



City of Phoenix

Minutes

Meeting Location:
City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

City Council Policy Session

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

2:30 PM

phoenix.gov

CALL TO ORDER

The Phoenix City Council convened in Policy Session on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

COUNCIL INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS

Vice Mayor Ansari celebrated the groundbreaking of Fire Station 62 in Estrella, District 7. She spearheaded Pride on the Block, attracting over 1,000 attendees for Transgender Awareness Week. She launched a three-month pilot program with District 8 and Community Bridges, Incorporated (CBI) to tackle homelessness and Fentanyl issues. She contributed to Arizona State University's (ASU) Parking Reform Panel at the Avenues of Opportunity Conference and engaged in discussions on American Disability Association (ADA) accessibility with Councilwoman Stark and State Representative Jennifer Longdon. She attended Spirits of Mexico and the Chinese Chamber Mixer alongside Councilwoman O'Brien, and she also promoted the forthcoming Desert West Holiday Fest.

Councilwoman Stark highlighted the Slope Holiday Market and Parade, involving Hatcher Road Urban Business and Sunnyslope Village Alliance, and noted the participation of City floats from Neighborhood Services and Police staff at Desert Horizon.

Councilwoman Pastor discussed her upcoming January Coffee Chat, focusing on the Tree and Shade Master Plan in collaboration with Heat Response and Mitigation staff. She highlighted District 4's participation in the Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) day events. She and Councilwoman Stark, served as Grand Marshals for the City's Pride Parade, emphasizing Fast Track Initiatives. Councilwoman Pastor also mentioned upcoming events such as a Hygienic Product Drive, 2nd Annual Holiday Toy Drive, and book donations for Carl Hayden High School.

Councilwoman O'Brien highlighted the recent passage of General Obligation (GO) Bond packages. She discussed the new Thelda Williams Transit Center at Metrocenter and ongoing collaboration with Valley Metro and the Police staff to ensure the safety of riders and visitors at the new end-of-line platform. She co-hosted the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Holiday Celebration with Vice Mayor Ansari and is actively working to bring a popular Chinese grocer to North Phoenix following TSMC's \$40 billion investment announcement.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington joined Mayor Kate Gallego for the groundbreaking of Dahlia Village, a development with units set aside for individuals at risk of homelessness. Councilwoman Hodge Washington commemorated the historic Ruby Bridges walk at Advance U Elementary and celebrated the opening of a new medical clinic at the Washington Street Shelter. She highlighted General Obligation (GO) Bond projects, including the Choice Neighborhoods Development for Edison/Eastlake and the Hohokam Drainage Program.

Councilwoman Guardado thanked participants of the 4th Annual Turkey Giveaway at Maryvale Community Center, where over 500 turkeys were distributed. She expressed appreciation for those involved in the Arizona Public Service (APS) Light Parade, thanking musicians, dancers, and the Phoenix Labor Movement.

CONSENT ACTION

This item is scheduled to allow the City Council to act on the Mayor's recommendations on the Consent Agenda. There is no Consent Agenda for this meeting.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A vote may be held to call an Executive Session for a future date.

REPORTS AND BUDGET UPDATES BY THE CITY MANAGER

This item is scheduled to allow the City Manager to provide brief informational reports on topics of interest to the City Council. The City Council may discuss these reports but no action will be taken.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEMS 1-2)

- 1 Maricopa Association of Governments Interstate 10 - Deck Park Tunnel to the Interstate 10, Interstate 17 Split Freeway Corridor Planning Study

Discussion

Mayor Gallego introduced the freeway update from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), highlighting collaboration with the Federal Government, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and the City. She welcomed Deputy City Manager Alan Stephenson and the senior team members from MAG led by former Phoenix City Manager Ed Zuercher.

Mr. Stephenson introduced the study led by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), noting the City's collaboration with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). He introduced MAG's Chief Transportation Officer John Bullen, Transportation Engineer Bradlee Williams, and the City of Phoenix's ADOT Liaison Myesha Harris.

Mr. Bullen discussed the study on the Deck Park Tunnel to the I-10/I-17 Split Freeway Corridor. He noted the aging infrastructure, predating Proposition 300 in 1985.

Mr. Williams discussed the study's emphasis on critical traffic and safety issues, targeting effective solutions for improvements funded through Proposition 479 (Prop 479). He noted the collaboration with MAG, ADOT, the City, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration. He mentioned the public engagement program initiated in November, an ongoing survey ending soon, and a public meeting planned for Spring 2024. He outlined the timeline, including strategy development from Spring 2022 to Winter 2023, ongoing evaluation, and public input, with final recommendations by Spring/Summer 2024 for Prop 479-funded improvements. He then introduced Ms. Harris, who invited questions from Mayor Gallego and City Council.

Mayor Gallego requested Ms. Harris to explain her role with the City of Phoenix for the public.

Ms. Harris explained her role as a liaison between the City and ADOT, responsible for overseeing the freeway program.

Mayor Gallego expressed gratitude to Ms. Harris for her extensive involvement in multiple programs, highlighting the importance of the City's partnership with ADOT.

Councilman Waring raised concerns about tunnel visibility, especially during light-dark transitions and lane changes. He suggested enhancing tunnel brightness and reevaluating speed differences.

Mr. Williams acknowledged the issue, confirming that improvements are being considered by the team.

Mayor Gallego emphasized the Council's unified focus on safety, highlighting the role of advancing technology in reducing light differentials for better visibility throughout the day.

Councilwoman Stark expressed interest in the Direct High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Connectors and inquired about potential additional locations, specifically beyond 3rd Street and 3rd Avenue in the study.

Mr. Williams explained the study area extends to Sky Harbor Airport, assessing Direct HOV Connectors in various sections of the corridor, including east to west and other areas.

Councilwoman Stark requested clarification on the locations, specifically the cross streets.

Mr. Williams responded the Direct HOV Connectors aim to be as close to mainline interchanges as possible, adhering to standard freeway interchange spacing, usually every mile or more.

Mr. Bullen added the study is in early stages, focusing on existing

conditions and problem identification, and noted it is too early to specify exact locations.

Councilman Robinson inquired about the daily crash rate of 5.4, as mentioned in the presentation, and sought details on the main causes.

Mr. Williams said staff lacked specific details on individual crash causes but identified problem areas with lane drops, sudden braking, and long queues.

Councilman Robinson observed the lack of mention of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and questioned their involvement.

Mr. Williams confirmed DPS's participation in meetings and workshops, stating DPS is informed and involved, though not officially labeled as a partner.

Councilman Robinson expressed his expectation for DPS to be a key partner in the study, given its role in implementing strategies in high-accident areas.

Councilwoman O'Brien requested detailed information about the specific area of the study.

Mr. Bullen explained that the study area covers all of the I-10 from the Deck Park Tunnel eastward and southward to the I-10/I-17 Split near the airport, including the mini-stack and a section of SR-51 up to Thomas Road. He emphasized the goal of encompassing all travel in that area for a comprehensive approach.

Councilwoman O'Brien noted the City's growth and increasing challenges with frequent exits, underlining the importance of traffic reduction efforts in the study area.

Councilwoman Pastor discussed the dynamics around the 7th Avenue exit, asking for details on improvements within the existing right-of-way and seeking clarification on the locations of lane drops.

Mr. Williams emphasized the focus on speed differentials rather than absolute speed, noting that an exit lane should travel slower than an adjacent lane. He confirmed staff is actively seeking solutions within the existing right-of-way.

Mr. Bullen mentioned staff is exploring corridor-wide and system-wide strategies to address speed differential challenges, considering the limited space due to existing infrastructure.

Councilwoman Pastor inquired about the potential locations for braided ramps.

Mr. Williams discussed exploring braided ramp designs that do not require additional right of way, using stacked ramps as an option, but noted no finalized plans yet.

Councilwoman Pastor raised concerns about land acquisition for braided ramps, seeking information on the location, targeted land, and potential displacement.

Mr. Williams stated the goal is to implement braided ramps without acquiring more land.

Councilwoman Pastor brought up the topic of multi-lane weaves and the importance of educating residents on using and navigating the HOV lane.

Mr. Williams acknowledged the team is reviewing the HOV system to improve navigation, operations, and user experience.

Councilwoman Pastor asked for details on the slide discussing alternatives being analyzed, specifically the HOV lane on the I-17.

Mr. Bullen mentioned two types of HOV lanes, including a Direct HOV ramp facilitating freeway-to-freeway movement, and another geared toward connecting to arterial streets. He said the latter was the one in the example Councilwoman Pastor mentioned.

Councilwoman Pastor asked about the online public survey and how

long it is open.

Mr. Williams said the survey closes Friday night.

Councilwoman Pastor stated this is the first time she has heard about the survey.

Mr. Bullen stated it is one of many occasions for community feedback and there will be additional opportunities in 2024.

Mr. Williams mentioned the team will provide a survey link for review before the week is over.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington inquired about the 14 alternatives being considered from the Deck Park Tunnel to 16th Street. She sought information on these alternatives and wanted to know where to find them on the website.

Mr. Williams explained the numbers stem from a workshop involving partners and DPS, where participants generated ideas to identify problems.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington emphasized the need for early public access to complex information before meetings.

Councilwoman Guardado asked about the outreach numbers.

Mr. Williams reported 4,000 visitors, 2,000 comments from 1,500 people last week, and noted the potential for higher figures.

Councilwoman Guardado recommended early information access for Council staff to better inform residents.

Mr. Bullen proposed extending the survey deadline to December 22 to allow for more public feedback.

Mr. Stephenson confirmed he would work with Ms. Harris to forward the

survey link to Council staff.

Mayor Gallego outlined their focus on identifying improvement areas, pain points, and hazardous sites. She noted by Summer 2024, they anticipate more comprehensive meetings and discussions, aiming to ensure a safer, less stressful commute.

2 Office of Homeless Solutions Encampment Efforts and Data Update

Discussion

Mayor Gallego introduced Deputy City Manager Gina Montes.

Ms. Montes introduced Office of Homeless Solutions Director Rachel Milne and Deputy Director Scott Hall for updates on the City's homelessness efforts.

Ms. Milne highlighted key data on homelessness, focusing on the unsheltered population, shelter capacities, homelessness dynamics, emergency shelter types, rapid rehousing, street outreach, feasible housing solutions, Human Services Campus activities, encampment strategies, and the 2024 Permanent Shelter Plan.

Mayor Gallego thanked Homeless Solutions staff and inquired about measures to prevent heat-related deaths due to vulnerability during hot months.

Ms. Milne announced expanded summer overnight shelter services across North, Central, and South areas to provide more beds for those in need during the hottest months.

Mayor Gallego stressed the importance of collaboration with government partners and prioritizing the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help vulnerable populations. She also sought private sector partners to aid positive exits into stable housing solutions.

Ms. Milne recognized successful transitions amid housing challenges, emphasizing St. Vincent de Paul's program and contribution.

Mayor Gallego commended individuals who successfully completed St. Vincent de Paul's program, noting Councilwoman Hodge Washington's collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul on a healthcare clinic. Mayor Gallego then requested an update on construction management and oversight.

Ms. Montes mentioned recruiting a vertical construction project manager for new shelter projects.

Mayor Gallego asked when the position would be filled.

Ms. Montes responded staff hoped to fill the position early in the new calendar year.

Mayor Gallego asked about the higher rate of return to homelessness.

Ms. Milne noted the shelters funded by the City serve individuals with higher acuity levels, often the most challenging in the community and there is a higher rate of return to homelessness compared to the Maricopa region.

Mr. Hall stressed the importance of adequately funding and monitoring supportive services to prevent individuals from leaving available housing resources, citing challenges with funding and staffing over the past decade.

Mayor Gallego discussed government-level talks, focusing on funding additional beds for individuals with challenges with addiction or Serious Mental Illness (SMI). She inquired about the City's data-driven strategies for optimizing resource allocation.

Ms. Milne stated in the last two years, Homeless Solutions staff hired a data manager and the data is used to inform funding decisions, guide decision-making, and offer suggestions to City Council.

Mayor Gallego acknowledged Federal Government partnerships via ARPA and the unanimous prioritization of homelessness by Council staff. She asked about summer staffing.

Ms. Montes highlighted collaboration among Homeless Solutions, Emergency Management, and Public Health staff to analyze data for optimal heat respite center locations.

Ms. Milne mentioned Maricopa County funding for two new daytime sites in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul last year.

Mayor Gallego inquired about the need for more nonprofit partners.

Ms. Milne mentioned Homeless Solutions staff has a robust list of nonprofit partners and may not need more.

Councilman Waring questioned the budget per person for homelessness expenditures, citing concerns about disproportionate costs from a small percentage of the population.

Ms. Milne provided a total expenditure of \$20 million.

Councilman Waring expressed concerns about homelessness extending beyond the Human Services Campus, including questions about employment status and substance abuse among the homeless population. He discussed various solutions, emphasizing the need for changes to address the growing homeless population and address constituent concerns.

Ms. Milne highlighted efforts to prioritize non-congregate housing for those working around the Human Services Campus, and St. Vincent de Paul has a dedicated area for individuals progressing from shelter to permanent housing as they work. She stated each shelter offers connections to workforce development programs.

Mr. Hall highlighted ongoing efforts to address Councilman Waring's concerns. He noted differences in populations, like supporting the severely disabled for permanent housing and supporting those who have overcome addiction through accountability and job opportunities.

Councilman Waring asked about homeless employment with the City. He also asked about the prevalence of serious drug issues within the population.

Mr. Hall clarified addiction is a serious concern in the unsheltered community but stressed that it does not encompass the entire homeless population. He underscored the commitment of Homeless Solutions staff to holding individuals accountable by promptly connecting them to treatment services and other essential resources.

Councilwoman Guardado asked for the precise opening date of the Haven Senior Facility in Quarter 1.

Ms. Milne replied Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) stated March 2024.

Councilwoman Guardado asked about ensuring accountability for that date, considering previous delays.

Ms. Montes stated Neighborhood Services staff meet with CASS weekly to maintain communication and address questions.

Councilwoman Guardado asked about the plan of action if the facility is not open by March.

Ms. Montes mentioned that CASS' contract for the temporary Haven is set to expire, and if it is not open, CASS would need to find alternative housing for those individuals. She said staff is optimistic about meeting the March deadline and are actively collaborating with CASS on the matter.

Councilwoman Guardado asked about consequences for not opening promptly due to the urgency of housing seniors.

Ms. Montes emphasized the current focus on opening the facility with weekly updates.

Councilwoman Guardado thanked City staff and acknowledged the challenges, expressing hope for collaboration with other cities to find solutions.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington inquired if the Maricopa County data

included rapid rehousing or only shelter.

Ms. Milne clarified the data encompasses the entire system, capturing both shelter and rapid rehousing participants.

Ms. Hodge Washington asked whether any data had been collected on the reasons individuals become unsheltered.

Mr. Hall replied outreach teams in the Phoenix Community Action Response Engagement Services (PHXCares) system conduct personal assessments to track reasons why individuals become unsheltered, including those who refuse services.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked for the top three reasons people enter the system.

Mr. Hall stated that based on his experience in the field, the top reasons for homelessness are addiction, being priced out of housing, and personal family issues.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked when Homeless Solutions staff started performance indicators.

Ms. Milne responded tracking began July 1, 2023.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington observed that there might be overlapping performance indicators.

Ms. Milne stated Homeless Solutions staff can generate a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) report for any shelter provider to assess their performance indicators.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington inquired about the progress observed in the number of people served over any given period of time.

Mr. Hall responded housing is challenging, primarily due to affordability issues, making it harder to find affordable single-room or studio apartments.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington sought information on the length of stay, positive exit destinations, and percentages of the population returning to homelessness for the prior fiscal years. She emphasized the need for data to accurately assess progress and questioned whether there is a consideration for different benchmarks for high acuity individuals in traditional congregate shelters.

Mr. Hall replied staff is working to include more information in the data.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington questioned the accuracy of the numbers related to the goal set for non-congregate/bridge housing, specifically mentioning a scenario where individuals have a housing voucher but are still awaiting housing. She inquired about the numbers on a slide concerning non-congregate/bridge housing and whether that represents the population being served.

Ms. Milne explained the MAG Regional Continuum of Care defines bridge housing as a temporary location for individuals with a voucher, before moving to permanent housing. She noted, however, that the City-funded location was not operating in this manner at that time.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington emphasized the numbers should not be evaluated without considering the differences in the definition. She then asked for an explanation of what the engagement rate represents.

Mr. Hall explained in outreach, engagement is complex due to the dynamic nature of the population and noted engagement, leads to obtaining a name and signing a release of information to input data into the HMIS system.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington acknowledged understanding and mentioned her constituents' belief that individuals from the Human Services Campus were now in their neighborhoods. She referenced data showing 59 percent in the shelter and requested further breakdown into length of stay and other performance indicators, weighing pros and cons.

Ms. Milne presented data on sheltered individuals' length of stay, revealing that 60 percent stayed less than 30 days, 27 percent for 30 to

60 days, 4 percent for 60 to 90 days, and 9 percent for more than 90 days.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington inquired about the 15 percent of individuals leaving shelter facilities and returning to being unsheltered.

Mr. Hall emphasized the importance of exit data for understanding individuals' destinations after leaving shelters. He confirmed ongoing efforts to improve data collection at CASS and noted that about 15 percent of exits, recorded in HMIS, prompt the Outreach team to investigate reasons and tackle barriers to prevent recurrence. He acknowledged while street assessments are done, a standardized system for tracking shelter exits is presently missing.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington suggested it would be beneficial to document the reasons for shelter exits. She then inquired about the Safe Outdoor Space.

Ms. Milne reported the Safe Outdoor Space opened on Nov. 1, 2023, initially hosting 43 guests and noted to date, there have been 30 exits, half of which were positive, leading guests to treatment programs or other shelters.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington expressed gratitude to staff, praising their efforts.

Mayor Gallego exited the meeting at 4:42 p.m. Vice Mayor Ansari assumed the chair.

Councilwoman Stark questioned how the City gathers data on independent homeless programs, citing entities like Cleo N. Lewis Ministries aiding the homeless.

Ms. Milne responded a goal of the MAG Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care is to unify more partners to contribute to the HMIS and the City collects data from entities under legal contract.

Ms. Montes mentioned Cleo Lewis's close collaboration with Homeless Solutions staff.

Councilwoman Stark asked about the City's methods for tracking and engaging with organizations like New Freedom and Native American Connection, and how their data is utilized.

Mr. Hall responded Federally-funded organizations are required to input data into HMIS, noting Native American Connection is included in HMIS, while New Freedom, involved in various projects, is part of a behavioral health database.

Councilwoman Stark expressed her thanks to staff, acknowledging their work.

Councilwoman O'Brien referred to the Maricopa County Flow by Month slide, which showed the inflow and outflow of new entries to the system and those exiting to housing. She inquired whether the data represented unique households or individuals.

Ms. Milne replied the data represents unique individuals entering and exiting the homeless service system.

Councilwoman O'Brien clarified the individuals on the chart have not been in the system for two years.

Ms. Milne confirmed that they were new in the system, defined as not being in the system for two years or more.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked how these items are determined.

Ms. Milne replied the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development defines these items for the City.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if two years is long enough.

Ms. Milne responded staff can work with MAG to see if there are additional data points with lengthier time.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the goals were from MAG.

Ms. Milne replied the goals were the performance measures within the regional Continuum of Care that MAG oversees.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked about the definition of a positive exit.

Ms. Milne replied positive exits are the next best alternative, which can involve moving from a traditional congregate shelter to independent housing, housing with a subsidy, or permanent stays with friends or family.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked how long it takes to track how people are doing after a positive exit.

Ms. Milne explained the next significant data point is whether individuals return to homelessness and this is tracked for one year after an individual exits the program.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked whether the City's ability to track individuals is limited to one year after a contract expires, and if, in cases where a contract is longer, tracking can extend up to two years.

Mr. Hall responded once a person is in the HMIS system, they would be in the system in perpetuity and if they house independent of the City, then the City does not track that.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked for more specificity on contact and engagement.

Mr. Hall mentioned that contact will always be a larger number than engagement because a contact may turn around and one may never see them again.

Councilwoman O'Brien discussed the challenge of dealing with individuals with higher acuity levels during court-ordered cleanups. She expressed a need to explain this to constituents who may not understand why homeless individuals are present in their community.

Mr. Hall stated individuals experiencing homelessness have diverse

needs, falling into general categories such as those with fixed incomes priced out of housing, severe physical disabilities, severe mental health disabilities, and substance abuse issues. He stated overcoming one issue does not necessarily address the entirety of their complex challenges.

Councilwoman O'Brien sought clarification on why individuals in the last section of the cleaned-up area were considered the toughest. She questioned whether it was due to more extended periods of homelessness, SMI, struggles with substance abuse, or other factors.

Mr. Hall replied most of these individuals had previously declined services during earlier engagements in the same area. He mentioned challenges arose when individuals refused services along the way during the closure of the 15 blocks.

Councilwoman O'Brien sought clarification on the chart regarding the number of beds coming online and closing. She inquired about the City's shelter for 280 beds mentioned in Quarter 3, seeking information about the specific shelter.

Ms. Milne mentioned the shelter previously planned at the Lower Buckeye site will be implemented at an alternative location, with the opening scheduled for Quarter 3. The shelter will consist of sprung structures accommodating up to 200 individuals, along with x-wings that can house up to 80 individuals on the same site.

Councilwoman O'Brien inquired about the services provided by the State for individuals who are SMI.

Mr. Hall explained addressing SMI involves engaging with Medicaid services, which offer more comprehensive services for individuals with Severe Mental Illness, including case management, housing assistance, and access to additional resources not available to the broader Medicaid population.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the State has sufficient robust services for individuals with SMI.

Mr. Hall replied no.

Councilwoman Pastor noted an uptick in issues related to homelessness in her district, especially in the 19th Avenue area, and expressed concerns about certain activities and individuals in alleys. She asked for the percentage of those not accepting services and the reasons why.

Ms. Milne stated staff can obtain PHXCares data for Councilwoman Pastor's District 4, addressing why some individuals are not accepting services during outreach efforts.

Councilwoman Pastor expressed the importance of sharing information with all councilmembers and requested data to be broken down by district for comparison, particularly focusing on the percentage of individuals experiencing drug addiction.

Ms. Milne answered the current refusal rates for the PHXCares system citywide is 39 percent, with the majority citing substance abuse as the reason for not accepting services.

Councilwoman Pastor stated she wanted to understand the situation when individuals repeatedly refuse services and become a community concern.

Mr. Hall emphasized creating shelter capacity in compliance with legal rulings, acknowledged the challenge of insufficient space, highlighted Police staff's role in addressing homelessness-related crimes, and stressed the importance of continued engagement and accountability to improve acceptance rates case by case.

Councilwoman Pastor asked when the Misdemeanor Repeat Offender Program (MROP) is present.

Mr. Hall replied there is specific staff designated to PHXCares who accompanies staff during specific projects and MROP is involved in PHXCares cases, particularly in alleys, and collaborates with Police staff on hotspot engagements. He added MROP is associated with Police staff, with one officer assigned to partner with PHXCares for the Police staff

component of the process.

Mr. Hall added Police staff was heavily involved in PHXCares processes. He emphasized their practice of contacting departments in specific areas and partnering with them, leveraging the full resources of Police staff.

Councilwoman Pastor asked about overnight intakes based on questions from constituents.

Mr. Hall explained the process is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Councilwoman Pastor inquired about overnight intakes between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., seeking information on their location.

Mr. Hall confirmed CASS worked with Police staff to bring people in for access to the Human Service Campus. He mentioned the Welcome Center is open 24 hours, providing access when needed.

Councilwoman Pastor inquired about overnight intakes at the City's outside shelter, specifically for the ones that have safe outdoor space.

Mr. Hall said the City's outside shelter has a 24-hour intake.

Councilwoman Pastor sought clarity that small organizations and nonprofits are participating in the MAG Continuum of Care or can join if asked.

Ms. Milne stated the MAG Continuum of Care aimed to collaborate with more organizations this year, particularly smaller groups not typically homeless service providers.

Councilwoman Pastor expressed interest in the conversation with MAG regarding the regional homelessness model and stressed the need to address complexities for sustainability. She emphasized the importance of a multi-sector approach for workforce solutions and raised questions about handling different populations. She inquired about the site for the 280 beds, seeking progress in addressing homelessness.

Ms. Montes responded a site had been identified for the 280 beds, and staff was in the final stages of due diligence before confirming its suitability.

Vice Mayor Ansari highlighted stark racial disparities in homelessness and mentioned a recent complaint filed by Unite Here regarding discrimination at the airport. She expressed concern about the root causes of homelessness and inquired whether data on an individual before homelessness was collected to fully understand racial inequities.

Ms. Milne stated she did not have the information available but would get together to discuss with colleagues at MAG.

Vice Mayor Ansari expressed sentiment on preventing heat-related deaths. She expressed concern about the City's increasing heat and urged a shift from reactive to proactive measures in preventing deaths. She encouraged planning for 2024 and sought information on the support needed from State and Federal funds for proactive initiatives.

Ms. Montes discussed summer planning for heat respite.

Vice Mayor Ansari urged proactive measures, citing the need for additional funding due to the global climate crisis. She stressed the importance of setting ambitious deadlines and maintaining political will within City Council to address the escalating challenges effectively.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice Mayor Ansari declared the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.