



Approved 2.4.2019

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday January 7, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston IL, Council Chambers

Members Present: Alderman Fleming, Alderman Revelle, Alderman Rue-Simmons,
Alderman Braithwaite

Members not Present: Alderman Fiske

Staff Present: Nicola Whyte, Lawrence Hemingway, Victoria Benson, Indira Perkins,
Jennifer Lin, Ericka Storlie, Sarah Flax, Alex Thorpe, Jessica Hyick

Presiding Member: Alderman Fleming

CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ald. Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF December 3, 2018

Alderman Fleming moved approval, Alderman Rue Simmons seconded; approved 4-0

Citizen Comments

Betty Sue Ester says the current complaint form is not valid because it doesn't have an area for a notary. Also some of the recommendations made by the Citizen Police Complaint Advisory Committee Report is incorrect.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Mental Health Board allocations for 2019 programs

The Mental Health Board (MHB) and staff recommend approval of the proposed allocation of \$763,373 in 2019 to 19 non-profit agencies to provide needed social services to Evanston residents.

For Action

Alderman Rue-Simmons moved approval Alderman Braithwaite seconded, approved 4-0

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Interfaith Action of Evanston Update on Homelessness

Ann Murphy Director of Interfaith Action of Evanston gave a summary of services.

Interfaith Action of Evanston Organization has governed the Hospitality Center for the Homeless at Saint Marks Church for the last 30 years. It is open Monday to Friday 7-11. Breakfast is served, employment counseling and a computer room is available. Clients are referred to Connection for the Homeless for further benefits.

- **Warming Centers**

The warming centers are open from November until March and are available to anyone who wants to get out of the cold.

- **ProduceMobile**

The City of Evanston and Interfaith Action partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository ProduceMobile and distributes fresh produce the second Tuesday of each month at Robert Crown Center

- **Overnight Emergency Center** was started thirteen years ago at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Intake of guests begins at 9pm and doors are locked at 10:00 p.m. Guests leave at 6:45 a.m. and they can go over to the Hospitality Center for breakfast. United Methodist provided a generous donation and so this year the Center will be open every night during the winter.

The soup kitchens can be found at www.interfaithactionofevanston.org

Alderman Fleming shared her concerns on the location of the ProduceMobile which is not directly on a bus route and that the produce is distributed during the day which prevents those who have to work to miss the opportunity of receiving goods. Chute school has a program similar to the produce mobile which is available to Chute families only.

She wondered if there was another location which would accommodate the truck within the city. Alderman Rue-Simmons suggested contacting Over the Rainbow who has been accommodating to her in the past.

Parks and Recreation Director Lawrence Hemingway said he will speak to the Food Depository on evening hours; however, the only parks and recreation location in which the truck can turn around is at Robert Crown.

Interfaith Action received CDBG funds in the amount of \$15000 and \$7,000 from Mental Health Board which is used for the shelter.

General and Emergency Assistance 2018 Report

Alderman Fleming is concerned with residents moving out of Evanston because they cannot afford to live here. Another concern is residents who are denied assistance when there are funds available in other accounts.

Being and resident of Evanston with proof of a lease is required to apply for General or Emergency Assistance.

Alderman Braithwaite thanked the General Assistance staff for their help when he has advocated for a resident. He stressed the general assistance staff is accommodating and will meet those who wish to apply at their home, Starbucks and the library for convenience.

Review of Police Complaints

Four complaints reviewed by the Citizens Police Advisory Committee

New Police Chief Demetrius Cook introduced himself and says his job is to protect the officers when they are right and to protect the citizens. His tenure thus far has been challenging; however, he is receiving assistance from many avenues.

Office of Professional Standards Sergeant Jodi Hart says the difference of formal complaint and informal complaints pertains to the Officer's Bill of Rights. A formal complaint can result in suspension of three days to termination; an informal complaint suspension is up to three days.

Alderman Rue-Simmons has gotten complaints from residents regarding the police interaction with them to include sarcasm and disrespect in their tone.

DI#8-09 and DI#8-10 were held and will return at the February's agenda in executive session.

Human Resources employee discipline/termination policy

Chair Fleming asked how is the management staff trained to implement the discipline/termination policy.

Jennifer Lin Human Services Manager states the supervisors are trained quarterly and encourages them to seek out Human Services if there is an issue with their staff. Counseling of staff is encouraged before discipline is imposed and as a last resort.

Alderman Braithwaite said the council and community "recognizes that the budget is a tool to save us money sometimes becomes the instrument in which people are walked out the door."

He encourages that discipline is equitably across employees.

Accessible Transportation Options in the City Report

Jessica Hyink Transportation and Mobility Coordinator clarified a point in the memo submitted for the packet "the cost for Para-Transit is at a minimum the same as a regular fixed route trip but it could exceed that cost depending on the distance of the para-transit trip and other factors as set by the Pace and the Regional Transit Authority."

Lyft is providing accessible transportation to and from Evanston. Uber is not; they will take passengers to Evanston but will not take passengers from Evanston to other locations.

A gentle reminder to residents along Simpson Street and Dodge Avenue to clear sidewalks for wheelchair accessibility was discussed.

A bus shelter at the intersection of Crain Street and Dodge Avenue has the potential to be costly due to unknown factors of what is behind a hill that would have to be removed prior to installing the bus shelter.

City Fees and Fines

The City does have a contract with Live West Collection agency to collect unpaid fees. Ambulances fees cannot be assessed a late fee and it does not go on credit report. Parking fees are the biggest with late fees. City charges and late fees do not affect credit report.

ADA Update – City Facilities and Parks

Staff recommends that the in-house review of architectural barriers to mobility in City facilities and parks be updated by City staff. This review will take place in 2019, and is proposed to be available in January 2020.

-No questions from the committee

Spanish Language Translation Update

Chair Fleming requests an update on the policy status.

ADJOURNMENT

Unanimously approved, meeting adjourned at 7:48p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Administrative Lead