

Charter
Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee
January 31, 2017

Chartering Authority: City Council.

Introduction: At the City Council's January 13, 2017 Retreat the City Council agreed to form an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee

Membership: The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee consists of three councilmembers. (Initially Mayor Pro Tem Jones as Chair, Councilmember Hankins and Councilmember Cooper)

Committee Purpose: The growing urgency and impact of homelessness and the effect of cost burdened households is evident throughout Thurston County. The recently opened Warming Center is seeing over 200 people per day. According to the survey done by the Thurston Economic Development Council, as a precursor to the Downtown Strategy, the impacts of homelessness on downtown businesses is one of their primary concerns. According to the United Way of Thurston County's ALICE Report over 35% of Thurston County residents and 41% of Olympia's residents struggle to afford basic necessities. The necessities include: housing, food, child care, health care and transportation.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction reports that countywide 1,526 students were identified as homeless in the 2014-2015 schoolyear up from 889 in 2009-2010. A 71% increase. School age homelessness continues to impact our region with over 444 students being identified as homeless in the Olympia School District and 754 in the North Thurston School District. Of the 1,526 students identified as homeless in 2014-2015, 85 were identified as unsheltered.

The City sees a role for itself in helping to understand and respond to these and other related issues and to help to clearly articulate an Olympia perspective on these issues at a local and regional level.

The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee will work with staff to develop a greater understanding of these issues and to consider policy options for addressing these issues at a local and regional level. The committee will develop and present recommendations to City Council for Council's consideration.

The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee's initial work plan will consist of:

1. **Housing Funding Options** – Work with local housing providers and interest groups to determine the scope, scale and approach to a possible funding options.
2. **Tool Box** – Review the Housing Tool Box and related affordable housing tools and develop strategies and priorities for deploying these resources based on the realities of local housing market.
3. **Community Investment Partnership and HOME Funds** – Develop a coherent and strategic approach to prioritizing and targeting these funds and for working with decision makers to advance Olympia's strategic objectives.
4. **Staffing and Support** – Consider resources to fund staff assigned to implement these objectives including an overall housing affordability strategy, a public communications plan and a regional coordination plan.

Operations:

- The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee will meet on a regular basis and will publish a list of meetings at the beginning of each year. Meetings occurring outside the regular published meeting times shall be considered to be special meetings and shall be noticed.
- Meeting minutes shall be posted in a manner consistent with all other Council Committees.
- A temporary staff liaison shall be appointed by the City Manager and shall provide short-term administrative and technical support to the committee as may reasonably be required until additional staffing can be supported.
- The Chair shall report Committee activity on a regular basis under City Council Reports and shall schedule study sessions as needed to keep Council informed of its work.

Timeline:

- The committee should prioritize its work plan to complement regional efforts around a possible funding initiatives and Community Investment Partnership and HOME funding cycles.