

**Phoenix City Council  
Economic Development and Housing (EDH) Subcommittee  
Summary Minutes  
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023**

City Council Chambers  
200 W. Jefferson St.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Subcommittee Members Present  
Chairman Kevin Robinson, Chair  
Vice Mayor Yassamin Ansari  
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington  
Councilwoman Debra Stark

Subcommittee Members Absent

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the Economic Development and Equity Subcommittee to order at 10:00 a.m. with Vice Mayor Yassamin Ansari, Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington and Councilwoman Debra Stark present.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**1. Minutes of the Community and Cultural Investment Subcommittee Meeting**

Councilwoman Stark made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2023 Community and Cultural Investment Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman Ansari seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

**2. Minutes of the Economic Development and Equity Subcommittee Meeting**

Councilwoman Stark made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023 Economic Development and Equity Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman Ansari seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

**CONSENT ACTION (ITEM 3)**

Item 3 was for consent action. No presentations were given, but staff was available to answer questions.

**3. Kiva Hub and Better Business Bureau Premiere Partnership Sponsorship Contract**

**INFORMATION ONLY (ITEMS 4-6)**

Items 4-6 were for information only. No presentations were planned, but staff was available to answer questions.

#### **4. Head Start Birth to Five Monthly Report – July**

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

#### **5. Key Phoenix Economic Indicators Quarterly Report**

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

#### **6. What Works Cities Certification Update**

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

### **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEM 7)**

#### **7. Human Services Campus Engagement Efforts Update**

Deputy City Manager Gina Montes, Office of Homeless Solutions Director Rachel Milne and Office of Homeless Solutions Deputy Director Scott Hall presented on enhancing engagement efforts to address homelessness in the area outside the Human Services Campus (HSC).

Ms. Milne shared engagement efforts with efforts taking place on Sept. 20, 2023.

Vice Mayor Ansari commented about the 80% success rate of individuals accepting services. She then asked whether or not the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) has data on how many people continue in those services.

Ms. Milne responded OHS does not own the data but is working with Maricopa Association of Governments to request aggregate data.

Vice Mayor Ansari asked for an update on HSC engagement efforts in three months.

Ms. Milne replied staff will provide an update in three months.

Vice Mayor Ansari discussed communication media strategy and asked if OHS has a plan in place to share engagement stories with the public.

Ms. Milne responded OHS has communication in place to highlight experiences at the Human Service Campus.

Ms. Montes commented OHS is working closely with the Communication's Office.

Vice Mayor Ansari expressed support for sharing success stories. She then asked about availability of indoor space for remaining engagement efforts.

Ms. Milne stated engagement efforts are separated by two to three weeks to work with the sheltered community to find available space. Ms. Milne referred to Scott Hall for additional comment.

Mr. Hall added engagement efforts are based on availability.

Vice Mayor Ansari commented on addressing the root causes of the problem pertaining to homelessness.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked about common misconceptions of homelessness.

Ms. Milne stated misconceptions are heard from media, individuals, and OHS service partners.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked what the plan is to help dispel misconceptions.

Ms. Montes responded presentations are provided to the community and service providers.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington commented on presenting information about misconceptions and displacement of people to other parts of the City or Maricopa County.

Ms. Milne stated OHS efforts around the HSC are not responsible for the increase in unsheltered homelessness of the entire region.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington commented there is a need for some level of data that the City can cite.

Mr. Hall replied OHS does have the necessary data being requested.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington added the need to share the data with the public. She asked what is staff's plan to continue engagement efforts outside of the HSC.

Ms. Montes responded staff is in the process of receiving approval for structured campground safe outdoor space.

Ms. Milne discussed OHS efforts moving forward.

Councilwoman Stark commented on family shelters units.

Ms. Milne stated OHS has 780 sheltered beds throughout the City, not including what Maricopa County, other cities and other private groups are opening as well.

Councilwoman Stark requested a future presentation on other activities happening within the City addressing homelessness.

Ms. Montes stated there is a plan to bring forth another item in the future to talk about many of those services that support people experiencing homelessness.

Councilman Robinson expressed support of OHS efforts.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 8)**

### **8. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative**

Community and Economic Development Director Christine Mackay and Community and Economic Development Program Manager Claudia Whitehead presented on the requested approval to implement the FY 2023-24 Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative.

Ms. Mackay discussed the Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative.

Ms. Whitehead shared about Arizona Bioscience Week starting the week of Sept. 25, 2023.

Vice Mayor Ansari made a motion to approve the item. Councilwoman Hodge Washington seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Robinson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnathan Gates  
Management Fellow