



**CITY OF BOULDER
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2012

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of a motion to accept the summary of the October 30, 2012 City Council Study Session regarding Homelessness Services Update and Related Issues

PRESENTERS

Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager
Paul J. Fetherston, Deputy City Manager
Karen Rahn, Director, Human Services
Mark Beckner, Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda item presents a summary of the October 30 Study Session. The purpose of the study session was to present current information about homeless services in Boulder, local financial support for services, and an update on municipal campus issues related to homelessness and the use of public space. Staff presented background information on this item followed by council discussion. Issues presented and discussed included:

- Demographic information on Boulder's homeless population;
- Updates on service provider current efforts and new initiatives;
- Opening of Bridge House Resource Center;
- Update on Boulder Shelter for the Homeless Neighborhood Action Group;
- Update on Boulder Housing Partner's Community Outreach Plan and development of Statement of Operations for a Housing First project;
- Behavioral issues on the municipal campus;
- City expenditures on homelessness and related issues.

Key Issue Identification

Attachment A presents a summary of the discussion, issues and next steps considered in the study session.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Motion Language:

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to accept the study session summary from October 30, 2012 regarding Homeless Services Update and Related Issues

NEXT STEPS

1. Information Packet update to council on a Denver ordinance prohibiting sleeping in public spaces in 1st Q 2013.
2. Return to council with assessment of current funding for homelessness and alignment with Ten-Year Plan to Address Homelessness priorities in 2nd Q 2013.
3. Return to council with an analysis and recommendations regarding amendments to the panhandling ordinance in 3rd Q 2013.
4. Information Packet update to council on 1175 Lee Hill Statement of Operations in January, 2013.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: October 30, 2012 Study Session Summary

ATTACHMENT A

Study Session Summary October 30, 2012 Homeless Services Update and Related Issues

PRESENT

City Council: Mayor Matt Appelbaum, Deputy Mayor Lisa Morzel, Suzy Ageton, KC Becker, Macon Cowles, Suzanne Jones, George Karakehian, Tim Plass, Ken Wilson

City Staff: City Manager Jane Brautigam, Deputy City Manager Paul Fetherston, Housing and Human Services Director Karen Rahn, Police Chief Mark Beckner, Human Services Planner Valerie Watson

PURPOSE

The purpose of the study session was to update council on current and new initiatives in the community related to homelessness and to solicit council feedback on potential next steps.

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Staff presented an overview of key items, including:

- Demographic information on Boulder's homeless population, including who is homeless in Boulder and reasons for homelessness;
- Current efforts of the Ten-Year Plan to Address Homelessness Board;
- Updates on service provider current efforts and new initiatives;
- Opening of Bridge House Resource Center in Boulder and services provided;
- Update on Boulder Shelter for the Homeless Neighborhood Action Group and activities since April, 2012;
- Update on Boulder Housing Partner's Community Outreach Plan and development of Statement of Operations for a Housing First project at 1175 Lee Hill;
- Behavioral issues in the municipal campus area and increase in police patrols;
- City-wide efforts to address homelessness and municipal campus issues; and
- City expenditures on homelessness and related issues

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

1. There was general agreement that preferred approaches are: distinguishing different populations which frequent the municipal campus and other areas in the city; targeting policies which address different population issues; and focusing on behaviors rather than status.
2. There was general agreement the city should assess the current panhandling ordinance for potential revisions which would address issues on street corners.

3. There was general agreement to provide council with information on Denver's ordinance banning sleeping in public places.
4. For future policy or program recommendations the following ideas and issues were discussed:
 - a. The city is already doing a lot to address homelessness;
 - b. Funding of programs and services in alignment with priorities in the Ten-Year Plan;
 - c. Define unmet needs and priorities clearly;
 - d. Focus resources on and services to those who are Boulder residents and want to help themselves;
 - e. Largest percentage of homeless are families with children;
 - f. Housing and employment as key elements to permanent solutions;
 - g. Need for more reliable data on homeless population and program outcomes to determine what is working and provides the highest leverage;
 - h. Exploring a ban on smoking on the municipal campus;
 - i. Boulder attracting people because of the level of services offered to assist people;
 - j. Support for the Ready-to-Work program and the Resource Center which help people move toward self-sufficiency;
 - k. Land use barriers to creating more affordable housing;
 - l. Housing, outreach, day services, prevention and employment as key strategies to address homelessness;
 - m. Additional police resources for enforcement on the municipal campus;
 - n. Need to be aware of trade-offs when making decisions about funding for homeless services in the context of all other human services needs.

Follow up information requested by council:

Council requested clarifying information on the per capita spending (\$4.01) on homeless services identified in Attachment F of the study session memo.

Attachment E includes capital awards (Boulder Shelter for the Homeless for debt service of \$126,000) and estimated staff costs (\$83,000), bringing that total to \$535,000. Using adjusted population this per capita amount would be \$6.57. Including student population this would be \$5.40.

Attachment F presents \$326,371 in Human Services Funding grants to nonprofit community agencies and divides it by the total adjusted population for the city of Boulder (81,392) to calculate the per capita allocation of (\$4.01). Including student population (99,069), per capita expenditures would be \$3.29. Estimated staff costs for homelessness related efforts and capital investments were not included in this calculation.