

**CITY OF SURPRISE
VETERANS, DISABILITY, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES-APPROVED

February 10, 2021 / 6:00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
16000 North Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

A. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Karissa Perry called the Veterans, Disability, and Human Services Commission Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, 16000 North Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on February 10, 2021.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Karissa Perry, Vice-Chair Andrew Witzel and Commissioners Harrylouis Rodriguez, Jason Cooper, Shawna Daigle, Steffen Hanzel, Bruce Hertzog (virtual).

Absent: Commissioners Julie Kent-Partridge, George Van de Langeryt (both excused).

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Service & Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, Human Service & Community Vitality Administrator Danielle Osborne, Assistant City Attorney Hobie Wingard, Administrative Specialist Karina Caraveo, Human Services Supervisor Jennifer Griffin, Neighborhood Services Supervisor Adam Lane and Financial Analyst-Sr. Deb Perry were present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

C. CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Perry reported on the following upcoming events:

- City offices will be closed-Presidents Day Feb. 15th
- Day of Service on Feb. 20th
- Surprise City Academy starting Feb. 22nd
- Virtual Spring Training Party on March 3rd

D. STAFF REPORT

Director Dyson shared that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day virtual event was a success. He thanked all the participants including Ambassador Young and his foundation, 5 different

choirs from the Dysart and Arizona Charter Academy Schools, and the MLK Jr. Advisory Committee. Director Dyson also thanked his team members Lord Garcillano and Larry Garcia for bringing together the MLK virtual presentation and MLK Day of Service.

Commissioner Hertzog disconnected from the meeting at 6:09 pm.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chair Perry opened the call to the public to discuss any items not on the agenda.

Hearing none, Chair Perry closed the call to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the CDBG and HOME Needs Hearing for the Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan.

Neighborhood Services Supervisor Adam Lane made the presentation to the Commission.

Chair Perry opened the call to the public and reminded the Commission to not engage in conversation with calls from the public.

Michelle Alberti, Director of Housing Shelter and Support Services with A New Leaf, shared with the Commission the Tenant Based Rental Assistant program (TBRA), which offers up to 24 months of rental assistance with the tenant paying up to 30% of their income towards their rent and the subsidy paying the difference. Ms. Alberti mentioned this program also offers assistance to families locating affordable and appropriate housing, and help them achieve identified goals to reach long term financial stability. She stated that they are currently contracted to serve 26 families and housed 13 of those families in the last 6 months.

Robert Sanders, Regional Director of the I-HELP Program with Lutheran Social Services, shared with the Commission that they work together with churches to utilize their space and volunteers. He mentioned that they offer overnight shelter, and announced that this is their second year servicing the City of Surprise community. Mr. Sanders stated that they have served 29 new guests this year, and of those guests, 8 have been placed in permanent housing and 10 have found employment. He added that they had to reduce the number of guests served in order to be in compliance with CDC regulations for the pandemic. He stated that they have partnered with Phoenix Rescue Mission to test new guests prior to entering their program.

Jennifer Griffin, Human Services Supervisor, Surprise Resource Center, shared with the Commission that the most requested services have been rental and utility assistance. The Resource Center administers the Community Action Program (CAP) for City of Surprise and El Mirage residents. Ms. Griffin shared the requirements and funding available through CAP, and pointed out the limited availability of the funds. She added that they are always searching for more funding to be able to help more individuals and avoid evictions.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 2 – Internal – Consideration and action pertaining to approval of the January 13, 2021 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Hanzel made a motion to approve the January 13, 2021 Veterans, Disability, and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes, 3 Absent (Kent-Partridge, Van de Langeryt & Hertzog), 2 Vacancies.

Item 3 – Internal – Discussion pertaining the Surprise Resource Center handouts.

Human Services Supervisor, Jennifer Griffin presented to the Commission the community resource guide, rack card, poster, and wallet cards. She mentioned these handouts are in English and Spanish and are handed out to the community.

Director Dyson stated the resource guide is posted on the Surprise website. He mentioned the resource guides were in partnership with the City of Peoria, he recommended to visit the Surprise website and or call the Resource Center with any questions.

Chair Perry suggested adding the resource link to the rack cards.

Commissioner Cooper suggested including this information to any HOA's newsletters.

Item 4 – Internal – Presentation and discussion of the AZ@Work program.

Maricopa County Program Supervisor, Andrew Witzel made the presentation to the Commission.

Item 5 – Internal – Presentation and discussion of the approved Strategic Plan.

Human Service & Community Vitality Administrator Danielle Osborne announced the Council approval and acceptance of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission Strategic Plan.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Ms. Osborne – Announced Commissioner Dan Moore's resignation.
- Chair Perry – Veterans webpage.
- Ms. Osborne – SOS Program.
- Commissioner Hanzel – Working group overview.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Hanzel made a motion to adjourned the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission of February 10, 2021 at 7:08 p.m. Vice-Chair Witzel seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes, 3 Absent (Kent-Partridge, Van de Langeryt & Hertzog), 2 Vacancies.



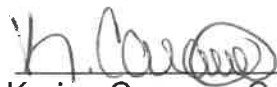
Danielle Osborne
HSCV Administrator



Karissa Perry
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Chair

The foregoing instrument is a full, true, and correct copy of the original document on file in the office of the City Clerk, City of Surprise, Arizona.

ATTEST BY:



Karina Caraveo, Commission Liaison

DATE:

