

~AD HOC REPORT~  
*10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*  
*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

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Hon. Mark D. Boughton, Mayor  
Common Council Members

Chairwoman Mary Saracino called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2007, in the Caucus Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Jimmy Johnson and Duane Perkins and Ex Officio member Lynn Taborsak. Also present were Corporation Counsel Laszlo L. Pinter; Assistant Finance Director Dan Garrick; Director of Health, Housing and Welfare Aimee Budnik; Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold, Executive Director of ARC; Karl Myers, Program Director of ARC; Milena Sangut; Scott Leroy; Jeff Chowanec; Paul Schierloh; and, interested citizens.

*Absent:* Probate Judge Diane Yamin (represented by Milena Sangut).

Chairwoman Saracino explained that the charge of the Committee was to review the progress made with regard to the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness.

Chairwoman Saracino asked Mr. Leroy to begin. Mr. Leroy read a prepared synopsis (*recording secretary not provided with a copy of the document*).

Chairwoman Saracino opened the meeting up for discussion and/or questions. Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Leroy if the part-time position had been filled. Mr. Leroy said no and noted that the Housing Partnership, the Mayor and the Continuum of Care were to discuss the position.

Chairwoman Saracino directed the Committee's attention to their packet item entitled, "Draft Progress Report on Ten-Year Plan to End Homeless". She said the report was an update as to the status of the goals set. Chairwoman Saracino pointed out that the items marked "In Process" were as a result of the Housing Partnership Ordinance having been passed just recently and felt more time was needed to accomplish the tasks before them. Councilwoman Taborsak expressed concern that the goals would not be accomplished by volunteer members of the Housing Partnership. The original task force called for not only a part-time position but also for a grant writer. She asked Mr. Leroy if the goals could be accomplished by a collaboration of the Continuum of Care, the Housing Partnership and his department with no dedicated staff. Mr. Leroy felt that the goals would be accomplished by community collaboration. Councilwoman Taborsak asked if funding was being sought for a grant writer. Mr. Leroy said the Continuum of Care could answer that. Ms. Sangut explained that discussions were occurring with the Continuum. Councilwoman Taborsak as if VA provided substance abuse treatment and services was being utilized more. Mr. Leroy explained that the VA has an out-patient facility and any Veteran could use the facility. There is an opportunity to increase housing opportunities for homeless Veterans. Councilwoman Taborsak asked if there has been any improvement to outreach for drug and alcohol services and transportation services. Ms. Budnik explained that at the homeless shelter bus passes are available as well as busing services through the Senior Center. Councilwoman Taborsak asked what transportation services were provided to the Veterans. Mr. Leroy explained that there is a program to provide transportation through the City of Danbury. Mr. Perkins directed everyone's attention to Page 3, "Develop formal agreements with area town social service departments to provide on-going case management services to residents of their towns that are seeking shelter and services in Danbury". He asked what some of the elements were that the agreements would include and how could they be found once they had been established. Chairwoman Saracino explained that Mayor Boughton has been visiting with both HVCEO and various social service agencies of the surrounding towns over the last few months. He has commitments of approximately

\$40,000 from the towns toward the implementation of the homeless plan that will compensate for those people that utilize Danbury facilities who are not from Danbury. The Mayor continues to seek additional funding. Councilwoman Taborsak asked if there was a streamlined application and referral process that is being utilized communitywide. Mr. Myers explained that Dream Homes, through the point of entry, has created an application but it is not being used communitywide. Councilman Perkins revisited his concerns from a previous meeting wherein the data that was presented to the Committee was not clear. He asked what type of changes were expected to be made so the data is presented in clearer fashion. Mr. Myers asked for input so he could try and clear up any confusion. Councilman Perkins desired to see information that set forth what towns the individuals were from, the reasons why the individuals are homeless, what services they were seeking when they came in through the point of entry, etc. With regard to identifying and applying for funding to develop transitional housing opportunities for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, Councilwoman Taborsak asked if this goal has been met. Mr. Myers said yes and noted that today's Veteran's become homeless more quickly than the Veterans of years passed. Councilwoman Taborsak explained that the reason that she petitioned to have the status report was as a result of Mr. Leroy's lack of cooperation in providing updated reports with regard to the status of the 10-year plan. She recognizes that once the Housing Authority is up and running, Mr. Leroy will report directly to them. However, she felt that it was important for the Common Council to be given status reports on the 10-year plan as well as she is not confident that the plan has enough leadership. She pointed out that the resolution the Council passed said that chronic and long-term homelessness would be eliminated by the year 2015.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Chairwoman Saracino, for sake of discussion, that the Report on the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness be accepted as presented with no action being taken. The motion carried. (Abstain: Councilman Perkins.)

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Perkins. The motion carried unanimously at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Saracino, Chairwoman

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Jimmy Johnson

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Duane Perkins