

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

The Shirtsleeve Session of March 17, 2015, was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Kuehne, Council Member Mounce, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler, and Mayor Johnson

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, City Attorney Magdich, and City Clerk Ferraiolo

NOTE: Council Member Nakanishi arrived at 7:01 a.m. and left at 8:29 a.m.; Council Member Kuehne left at 8:29 a.m.; and Council Member Mounce left at 8:32 a.m.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Presentation on the City's Efforts to Mitigate Homelessness (PD)

Police Chief Mark Helms provided a PowerPoint presentation on homelessness solutions. Specific topics of discussion included aspects of homelessness; homelessness within Lodi; City of Lodi executive work group meeting held on October 2, 2014; meeting outcomes; recent Police action; research; organized feedings in City parks; progression of stakeholder meetings; priorities and goals; what is next; development and implementation of a plan; and items for Council consideration. Chief Helms acknowledged Captain Martin Ross with the Lodi Salvation Army, Patricia Fehling who worked with the faith community, John Ledbetter and Russ Hayward with the Lodi Community Foundation (LCF), Reverend David Hill with Grace Presbyterian Church, Lodi Police Captain Tod Patterson, Lieutenant Steve Nelson, and Sergeant Steve Maynard for their hard work and efforts.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Chief Helms stated that Santa Barbara's restorative police team is comprised of police officers, community services liaisons, and outreach workers who specialize in mental health and homeless issues. It is not made up solely of police officers.

John Ledbetter with LCF explained that the organization's role in this matter is to coordinate the efforts of a diverse community, to maintain momentum and keep efforts on track toward the end goal, and to potentially promote a form of financial payback. LCF is excited about the efforts to date, and Mr. Ledbetter agreed with Chief Helms that the discussions and buy-in with the many organizations have been positive.

Martin Ross with the Lodi Salvation Army distributed a handout outlining a prospective homeless fair day, as well as a motivational story from a successful participant of the Salvation Army programs. The concept behind the homeless fair day is that it would be a one-stop location to serve the homeless that would include food, showers, haircuts, case managers, veterans services, mental health specialists, and much more. To be successful, the event needs advertising and stakeholders who can provide these services, and to date he has received a positive response from possible sponsors. The Salvation Army supports being the centralized location for homeless events and supports the neutral body of LCF serving as a coordinator between the public and private organizations. Many churches have suggested an "adopt a family" program, in which a church sponsors a family for a year in an effort to help them save money, obtain jobs, and become tax-paying citizens. Captain Ross stated the Salvation Army is aiming to kick off the homeless fair day on April 17 and further announced that the Love Lodi event will take place on April 18.

In regard to increasing stakeholder support, Council Member Mounce requested that representatives from the Lodi Improvement Committee and residents from Casa de Lodi be added to the list.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Chief Helms stated that a Police Department Homeless Liaison Officer would likely be a sworn officer versus a case worker because their efforts would be directed primarily at the percentage of homeless who do not want to change their situation and who are causing the greatest amount of harm in the community. Those individuals will require greater enforcement effort.

Council Member Kuehne stated he met with many of the stakeholders, including Reverend Hill, representatives from St. Peter's Church, and Captain Ross, and all have indicated their desire to partner with the Salvation Army and a willingness to move forward in this endeavor. Council Member Kuehne added that Captain Ross indicated to him that he believed the Salvation Army could handle the amount of work associated with the homeless fair day, the Salvation Army board was equally supportive of this effort, and that the Salvation Army facility was large enough to accommodate the number of participants. Council Member Kuehne expressed support for LCF coordinating the ad hoc homeless committee and offered himself to serve as a liaison between the City and the ad hoc committee. In regard to the homeless fair day, Council Member Kuehne suggested including Worknet representatives who can assist with resumes and job applications, veterinarians because many homeless individuals have dogs accompanying them, and computer-based programs to assist those with mental disorders instead of having paid social workers on site. Mr. Kuehne expressed support for the efforts to date and the concepts as set forth by the Chief.

Council Member Nakanishi expressed support for the concept, the development and adoption of an action plan, and the ad hoc committee led by LCF. He believed the City can take an active role, which could include enforcement of applicable laws, adoption of ordinances, and funding to assist the Police Department in this endeavor; however, he believed that the County should also participate in this effort and he hoped to speak with San Joaquin Supervisor Chuck Winn regarding the matter.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler, Captain Ross stated that all communities are unique and should determine for themselves how to best address the needs of their community. Housing programs may be more beneficial than service-related programs; however, there could be a hybrid solution to help those who need a hand up by offering transitional housing, which could free up time and effort to help those who need more concentrated assistance due to mental health issues or chemical dependency.

Council Member Mounce expressed her support of the concept and development of an action plan and stated she was supportive of churches adopting families but that greater efforts need to be made toward the mental health aspect. Council Member Mounce further expressed support for the LCF leading the ad hoc committee, adding a reminder to include the stakeholders she mentioned earlier, as well as a representative from the Lodi Grape Festival.

Mayor Johnson expressed support for moving forward and agreed with Council Member Nakanishi's comment that greater participation from the County as a stakeholder is critical in this effort.

Chief Helms clarified the following issues: 1) initial meetings were designed to be of a smaller nature with key stakeholders but will grow beyond this to be more inclusive with additional stakeholders; 2) no outreach has been made to the County at this time, other than surface-level conversations, but the County will be included as stakeholders in meetings and discussions; 3) the cost of \$375,000 to \$400,000 quoted in the PowerPoint was merely a comparison figure if Lodi replicated a restorative policing program similar to Santa Barbara, but staff is not suggesting that at this time as further research is still necessary; and 4) the count of 92 unsheltered homeless in Lodi is likely an inaccurate number and it could be as high as 300.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chief Helms explained that a notice is distributed with a date,

time, and location for the purpose of conducting a homeless count and the final number is a measure based on who attended the event.

Council Members Mounce, Kuehne, and Nakanishi left the meeting due to work obligations and requested that an audio recording of the remainder of the meeting be provided to them.

Martin Jones, representing the American Legion, stated that the Legion would like to be involved in the process, adding that the organization has counselors who could help veterans, and offered use of its hall as a meeting location.

Jim Garrett, Deputy Director of San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services, offered its services to address mental health issues.

Maria Rosado, representing the Lodi Improvement Committee and Worknet, stated that both organizations would be willing to become involved in this endeavor, adding that Worknet has services that could help individuals move into the workforce with resume and application assistance.

Mark Armstrong, Director of the Lodi Grape Festival, stated that the Grape Festival Board is open to participating in this effort and also offered its facility as a meeting space. Due to the Festival's location near Lawrence Park, he sees many homeless individuals, some who accept help and others who refuse, and stated that the recent removal of benches at the park made a significant impact on the number of homeless individuals in the park, as well as a considerable reduction in the amount of garbage.

Spencer (last name redacted) with the Salvation Army shared his story of struggles with alcohol addiction and how the Lodi Salvation Army Hope Harbor saved his life. He stated that the Salvation Army is a program that works and has resources that can help individuals who really need the assistance.

Gary Kellam with Grace Presbyterian Church shared the church's experience with feeding the homeless, stating that the group has been doing so every Friday for almost ten years, that it also feeds families who are not homeless but who need additional help, that clothes are provided to these individuals, and the group routinely takes care of the garbage generated by the event. Mr. Kellam further suggested including a reliable homeless individual on the ad hoc committee. In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Kellam estimated that less than half of those fed are homeless and that many are large or multiple families living in one house who need help. He further stated he believed the count of unsheltered homeless is inaccurate and is likely closer to 300. Chief Helms agreed that many people at the feedings are families who are not homeless and stated those individuals are not included in the count, but he stressed that these families need help as well so they do not become homeless.

Reverend David Hill with Grace Presbyterian Church expressed the church's support to participate in finding a solution to the homelessness situation. He explained that the church has a partnership with businesses such as Panera, De Vinci's Delicatessen, and Bon Appetit to take left-over food to feed the homeless and that the church provides the manpower and condiments. Church representatives build relationships and trust with these individuals and, of those asked, all of the homeless individuals they help indicated their willingness to follow the church to the Salvation Army location on Sacramento Street.

Pat Patrick, President and CEO of the Lodi District Chamber of Commerce, expressed support for this effort, stating that it is in line with the Chamber's Vision 2020 plan because it plays a role in improving the local economy by helping those in need. He was encouraged by the coalition that the Police Chief and Salvation Army put together and believed the LCF was the appropriate entity to implement the plan.

June Acker with Abrahamson Printing offered to be a liaison to the ad hoc committee as a representative of the downtown businesses.

San Joaquin County Supervisor Chuck Winn commended Council and Chief Helms for initiating

this program. He stated that there are limited resources and that all of the cities and the county should work together collaboratively on this issue to maximize resources. Supervisor Winn added this issue should not only focus on homelessness, but also education, job promotion, housing, and community support, and he stated he would work with his fellow Supervisors to encourage County support in this endeavor. He further urged cities within the county to support the affordable housing bill and to have a louder voice when speaking to legislative representatives.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo
City Clerk