City of Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024, 7:00 PM ET

Attendees:

1. Aminata Ly, Vice Chair
2. Tim Laderach, Secretary
3. Conrad Sylvanus
4. Taylor Phillips
5. Jenn Ayers
6. Illiana Moses
7. L'Allegro Smith
8. Babak Pirouz (Virtual)
9. Alison Coleman, Staff
10. Guest: DT Oliver

Excused Absences:

1. Meronne Teklu, Chair
2. Berole Bekele
3. Charles Brown
4. Karishma Merchant
5. David Parker

Tim Laderach, Secretary, commenced the meeting at 7:06 PM ET.

Procedural

- Tim reviewed the agenda, Aminata moved to approve the agenda and Conrad seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the agenda.
- Tim reviewed the January minutes, Taylor moved to approve the minutes and Conrad seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the January minutes.
- Brief welcoming remarks.

City Updates

- **OCS updates/DCHS updates - Alison**
    - Housing needs
        - Most available funds have been depleted for temporary housing
        - Prioritizing eviction prevention services.
        - Still have availability for emergency support
    - Shelter wait list
        - Very long; individual men (45), individual females, families with children (24 families with children)
        - Halt in rapid rehousing funding → supports individuals in shelter getting out of shelter w/ security deposit, first months rent
            - Carpenters Shelter → Received homeless reduction grant form housing trust fund for rapid rehousing

- Point in Time (PIT)
  - Planned January 25, 2024.
  - Annual, nationwide PIT count; conducted on coldest night of the year
  - City of Alexandria canvasses the city, meet with people experiencing homelessness, ask them questions to obtain information, collect information along with data from shelters.
  - Not able to report numbers at this point; anticipating increase
  - Public release date: May 2024
- 2024 Strategic Plan to end homelessness
  - Finalized in 2023, presented to council January 23.
  - Asking council to support.
- What Works Cities : Silver Certification
  - Awarded by Bloomberg Foundation to CoA
  - Factors: data presentation; using data to support innovative programming
    - A-CORE: 9/11 phone call for behavioral health, pair social work to go with law enforcement response
    - Eviction Prevention programming & Taskforce (AEPP)
- Community Action Agency: Recognized in Richmond during GA session
- PY Entertainment District
  - Passed House, Pending Senate
  - In negotiation in State House; If makes it to Alexandria, EOC will have opportunity to have input on labor, housing, etc.
- Housing Master Plan
  - Expected June 2024
- General Assembly Update
  - Payment plan for all tenants who owe one month or less
  - Requiring summary page on leases in plain language
  - Offering leases in multiple languages (passed House)
  - Increasing pay or quit from 5 to 14 days
  - Fee Transparency
  - Pilot program for access to counsel
- City Budget Process: See powerpoint sent via email
  - Ali described the budget process and upcoming opportunity for EOC to advocate
- Updates from DCHS Boards & Commissions Chairs quarterly meeting:
  - Consideration for youth representation on commissions
  - Collaborating with other boards and commissions

Old Business

- **Needs Assessment:**
  - Tim shared an update on the needs Assessment
  - Ali said next step is DCHS director review, then sending to the state
  - Jenn suggested a roll-out of some kind for this before June
    - Event, press release, something more than simply presenting to Council and placing in an online file

        - Taylor, Iliana, Jenn volunteered to plan an event
- **City Budget Letter:**
    - Meronne shared a recap relating to the city budget discussion in the November meeting.
    - Meronne, Taylor and Aminata to co-draft EOC's letter to the City.

New Business

- Organizations working with newcomers – immigration 101 and know your rights

Announcements / Open Discussion

- Next meeting: Wednesday, March 20
- WIll review new EOC applications

Closing: L'Allegro moved to adjourn the meeting and Babak seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM ET**.**