

Crime/drug free rental ordinance workgroup meeting summary: June 5, 2019, 6:00 to 7:30 PM

10 of 12 members in attendance

Facilitator: Cathy Bennett

Staff present: Chief Harcey, Michele Schnitker, Marney Olson, Ann Boettcher, Alicia Sojourner, Darius Gray and Lieutenant Garland

Review of meeting rules: A copy of the meeting rules was passed out to the workgroup members and Cathy Bennett emphasized the need for all members to comply with the rules. Cathy noted that the rules will be posted at every meeting. One member asked that the workgroup receive any written meeting materials at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to provide time for review.

Task force purpose and meeting syllabus: Cathy reviewed the council's directive for the purpose of the task force noting that the focus is to review and analyze the impact of the crime free ordinance and make recommendations to the council on changes or repealing the ordinance. Workgroup members suggested that the workgroup needs to determine whether the ordinance is "good public policy" but that this is subjective. One member noted that a task should be to examine the ordinance for equity and inclusion.

One of the members stated that they felt that this should be a data driven process but that there are many errors in the data provided in the presentation to the workgroup. In some areas it was noted that the data didn't match. It was suggested that an independent agency look at the data. Another member felt that in general the data reflected the outcomes of the ordinance and that after the workgroup begins to review language in the ordinance there may be a specific need to request more data.

One member requested more thorough minutes versus the meeting summary. Staff stated that future meetings will be recorded and summaries will continue to be provided.

Cathy noted that she will create a "parking lot" for issues that require future discussion but that are not part of the current discussion.

Cathy reviewed the suggested topics for the next few meetings.

Meeting #4: review of city's crime free ordinance: following some discussion all agreed that a thorough understanding of the ordinance was needed. The review process will include an opportunity for members to indicate the components of the ordinance they like, dislike and whether there are any equity concerns.

In addition, it was agreed that reviewing why the ordinance was created would be discussed at meeting #4 since there was limited time for this agenda items at the meeting

Meeting #5: A tenant/landlord 101 session. It was agreed that a legal aid attorney and a private attorney that specializes in landlord/tenant law would be preferable presenters. Workgroup members would provide some suggestions to Cathy on possible presenters.

Meeting #6: A panel of other cities that have crime free policies.

Meeting #7: Process/digest the information received to date. Develop options for community engagement.

Meeting #8: Outline recommendations to council

Community engagement discussion:

Darius Gray, the city's community organizer, facilitated a discussion on community engagement strategies. Darius asked the members to think about who their target audience would be, what they want to ask, how the input would impact the review of ordinance and consider who is most impacted by the ordinance. Concerns were raised on how the workgroup would handle the narrative, whether the group wants feedback now, or if it is premature to go to the community now.

It was suggested that the workgroup needs to determine a common goal that they can agree on, ex. safe housing, then determine if the ordinance promotes that goal, can the ordinance be made better, does it need to be repealed, etc.

Alicia Sojourner, the city's racial equity manager, encouraged members to check their opinions through their own lens and consider what privileges they hold and navigate their biases. Alicia suggested that the workgroup members take an implicit bias test. Alicia will provide resources and members can take the treat on their own.

It was agreed that meetings would be changed to 2 hours in length.

Next meeting will be June 26th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM at City Hall in the Community Room.