

Columbia Cares/Homeless Motion - approved by City Council on September 3, 2013

update as of 11-18-13

Action #	Motion	Assigned To	City Staff	Status
1	That City Council, in its efforts to address homelessness, poverty and despair in our city, approve opening the Emergency Homeless Shelter beginning September 24, 2013 through April 15, 2014 or for a total of seven months from the beginning date. The Emergency Homeless Shelter will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during this seven month period.	City & CCM	D. Knoche	✓ Completed. Shelter opened October4, 2013
2	That City Council provides funding in the same amount as last year's contract with Christ Central Ministries to provide all operational services at the Emergency Homeless Shelter.	City	D. Livingston	✓ Completed Contract approved for \$500k to be paid in 4 installments
3	That as part of the service for the Emergency Homeless Shelter that Christ Central Ministries will provide for the operation of vans and buses to transport residents of the shelter to and from external service providers, services, work and downtown as requested.	CCM	J. Rainwater	on-going per contract with CCM
4	That Christ Central Ministries strive to move clients out of the Emergency Homeless Shelter and into participating service provider's programs within seven (7) days of intake at the Emergency Shelter.	CCM	J. Rainwater	on-going as per contract with CCM. Per CCM, as of 11/15/13 55 persons have been placed in shelter, programs or transitional housing.
5	That the City of Columbia, Christ Central Ministries and service providers recognize that meeting the challenge of homelessness and poverty requires a community response and that this is a "we" challenge, not a "them" challenge and never an effort to deprive any individuals of civil liberties or to criminalize poverty	TBD		Anticipate this will be addressed through RFP for long term solutions
6	That the City of Columbia encourages participation by nonprofit, faith based organizations and others that provide meals and services to the homeless in Columbia to participate in coordination of services, including providing meals and services for residents at the Emergency Homeless Shelter.	CCM	J. Rainwater	On-going through contract with CCM . Service providers were invited by CCM to attend a meeting on October 23 to discuss what service and programs the Winter Shelter would be providing. Per CCM report, 23 churches & groups have provided 1 or more meals at shelter.
7	That Christ Central Ministries and the City of Columbia will deliver to City Council detailed monthly financials and quantitative and qualitative measurements regarding the Emergency Shelter operation after the mid-point and ending point of the program.	CCM	D. Livingston / J. Rainwater	Statement provided to Community Development on November 15. CCM provides weekly report on shelter activity.

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8	That the city manager develop a budget recommendation and implementation plan to retain the current level of community foot patrol of police in the downtown area of Columbia. In addition these resources should include training of CPD officers to identify when individuals are in crisis and require medical assistance for both healthcare and mental health problems. Both items should be presented to City Council at its next meeting.	City	T. Wilson, R. Santiago	Completed. Interim Chief Santiago addressed this issued during his Downtown Safety & Security presentation at the September 3, 2013 Council Meeting.
9	That Columbia City Council adopts the six homeless response goals presented to this body by the people of Columbia. Namely to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate the response to poverty 2. Bring humanity to the response to poverty 3. Leverage the power of the community in responding to poverty 4. Institutionalize accountability for providers 5. Meet the unique needs of the individual in need 6. Address downtown impacts. 			Staff requests a target or deliverable that City staff would be responsible for achieving related to these items.
10	That the City of Columbia receive proposals to address the long-term response to homeless poverty through January 2, 2014 and to encourage all who want to participate in the RFP process to engage in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation Session – Broad brush explanation of the challenge and goals - Planning Session(s) – Participatory dialogue a couple of weeks following initial orientation. 	City	J. Rainwater	RFP being drafted. Target release date 12/2/13
11	To adopt several of the immediately actionable items of the Homeless Advisory Committee including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a - Developing a “Homeless Central” website within the City of Columbia webpages providing comprehensive and current information about service providers, their offerings and contact information. b - Increasing “No Panhandling” and “No Loitering” signage and posters on Calhoun, Main and Sumter Streets and increase the number of trash cans on Calhoun, Main and Sumter Streets. c - Utilizing the City Center Partnership “Yellow Shirts” and all other options available in order to further educate the homeless community and the public at large with regard to the City of Columbia’s Loitering and Panhandling ordinances and guidelines. 	City	J. Rainwater S. Washington	Community Development to work with Public Relations on information and links to be included as a webpage on the City’s website.
		City	D. Knoche R. Anderson	David K. identified existing signs and is now working with Public Works to add additional signs in the designated area.
		City/ CCP	W. Gregory	Economic Development is working with City Center Partnership to incorporate this language in City’s agreement with CCP.

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d	- Offering three meals a day at the Emergency Homeless Shelter and to invite homeless meal providers to a "Feeding Summit" or "Meal Services Summit" in order to discuss consolidation of meal services and explore options for providers to assist with the Emergency Homeless Shelter's meal service rather than providing their own.	CCM	J. Rainwater	CCM has been asked to include an update on this matter to be provided with monthly Financial Report.
e	- Enforcing all ordinances and requirements related to public gathering and food distribution.	City	J. Caton	Parks & Recreation is working to contact all service providers to make the permitting ordinance requirements known and City ordinances will be enforced. See attached for more information.
f	- Moving towards providing permanent self-operating and self-cleaning restrooms on a 24-hour basis.	City	D. Knoche	Units have been estimated at approximately \$100k-\$300k.
12	And to explore all available options to address the specific needs of veterans and families and children in our community.			Anticipate this item to be addressed through RFP for long term solutions.

Parks & Recreations response to enforcing ordinances - Item 11 of Motion

- 1) Coordinate with Community Development office to contact all public feeding and other service providers known to create public gatherings in our parks in order to make them aware of the requirements, procedures and timeline for enforcement associated with Sec. 15-2 of the city ordinance which addresses permitting of group use of parks. A copy of the ordinance will be included with the notice.
- 2) A press release will be submitted for public advertisement and consumption of the requirements and procedures associated with section 15-2 along with a date for enforcement to begin.
- 3) Park signage will be updated to reflect group permitting requirements.
- 4) Policies and procedures will be developed to address out-of-town organizations and school groups which may not be aware of the permit requirement.
- 5) Staff will be trained and instructed with regard to enforcement to ensure compliance by all parties who conduct events or activities that meet the conditions for group permitting as outlined in section 15-2. Park users who fail to comply with the ordinance and direction of park staff will be reported to the City of Columbia Police Department for further action.
- 6) Records will be maintained for all permits requested and issued; applicable fees will be assessed; and any denial for a group permit will be provided in writing to the requestor. A legal review will be requested for all denied permits to ensure legal compliance.