town hall on ending homelessness and that she can send out a link to anyone that is interested.

#### 9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Prepared by:

Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst