



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 9, 2020  
City Hall Kiva Forum  
3939 N Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

**PRESENT:** Chair Janice Eng, Vice Chair Denny Brown, Commissioners James Campbell, Jayne Hubbard, Emily Reilly and Andrew Song

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Ashley Blaine

**STAFF:** Director Greg Bestgen; Acting Housing Manager Justin Boyd; Supervisor Usha Ramachandran; Senior Grants Program Specialist Michele Payakovich; Manager Christy Hunn-MacDonald; Manager Eugenio Munoz-Villafane

**Call to Order**

Chair Eng called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

**Public Comment**

Mayor's Youth Council Members spoke about their individual reasons for participating in Mayor's Youth Council.

Chair Eng welcomed the members and offered words of encouragement.

**Minutes**

Regular Meeting November 14, 2019

Chair Eng welcomed new commissioner, Emily Reilly.

COMMISSIONER HUBBARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 14, 2019 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR BROWN, COMMISSIONERS CAMPBELL AND HUBBARD VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONERS REILLY AND SONG ABSTAINED.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. HUD 5-Year Consolidated Plan Public Hearing for FY 2020/2025**

Robert Gaudin, Operating Partner with Western Economic Services, LLC, facilitated a public hearing for the purpose of obtaining public input on the development of the HUD CDBG 5-Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 through 2025. He described the consolidated plan planning process and explained that the five-year plan and annual action plan are part of the consolidated plan. The five-year plan is a strategy plan, outlining priorities. The annual action plan is the commitment of resources. Once completed, the City submits the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD.

A housing and community development survey is being conducted as part of the prioritization process. Mr. Gaudin encouraged everyone to take the survey.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Gaudin said that homelessness is a subject that could be addressed through the consolidated plan. The point-in-time count simply counts the homeless currently in Scottsdale; it does not identify how long they have resided in Scottsdale.

Discussion ensued regarding the effect that the lack of affordable housing in Scottsdale is having on workforce development. Commissioners expressed an interest in exploring the idea of the City of Scottsdale and/or Maricopa County putting a policy in place requiring that developers dedicate a percentage of new developments to low-income housing. Commissioner Reilly noted that access to amenities needs to be considered as part of the discussion about housing and community development needs.

Director Bestgen will consult with legal counsel regarding the process the Commission would take to submit a policy change suggestion to City Council.

### **2. PHA 5-Year and Annual Agency Plan for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program for FY 2020/2021**

Usha Ramachandran, Human Services Center Supervisor, presented the PHA 5-Year and Annual Agency Plan for FY 2020/2021 for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV). She explained that HCV program assists low-income families with housing assistance payments. Participants pay 30 to 40 percent of their adjusted gross income for rent and the program subsidizes the remaining amount. She reviewed program income limits, eligibility and selection process, HCV payment standards, and the five-year and annual plan requirements.

City Council will take action on the FY 2020/21 PHA plan as a consent item on March 17, 2020. HUD submittal is due on April 15, 2020.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Boyd explained that the City of Scottsdale provides a courtesy property listing to participating landlords, both online and in print. Benefits to landlords participating in the program include guaranteed on-time rent payment each month and assistance with lease contract management. Landlords have no ability to claim a tax benefit for loss of income, because any loss would be speculative. It is hoped that a successful marketing plan to recruit landlords can be established in 2020. A landlord outreach engagement

is scheduled from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Granite Reef Senior Center on March 11, 2020. Commissioner Song expressed interest in participating in the outreach program.

Mr. Boyd said that the City of Scottsdale has a discrepancy between the payment standard and the current rates for various bedroom sizes. Staff is currently in the process of applying for an exception from HUD to get a 120 percent exception so that the payment standard for a one-bedroom unit can be increased.

He noted that approximately 66 percent of the program participants are over the age of 60. He explained that vouchers are limited to single-family residential. There is not an allowance for seniors to use their vouchers to live in a group facility.

Ms. Ramachandran said that there are currently approximately 6,000 people on the waiting list. Scottsdale has 735 available vouchers with over 600 vouchers issued.

Director Bestgen mentioned that many landlords, particularly in southern Scottsdale, have dropped from the program, because they have chosen to renovate their properties, which has increased their rental income potential. Mr. Boyd explained that participants are selected with the help of a software system that tracks preference points.

VICE-CHAIR BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PHA 5-YEAR AND ANNUAL AGENCY PLAN FOR THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR FY 2020/2021 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR BROWN, COMMISSIONERS CAMPBELL, HUBBARD, REILLY, AND SONG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

### **3. Director Report**

Director Bestgen announced that Michelle Albanese has left the City for an opportunity to be director of Section 8 Housing with the City of Mesa.

Director Bestgen said that Granite Reef Senior Center recently hosted a two-day training for the 16 volunteers participating in the intergenerational tutoring program at Yavapai. The tutoring program is the same as the one currently offered at Via Linda Senior Center. He thanked Cheryl Kerivan for her work in heading up the program and working with SUSD.

2019 Vista del Camino holiday program assisted 255 families with packages and gift cards thanks to 182 donors and 40 volunteers. Gift cards worth \$3,000 were distributed to 19 additional families. Vista del Camino partnered with Clean Home Project in delivering 1,500 rolls of toilet paper to homes in need on Christmas Eve.

The Point-in-Time Count will be held on January 28, 2020. Volunteers will meet at Vista del Camino at 6:00 a.m. and will visit 11 predetermined areas. Last year 76 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in Scottsdale. Director Bestgen noted that only individuals with no shelter are counted. Those individuals who own a car are not counted, because they are considered as having shelter.

Director Bestgen congratulated Mr. Boyd on the completion of the Paiute Community Center playground project.

Under the guidance of Christy Hunn-MacDonald, the Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council is putting together a strategic plan outlining the government experiences that members would like to have as part of the program. The plan will be implemented in Fall of 2020.

The Adopt-a-Senior program served 352 seniors this year. 200 of the seniors received deliveries to their home, which offered social workers and volunteers the opportunity to do well-being checks on the individuals. Donations this year amounted to approximately \$61,785. Director Bestgen shared thank you letters received from participants.

#### **4. Adjournment**

VICE-CHAIR BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER HUBBARD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR BROWN, COMMISSIONERS CAMPBELL, HUBBARD, REILLY, AND SONG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.