

December 7, 2007

The City Council met in special joint session with the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the hour of 1:45 p.m. at the Cornerstone Conference Center, 1525 Fulton Street, on the day above written.

Present were Councilmembers Calhoun, Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Acting President Xiong, President Perea, Mayor Autry, City Manager Souza, City Attorney Sanchez, and Assistant City Clerk Salazar.

Present from Fresno County were Supervisors Anderson, Larson, Perea, Chair Waterston, Chief Administrative Officer Bohn, County Counsel Marshall, and Clerk to the Board Siedel. Supervisor Case was absent.

Chair Waterston led the Pledge of Allegiance, and along with Council President Perea and Mayor Autry welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke to the issue of homelessness, the importance of addressing the problem, and the 10-year goal to end homelessness.

Roll was called for city and county officials and self-introductions were made by city and county staff.

1. APPEARANCE BY CARISSA PHELPS TO DISCUSS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

2. PRESENTATION BY PHILIP F. MANGANO ON 10-YEAR PLANNING EFFORTS IN THE NATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

3. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF A 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS. SUCH PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND FRESNO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION NO LATER THAN MARCH 2008

Chair Waterston introduced special guest Rep. Jim Costa who spoke to the homeless problem, to the various reasons why people become homeless, to statistics, funding and the need to a better job of addressing the problem, and to Carissa Phelps' story and introduced Ms. Phelps.

Ms. Phelps, who graduated from UCLA with a law degree and an MBA in June 2007, told her story of becoming homeless at the age of 12 and her road to success which started when a caring juvenile hall counselor reached out, stressed homeless youth needed encouragement and someone who cares, and introduced Mandi Perkins who sang "On My Own - Carissa's Song", a soon-to-be released song which will serve as another tool to raise awareness.

Rep. Costa thanked Ms. Phelps for her message and for giving hope, and introduced Mr. Mangano, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Mr. Mangano gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and spoke to the positive results being seen in communities and to importance and need for government, businesses, and nonprofit groups and agencies to tackle the problem collaboratively.

Speaking to the issue were: Pam Kallsen, Executive Director of the Marjoree Mason Center and Elected Chair of the Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care (**2 - 0**); Lee Ayers; Mike Maloney; Gloria Hernandez; Diane Corbin; Alfonso Williams; Jose Luis Barraza; Howard Watkins, Chair of the Central Valley Progressive Pact; Cynthia Green; Kevin Hamilton, Sequoia Community Health Center; Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, Fresno Housing Alliance/former President of the FUSD Board/Policy Director for the League of Woman Voters; Jess Negrete, Housing Attorney for Central California Legal Services; Randy Johnson; Lisa Apper, St. Benedict Catholic Worker Community; Kyle Schmidt, Junior Designer at Taylor-Teter Partnership; Eddie Montoya, Executive Director of New Village Homes and Founding Member of the Association for Transitional and Supportive Housing; and Stacy Hines, Director of the FCEOC Sanctuary Youth Program.

Councilmember Sterling thanked all for their participation and input, and made a motion to direct city staff to begin the preparation of a 10-year plan to end homelessness and return with a draft plan no later than mid-February for final adoption in March 2008, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Dages. Upon question of Councilmember Duncan, it was confirmed the public would be included in the process.

Supervisor Anderson stated she hoped the city and county would make the same motion, proposed the city and county make a commitment this date to develop the 10-year plan and include the other fourteen cities in the unincorporated area so this is truly a county-wide effort, and stated she hoped this could be done before February 15th as she did not feel identifying the stakeholders and convening a working group would take that long. Brief discussion ensued on the ability to make a joint motion, moving the time lines up, and what the process would entail. Councilmember Sterling stated she would leave her motion as is and the City Council would work with the county to make sure everything happens as expeditiously as possible, and brief discussion continued with staff clarifying issues.

On motion of Councilmember Sterling, seconded by Councilmember Dages, duly carried, RESOLVED, city staff directed to return in January 2008 with a plan of action which will include true time lines for submittal of the draft 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and subsequent adoption date, by the following vote:

Ayes : Calhoun, Dages, Duncan, Sterling, Westerlund, Xiong, Perea
Noes : None
Absent : None

Supervisor Anderson made a motion to direct county staff to include the fourteen cities and return in January 2008 with a plan of action which will include true time lines for submittal of the draft 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and subsequent adoption date, which motion was seconded by Supervisor Perea and adopted on a vote of 4-0 with Supervisor Case absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the joint bodies, the hour of 4:10 having arrived and hearing no objections, President Perea declared the meeting adjourned.

Approved on the 8th day of December, 2007.

_____/s/_____
Henry T. Perea, Council President

ATTEST: _____/s/_____
Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk