



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

Public Safety Board

- Subcommittee on Homelessness -

Meeting Minutes for Friday, February 16, 2024

Attending: Jessica Eskeland, Drew Biemer, Jim Schlosser (City Council Ward 7), Jennifer Kretovic (City Council Ward 3), Chief John Chisholm (Concord Fire Department), Deputy Fire Chief Mark Hebert (Concord Fire Department), Nicole Petrin (Concord Police Department)

Absent: Jeff Foote (City Council Ward 10), Deputy Police Chief Barret Moulton (Concord Police Department)

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. The first order of business was to elect a chair. Council Kretovic felt the support of the Council Members on the sub-committee was to position us to be of the greatest support to this committee from the stand-point of policy making decisions. With this, Councilor Kretovic made a motion to elect Jessica Eskeland as Chair. The motion was duly seconded and passed by voice vote.

All members of the committee made introductions and shared their connection to homelessness in the community.

Together the committee discussed the purpose of this board, deciding that our best position would be to act as a committee to help vet policy decisions that might best be of service to support our public safety departments, police and fire, through recommendations to the full Public Safety Board and then forwarding through to City Council for discussion and adoption.

Through the discussion, potential resources were identified that may be beneficial to the committee. Council Schlosser noted there are some 561 persons currently experiencing homelessness at various degrees of need on Merrimack County. This was not to assume all these persons are in Concord.

Councilor Schlosser also discussed connection at the Concord Coalition to end Homelessness, and in particular a program called Functional Zero that has found success in Lancaster, PA.

Council Schlosser offered to present the committee with a summary of recent monthly data from the County to help give us a starting point for data collections. Chief Chisholm offered the Fire Department's assistance in helping to provide some statistical analysis of the data we collect, as the committee becomes more connected to sources. Nicole Petrin also offered her resources at Concord Police Department, particularly the work being done by Deputy Chief Moulton would be of value as well.

Councilor Kretovic noted a discussion earlier in the week with County Commissioner Tara Reardon and the County Correction Department's SOAR program. The sub-committee members felt a future presentation on the program would be beneficial. Council Kretovic offered to reach out to the County for such a presentation for our next meeting.

Drew Biemer offered insight into Functional Zero and expressed interest in researching Lancaster Zero's program successes and offered to provide more detailed information for the next sub-committee meeting.

The next meeting is slated for Friday, March 8, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Chief Chisholm will confirm City Council Chambers availability.

With no other business before the committee, a motion was made by Council Schlosser and was duly seconded. The motion passed.