

Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance: Roberto Rodriguez (At-Large), Anna Trevorrow (District 1), Victoria Pelletier (District 2), Kate Sykes (District 5), Mark Dion; Mayor.

City Staff: Jessie Lemieux, Executive Assistant for Fire Department; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief; Mark Dubois, Police Chief; Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager; Greg Jordan, Assistant City Manager; Maggie McLaughlin, Director of Health and Human Services.

Announcements

Review and Approval of Minutes from September 2024

Minutes moved by Councilor Trevorrow and seconded by Councilor Pelletier

Unanimous vote to approve

Staff Communication (Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager)

Warming shelter update - More to come in November, tentatively optimistic to have a third party to provide a winter warming shelter for unhoused residents.

Shelter Licensing Ordinance (Councilor Sykes)

Review of documents in the backup section. Right to shelter.

Met with various stakeholders on the issue of shelter licensing. Summarized issues in the past in the Memo.

There are parts of shelter licensing that are valuable and we could revisit, but want to guarantee, in the City of Portland, to guarantee the right to shelter to anyone who asks for it.

Issues with Right to Shelter and how to regulate shelters. Listed in documents.

Also discusses State funding, zoning and recoding, and Chapter 15 Ordinance.

Look at this from the perspective of what we want the shelter licensing to do for us, not a reactive standpoint.

Councilor Pelletier- Did not support this in 2021.

Wants shelter providers to have low barriers, making sure they do not need to jump through any bureaucratic hoops.

Racial Equity goals - wants a racial impact assessment

Councilor Trevorrow- Tricky part with any kind of licensing or regulatory policy is navigating that line with ensuring safety, health, best practices and not to be too burdensome on the organization providing these services.

Wants a flexible policy by means of looking at what best examples are being used now. Interested in seeing shelters in recode as there was an issue with shelter numbers in certain mapping areas. Can we expand the area that allows shelter to exist? Is changing the definition of a shelter one way to achieve that goal?

We have been challenged in the last few years to live up to the value of the sheltering policy as when it was implemented before we didn't have the numbers that we do today to navigate. Reiterated that this is a question of policy.

Dena Libner - Cannot speak on legal, financial or operational implications because legal hasn't had a chance to fully review. It would be helpful for the committee to consider whether or not it is interested in revisiting the concept of a shelter licensing mechanism and clarifying what the purpose of that mechanism is. To provide formal city oversight over shelter operations and their impact on the neighborhood they are located in, and to separate out the right to shelter as a different city policy altogether.

Mayor Dion- Right to shelter from a legal lens implicates responsibilities from the city and causes a financial impact on the taxpayers.

Ganley Proclamation - The idea that we take everyone in the city as our problem.

He was committed to those individuals to get shelter.

The original idea of the policy was to deploy shelter services in other parts of the city.

The issue then was not resolved.

Opinion that the committee should send this along to staff for legal and cost purposes.

Councilor Rodriguez - Open to this being considered by the committee. Starting over with new framework. Asking staff to do a deeper dive with more substance, discussing financial implications, operation, resources, requirements, etc.

Bayside Update (Chief Mark Dubois, Police Department)

Calls for service are up 13 percent from last year.

911 calls Sept - 731

Officer initiated calls for service Sept - 407

Arrests in Bayside with an average of 70/month, last year 40/year.

Bayside assigned officers create a community policing atmosphere.

Behavioral health teams are part of numbers and a huge help in our response.

Staff Update (Maggie McLaughlin, Director of Health & Human Services)

The job was advertised five days ago, closing on the 25th.

One application in currently.

Next meeting is November 12th, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.