

## **ONA Board Members/Allen, Stahl, Kilbourne/Jill Lieberman 8.3.21**

### **Re: Ramada Inn acquisition**

#### **In attendance: 11**

Beau Carpenter (BS)- lawyer, ASK

Damie Seasay(DS)-lawyer, ASK

Derek Allen (DA)- lawyer, ASK

Natalie Romanello (NR)-ONA

Debbie Applewhite(DBA)-Beverly Hills

Rich Lee(RL)- ONA

Jill Lieberman(JL)-Adapt

Bess McDavid(BM)-ONA

Barber Melton(BRM)-Haw Creek

Betsy Nesbitt(BN)-ONA

Michael Stratton(MS)-ONA

BC: Allen, Stahl, Kilbourne representing the owner's of River Ridge regarding the COA's acquisition of Ramada Inn. Council is set to vote on August 24 with a closing date of Sept.

12<sup>th</sup> or 18

RRO's are very concerned with this purchase, tenants are seeing an increase in criminal/

vagrant activity and are threatening to leave. Sunrise is managing shelter now with a

security firm

DBA: Is Ramada open as a hotel and shelter?

BC: seems that way; COA has provided no concrete plans in regards to how the shelter will

be run and no partners in running it

DBA: has heard that no one is willing to partner with the city to help run the shelter

MS: the shelter has poor access to services

BC: COA asserts it does indeed have access to services

MS: Kim Roney agrees to that point, after consideration of the point

BC: ASK is plotting a strategy to fight purchase, including meeting with city council member individually

BMc: Wants to be clear that ONA maintains neutrality until we get more information

DBA: objects to the high density of shelters in east Asheville (Days Inn) in addition to perceived

problematic beloved projects, closed bus station, numerous homeless camps

MS: why is this acquisition moving so quickly?

DA: also can they spend the Covid relief money in this manner?

BC: having a hard time getting information from the city

DA: one problem is that it seems COA staff does not communicate well with council

BMC: Is ASK filing suit?

DA: Unsure

MS: What are the demographics of the people in the shelter?

BC: unsure if they are keeping track; could be county involvement as well

MS: Who on city council is for or against?

DA: Is a potential for downtown businesses to have influenced this project

JL: Time limit to spend money is Dec 2024

Action Point: write city council members to ask for more time before vote