

**RESOLUTION NO.: R-2005-059**

**Authorizing the Restructuring of the Midlands Commission on Homelessness, the Adoption of Strategies to Address Chronic Homelessness, and the naming of a Site Selection Committee and its Purposes**

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Columbia appointed a committee to evaluate the issue of chronic homelessness in Columbia and the surrounding environs; and

WHEREAS, the committee, led by J. Mac Bennett and Dr. Morris Blachman, worked diligently to gather information and develop strategies to address the issue of chronic homelessness in Columbia and the surrounding environs; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, directed cities and towns throughout the country to develop a 10 Year Plan to Address Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the committee and the City of Columbia worked with others in the community to develop the Blueprint Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Blueprint Plan includes ten (10) strategies to address the issue of chronic homelessness;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council as follows:

1. The Midlands Commission on Homelessness shall be restructured so that its functions and purposes shall be as follows: The general function of the Commission shall be to coordinate implementation of the Blueprint Plan (the 10 Year Plan), to facilitate the provision of services to the homeless in the Midlands region, creating linkages among service providers, collecting and disseminating information regarding homelessness, identifying gaps and duplications of services and serving as a focal point for homelessness information for citizens as well as service providers. The primary objective shall be to benefit the community and the public at large as measured by coordinating funding of an annual budget, coordinating funding for a homeless service center location and operations to include an emergency shelter, seeking and determining sponsorships for homeless shelter operations, and developing advisory councils that will report to the Midlands Commission on Homelessness Board to work on specific issues.

2. The Midlands Commission on Homelessness shall be restructured so that its membership shall be selected as follows:

Three (3) members shall be appointed by the City of Columbia City Council;

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Three (3) members shall be appointed by the Richland County Council;

Three (3) members shall be appointed by the Lexington County Council. Of those three members, one shall serve as the representative for the City of West Columbia and one shall serve as the representative of the Town of Cayce;

Two (2) at large members shall be appointed by the other members as appointed above.

3. Appointments to the Midlands Commission on Homelessness shall be made by the respective jurisdictions no later than October 17, 2005.

4. The participating jurisdictions shall adopt and operate under a Joint Powers Agreement. The Joint Powers Agreement shall establish the duties and powers of the restructured Midlands Commission on Homelessness.

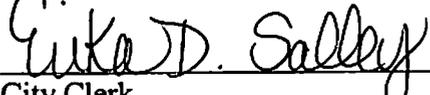
5. The following persons are hereby named to serve on a Site Selection Committee: J. Mac Bennett, Steven Benjamin, Henry Hopkins, Belinda Gergel, Robert Till, Jimmy Derrick, Leighton Lord, Mel Stebbins, Mike Till, Johnny Folsom, Tiaa Rutherford, Calvin Elam and Doris Hildebrand. Of these persons, J. Mac Bennett shall serve as Chairman.

6. The purpose of the Site Selection Committee shall be to evaluate potential sites in Columbia and the surrounding environs for the location of a center that will provide services to the homeless population, including the temporary shelter for homeless persons. This Committee will operate in a "BRAC-like" fashion, selecting the best location and bringing that location forward to the appropriate jurisdiction for selection as the site of the center in accordance with criteria to be adopted and agreed upon by the respective jurisdictions. By adopting this resolution, the City of Columbia City Council agrees that it will not refuse to accept the location chosen by the Site Selection Committee, provided that the location meets the criteria established by the participating jurisdictions and further, that it will take any necessary legislative actions to insure that the location chosen by the Site Selection Committee can be a reality.

It is so resolved this 5th day of October, 2005.

  
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Robert D. Coble, Mayor

Attest:

  
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City Clerk