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City Council

Homeless Response Plan Community Workgroup Discussion

Agenda Date: 2/11/2020
Agenda Item Number: 2.A
File Number: 20-0125

Type: study session **Version:** 1 **Status:** Filed

Title

Homeless Response Plan Community Workgroup Discussion

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive the draft Homeless Response Plan from the Community Work Group and discuss the Work Group's experience with the process. Briefing only; No action requested.

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive the draft Homeless Response Plan from the Community Work Group

Staff Contact:

Stacey Ray, Senior Planner, Office of Performance & Innovation, 360.753.8046

Amy Buckler, Strategic Projects Manager, CPD, 360.570.5847

Presenter(s):

Stacey Ray, Senior Planner, Office of Performance & Innovation

Amy Buckler, Strategic Projects Manager, Community Planning & Development

Kim Adney, Community Work Group Member

Grace Burkhart, Community Work Group Member

Elspeth (Eli) Charno, Community Work Group Member

Scott Clifforne, Community Work Group Member

Robert Coit, Community Work Group Member

Jennifer Davis, Community Work Group Member

Amy Evans, Community Work Group Member

Derek Harris, Community Work Group Member

Meg Martin, Community Work Group Member

Selena Rodocker, Community Work Group Member

Ally Upton, Community Work Group Member

Background and Analysis:

January 2019, staff proposed a Participatory Leadership approach to developing a Homeless Response Plan. This approach was designed to identify community-based solutions to homelessness through intentional learning together, constructive dialogue, and fostering trust. City Council agreed that this was the right approach to engage the whole community in the response, cultivate stronger regional partnerships, and build overall community resiliency.

In March 2019, the City began the process with a goal to identify long-term strategies, actions, measures and partnerships to respond to the homelessness crisis. This included planning for the needs of residents, visitors, business owners and individuals experiencing homelessness. In keeping with a Participatory Leadership approach, this process was hosted and shepherded by a Community Work Group (Work Group) made up of 11 community members who brought a diverse set of perspectives and experiences. Visit Engage Olympia to learn more about the Work Group members (See Attachment).

Over the course of three distinct phases, the Work Group heard from more than 700 community members and key stakeholders through 20 different workshops, focus groups, listening sessions, community conversations, and more than 640 online survey participants. Attached is a summary of the outreach and engagement process.

At this stage, the Work Group has fulfilled their role, and is ready to formally hand-off the draft Homeless Response Plan (Plan) to City Council (See Attachment). In January, staff provided City Council with a high-level overview of the process and the resulting draft plan at their annual retreat; however, this is an opportunity for Councilmembers to hear directly from the Community Work Group about their role, what they learned through this experience, and how the community's voice is reflected in the Plan.

At the meeting, staff will provide an overview of the process used to develop the Plan and highlight significant elements of the Plan. This will be followed by a facilitated panel discussion with Community Work Group members, and time for Councilmembers and Community Work Group members to ask questions and discuss the process and Plan.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The public has a high degree of interest in the City's response to homelessness. An overview of the process, and summaries of community input received throughout the process are available on EngageOlympia.com.

Options:

Information only. No action requested.

Financial Impact:

This process is being completed by City staff using base department budgets. In addition, the City Council directed \$30,000 of Council goal money to support the public engagement process.

Attachments:

Engage Olympia Website
Process and Outreach Summary

Draft Homeless Response Plan