



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

a joint powers authority of the city & county of los angeles

MINUTES OF THE

SPECIAL MEETING

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMISSION

Held September 23, 2011

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission meeting, held in the LAHSA office, located at 811 Wilshire Blvd, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, California, was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Commissioner Buik.

Attendance:

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Elise Buik, Vice Chair
 Flora Gil Krisiloff
 Antonio Manning
 Cecil L. Murray
 Michael Neely

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Owen Newcomer, Chair
 Larry Adamson
 Louisa Ollague
 Ramona Ripston

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Counsel

LAHSA Staff:

Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer
 Michael Arnold, Executive Director
 Erin Hollander, Board Liaison
 Helen Lee, Funding Manager

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum

Roll was called and quorum was established at 11:10 a.m.

1.0 Approve staff recommendation to accept First to Serve as a sole source vendor for the Winter Shelter Program (WSP).

1.1 Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with First to Serve for a WSP located on the West side of Los Angeles, for an amount not to exceed \$122,000, beginning October 1, 2011 and ending November 30, 2011, subject to available funding and jurisdictional approvals. In the event that funding to LAHSA for this period is reduced or not forthcoming, authorize the Executive Director to reduce the amount of compensation and/or term of service accordingly.

Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer, gave the report:

- At the request of Councilmember Rosendahl's office, LAHSA has been asked to submit a proposal that would allow for a Winter Shelter Program to open on the West side beginning on October 1, 2011 to accommodate the increased number of homeless individuals congregating on Ocean Front Walk in Venice.

- As part of LAHSA's procurement policy and procedure, if LAHSA does not receive a number of qualified proposals for a specific RFP, LAHSA has the right to sole-source a vendor. Contingent on funding being available and the approval of the appropriate local jurisdictions, LAHSA staff recommends to select First to Serve as a sole-source vendor to operate the WSP in Service Planning Area (SPA) 5 and authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with First to Serve.
- LAHSA has received approval from the National Guard which will allow for the use of a Westside Armory beginning on October 1, 2011 and is securing support from the appropriate Board offices and local government officials. LAHSA staff has identified budgetary needs and is currently working with the Council office to secure funding.
- There was a discussion regarding the urgency of the proposal, and the potential challenges in opening this temporary emergency housing.

Public Speaker: Arturo Piña, Liaison for Councilmember Rosendahl

Mr. Piña spoke on behalf of Councilmember Rosendahl and noted that there is a great need to open this program early, and to work with the community, to identify funding and coordinate with LAHSA staff to address the needs of the homeless in the Venice area.

Public Speaker: Clabe Hartley, resident, merchant and property owner in Venice

Mr. Hartley noted that there is a major safety issue in the Ocean Front Walk in Venice. He stated that there are two major gangs that have taken turf rights in the area where homeless persons sleep in Venice. Mr. Hartley expressed his concern regarding the violence that is taking place and the issue of safety for the homeless.

Public Speaker: Linda Lucks, President of Venice Neighborhood Council and Task Force

Ms. Lucks urged the Commission to open the Winter Shelter Program early and stated that there are many homeless persons who will utilize the services.

Public Speaker: Steve Clare, resident of Venice, and Director of the Venice Community Housing Corporation

Mr. Clare stated that he supports the Councilmember's request and noted that there are homeless persons who are in need of an alternative place to sleep. He noted that if there are resources to open the program early, it should be done.

There was discussion regarding the distinction between gang-related issues and issues related to homelessness. There was further discussion regarding the potential unintended consequence of opening the Winter Shelter Program early: if this is the only Winter Shelter that is open prior to December, there may be referrals from other parts of the County.

There was a discussion regarding the need for an urgent response to needs of the Venice community and the need for providing alternatives for the homeless persons in that area.

The Commissioners recommended that this particular proposal not be confused with the Winter Shelter Program, which functions primarily to house homeless persons during the period of inclement weather from December to March. It was recommended that this proposal be referred to as a one-time pilot, transitional housing effort for the Westside of Los Angeles.

The Board recommended that this item be tabled until the Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, and that LAHSA staff report back with identified funding; and to coordinate with providers, community members, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Council office on the proposed project.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Neely and seconded by Commissioner Manning to table this item until October 4th meeting of the Special Meeting of the Commission.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Public Participation

There were no requests for public participation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.