

DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Virtual Conference Call

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee met on the above date and time.

Committee Members Present: Chair Jonathan T. Crooms (Durham County Veteran Services Office – *Proxy for Lois Harvin-Ravin*); Vice-Chair Ellecia Thompson, (Durham VA Medical Center); Secretary Angela Vick-Lewis (Formerly Homeless Representative, City of Durham); Thomas J. Bonfield (Durham City Manager); Reverend Dr. B. Angeloe Burch, Sr. (Corporate Private Sector Representative for Durham County/Executive Director, African American Dance Ensemble); Heidi Carter (Durham County Commissioner); Xavier Cason (Durham Public School Board); Drew Cummings, (Chief of Staff, Durham County Manager’s Office); Calleen Herbert (NCCU Office of Community Engagement & Service); Angela Holmes (Former Homeless Representative for Durham County); Pam Karriker (Faith Community Representative for Durham County/Christian Assembly); Eliza Mathew (Duke University Office of Durham and Community Affairs); Charita McCollers, MSW (Lincoln Community Health Center/Federal Health Care for the Homeless); Tracy Stone-Dino (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Vega Swepson (Resource Specialist, Durham Technical Community College); Ebony Thomas (Durham Public Schools Homeless Liaison); Chris Toenes, MSW (Non-Profit Representative, City of Durham/TROSA);

Excused Committee Members:

Director Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veteran Services Office (*Proxy Jonathan T. Crooms in attendance*); Kathy Hodges, Durham Crisis Response Center (*Proxy Alma Davis not in attendance*); Alma Davis (Durham Crisis Response Center – *Proxy for Kathy Hodges*); Ryan Fehrman (Non-Profit Representative, Durham County/Families Moving Forward); Regina King (Faith Community Representative for the City of Durham); Tony Tosh (Prosperity Recovery Services/Private Sector, City of Durham); Meredith Daye, (Development Director, Durham Housing Authority); Janeen Gordon (Assistant Director, Durham County Social Services – *proxy for County Commissioner Heidi Carter*); Alex Protzman (LIFE Skills Foundation); Steve Schewel (Durham Mayor); Captain Helen Tripp (Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)); Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor - *Proxy for Mayor Schewel*)

Staff Present: Community Development Director Reginald J. Johnson, Community Development Assistant Director Karen Lado, Community Development Manager Colin Davis, Senior Community Development Analyst Hanaleah Hoberman, Senior Community Development Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Development Coordinator Ruebe Holmes.

Subject: Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Crooms called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending and read the goals of the HSAC aloud.

Subject: Public Comments Period

Committee Member McCollers commented that the Carolina-Duke Inn was a horrible place but that is where the medically vulnerable are placed. She encouraged people to go over there to look at it. Secretary Vick-Lewis commented that she lived down the street from the Carolina Duke Inn and that it was a horrible place for folks down on their luck. She said that she did not believe that the City did not have enough funds to find places for these people. She stated that we are human beings and you would not want to put your family in there, whether they are homeless or not. She said that everyone needed to go by there to check it out.

Subject: Approval of the Scoring Committee’s Emergency Shelter and Back@Home Funding Recommendations

Community Development Manager Colin Davis announced that Project Access decided not to accept the recommended award. The funds would be redistributed to the other two applicants.

Committee Member Burch recused himself from the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Committee Member Holmes, seconded by Committee Member Herbert to postpone the vote for funding recommendations until further conversation could be had by both providers and holding a vote on a final proposal by email. The motion was approved unanimously, Committee Member Burch abstained.

After further discussion and updates from providers, Community Development Senior Analyst Lloyd Schmeidler announced that Housing for New Hope would move forward with the \$248,654 in their original proposal. Community Development Senior Analyst Hanaleah Hoberman clarified that there would not need to be a discussion amongst other providers and the HSAC could move forward with the funding recommendations for Housing for New Hope (\$248,654) and Urban Ministries of Durham (\$329,655).

Motion by Committee Member McCollers, seconded by Committee Member Holmes to approve the funding recommendations for Housing for New Hope and Urban Ministries of Durham. The motion passed unanimously, Committee Member Burch abstained.

Subject: Announcements

Committee Member Cummings made a statement responding to the public comments about Carolina-Duke Inn. He stated that the County and the City are constrained by their purchasing processes which are informed and limited by state law, and they are not always presented with the choices they would like, often between imperfect alternatives.

Subject: Adjourn

Motion by Committee Member Burch, seconded by Committee Member Vick-Lewis to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Crooms adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruebe Holmes
Community Development Coordinator
City of Durham, Community Development

Angela Vick-Lewis
Secretary, Homeless Services Advisory Committee