

# Attachment A

## Phoenix City Council Economic Development and Housing (EDH) Subcommittee Summary Minutes Wednesday, May 8, 2024

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

### Subcommittee Members Present

Chairman Kevin Robinson, Chair  
Vice Mayor Debra Stark  
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington  
Councilman Carlos Galindo-Elvira

### Subcommittee Members Absent

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robinson called the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee to order at 10:01 a.m. with Vice Mayor Debra Stark, Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington and Councilman Carlos Galindo-Elvira present.

Chairman Robinson welcomed the newest member, Councilman Carlos Galindo-Elvira, to the subcommittee and acknowledged the presence of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Association (YSEALI) program from Arizona State University, organized by the US Department of Justice. He expressed gratitude for bringing them and welcomed the opportunity to speak with them afterward.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

### **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

#### **1. Minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee Meeting**

Councilwoman Hodge Washington made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024, Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee meeting. Vice Mayor Stark seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

### **CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2-4)**

Items 2-4 were for consent action. No presentations were planned, but City staff was available to answer questions.

#### **2. Proposed Code Enforcement Policy Updates**

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

Chairman Robinson opened the floor to public comment.

Nicole Rodriguez addressed the lack of a platform for reporting issues related to damaged, removed, dying, or decaying trees on commercial properties. She mentioned the Landscape Text Amendment adopted by the Council in 2021, which charged Neighborhood Services Department with receiving complaints about non-compliant landscaping plans. However, she highlighted the absence of an accessible reporting platform and emphasized the need for Neighborhood Services Department to make such a platform available. She expressed concern that the current system is not user-friendly and urged action to address this issue.

Chairman Robinson closed the floor to public comment.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington provided an opportunity for staff to respond to Ms. Rodriguez's comments about the lack of a reporting platform for non-compliant commercial properties regarding landscaping.

Neighborhood Services Director Spencer Self acknowledged the validity of the public's concerns and explained that while there have been changes to code enforcement policies, there are challenges in enforcement due to the specific requirements related to site plans. Mr. Self outlined the current process for residents to report complaints and emphasized ongoing efforts to improve enforcement mechanisms in collaboration with other City departments.

### **3. Artist Contract for Paradise Valley Park Public Art Project**

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

### **4. Workforce Development Board Consulting Services Contract Award - RFP-CED23-WBCS**

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

Vice Mayor Stark made a motion to approve Consent Items 2 through 4. Councilman Galindo-Elvira seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

## **INFORMATION ONLY (ITEM 5-7)**

### **5. City of Phoenix Naloxone Program: Administration and Community Take-Home Distribution**

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

### **6. Head Start Birth to Five Monthly Report - March 2024**

Information only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

### **7. Neighborhood Specialist Area Reassignments**

Vice Mayor Stark expressed her understanding of the efforts to align neighborhood specialists with council districts but raised a concern about the potential overlap of specialists in her district. She mentioned a specific specialist who was working on a business corridor and noted that there is a request to retain their services. Vice Mayor

Stark sought clarification on whether there are ways to address this situation in collaboration with the relevant authorities.

Mr. Self stated the importance of maintaining long-standing relationships with neighborhood specialists. He highlighted the need for a careful and thoughtful process for transitioning specialists to align with council districts. He also noted that in some cases, specialists may continue to work on specific initiatives or projects even after changes are implemented.

Vice Mayor Stark expressed her support for the neighborhood specialist her constituents have and emphasized the importance of ensuring a smooth transition. She sought confirmation that she could inform the group that they could keep the specialist for a while during the transition period.

Councilman Galdino-Elvira highlighted two key points from the presentation: the prevalence of overdoses in housed environments compared to unhoused ones, and the significant impact of methamphetamine use, particularly in hot climates. He inquired about the follow-up actions regarding these findings and when the next report could be expected.

Public Health Special Projects Administrator Yanitza Soto affirmed that methamphetamine overdoses are indeed prevalent in the City. She highlighted the importance of using data-driven approaches to inform heat relief efforts, emphasizing the need for evidence-based strategies to address the issue effectively.

## **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEMS 8-9)**

### **8. Phoenix Substance Use and Overdose Dashboard**

Public Health Special Projects Administrator Yanitza Soto presented on the item.

Chairman Robinson commended the interactive feature, expressing appreciation for its informative nature. He extended congratulations to the staff responsible for its development, noting its value in providing accessible information to a wide audience.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington inquired about the frequency of updates for suspected and fatal overdose data. She asked about the timeline for the release of 2023 data and suggested the possibility of more frequent updates, perhaps biannually, to track trends effectively.

Ms. Soto explained that the lag in fatal overdose data is due to the confirmation process, which involves verification by the medical examiner's office and the Maricopa County Health Department. She said regarding more frequent updates that reporting in six-month increments might be possible if provisional information from Maricopa County Health Department is available.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington suggested inquiring about the possibility of obtaining provisional information for more frequent updates on overdose data and proposed adding disclaimers to indicate ongoing verification. She asked if it's possible to further

break down overdose data by transportation and roadways to identify specific areas for targeted outreach efforts, aiming to translate data into actionable implementation strategies for affected communities.

Ms. Soto affirmed the intention behind creating a dashboard was to inform planning efforts. She mentioned that while the data on transportation-related overdoses is currently reported in aggregate on the dashboard, it's possible to explore subcategories to identify specific areas for targeted outreach efforts.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington inquired about the breakdown of overdose locations, particularly noting that her notes indicated a primary focus on urban parks.

Ms. Soto clarified that the data on overdose locations includes urban parks, which comprise a small percentage, approximately 1 to 2 percent.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked for further explanation for the intended phase two roll out.

Ms. Soto clarified that the phase two rollout will allow for the tracking of trends based on the data collected, particularly focusing on suspected overdose responses, which are updated monthly. She said the data will inform planning efforts and help in developing more effective approaches to responding to the opioid crisis.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked the anticipation date of the phase two roll out.

Ms. Soto mentioned that the timeframe for the phase two rollout is as soon as possible. She said the today marks the official launch of the external dashboard. While the process took close to a year, phase two is already in motion behind the scenes. She anticipates sharing updates on phase two with the subcommittee in the near future.

Councilman Galdino-Elvira asked for further detail on the components of the communication campaign.

Ms. Soto answered that the communication campaign launching today will involve collaboration with the Communications Office to share information across departments internally and interdepartmentally. She said the aim to disseminate information about the dashboard and plans for opioid settlement dollars to the community through presentations at community-level meetings. Ms. Soto mentioned the engagement strategy has been ongoing for the past year and a half and will continue into phase two of the initiative.

## **9. Phoenix Public Library's 2024 Summer Reading Program and Overview of Library Youth Services**

Acting Library Director Mitch Menchaca, Deputy Library Director Karl Kendall, and Youth Services Coordinator Wendy Resnik presented on the item.

Chairman Robinson expressed strong agreement with the importance of foundational reading and learning, noting its impact on future outcomes, including in the field of

criminology. He also mentioned an upcoming event at Burton Barr Century Library in District 6, where they will be filming a segment with a local author named Alexandra Bracken, demonstrating their commitment to promoting literacy and community engagement through library initiatives.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington expressed her appreciation for the presentation, emphasizing the personal importance of libraries in her life from childhood to her career as a lawyer. She echoed the sentiments of Chairman Robinson regarding the critical role of libraries in laying the foundation for future generations. She expressed readiness to collaborate on initiatives in District 8, such as the summer reading program, and expressed confidence in surpassing the goal of 25,000 participating students.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira commended the dedication and commitment of the staff present, having witnessed it firsthand during a recent visit. He emphasized the importance of summer reading programs, recalling his own positive experiences at the Hayden Public Library. He expressed full support for the goal of engaging 25,000 participants and looked forward to visiting other libraries in District 7 to check on the program's progress and potentially participate himself.

Vice Mayor Stark shared her appreciation for libraries, mentioning one of her favorite programs involving seeds. She noted that her son, inspired by the Phoenix Library's program, has developed a love for gardening.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEMS 10-11)**

### **10. Fiscal Year 2024-29 Public Art Plan**

Arts and Culture Director Mitch Menchaca and Deputy Arts and Culture Director Carrie Brown presented on the item.

Councilman Galindo-Elvira made a motion to approve the item. Vice Mayor Stark seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

### **11. Authorization to Fund Business Attraction and Economic Development Services Contract with Greater Phoenix Economic Council**

Assistant Community and Economic Development Director Eric Johnson, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Wright, and Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) Senior Vice President of Business Development Brad Schmidt presented on the item.

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

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Robinson opened the floor to public comment.

Elizabeth Venable highlighted the importance of Performance Management in housing resource allocation, expressing concerns about budget allocations and project

outcomes. She pointed out instances where large amounts of funding were allocated to projects with poor outcomes, such as unsafe outdoor spaces, compared to more effective investments in affordable housing units. Ms. Venable suggested considering diversity in populations served and addressing substance use disorder with low-barrier housing options to increase acceptance of services. She emphasized the need for oversight and accountability in funded spaces to address issues like black mold and safety concerns.

Frank Urban advocated for increased affordable housing options, particularly for the homeless population. He emphasized the need for housing that is not only affordable but also suitable for individuals' specific needs, such as accommodating pets or providing support for those with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance abuse issues. Mr. Urban underscored the importance of including counselors and treatment programs tailored to address these challenges.

Tony Harris highlighted concerns about the funding allocation for homelessness, noting the insufficient resources given the increasing homeless population, including individuals coming from other states to Phoenix. He emphasized the lack of daytime cooling centers and suggested the need for additional funding to establish more such facilities. Mr. Harris also raised issues of price gouging by landlords, resulting in people being unable to afford rent and facing homelessness. He commended the State Attorney General's lawsuit against landlords engaged in collusion and stressed the necessity for affordable housing to address these challenges.

Chairman Robinson closed the floor to public comment.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Robinson adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnathan Gates  
Management Fellow