

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 16, 2008
MINUTES**

PRESENT: N. Hogan, B. Reisfeld, R. Plattus

EXCUSED: D. Ecton, J. Goldblum, W. Johnston, G. Spinner, V. Wilson

ABSENT: K. Lum

EX-OFFICIO: N. Torres-LCI for A. Rizzo (Present), R. Manning-CSA (Present)

STAFF: J. Huettner

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Caron, NHHR, Malynda Mallory, Columbus House, Joseph Carlsmith, Simon Goldstein, Daksha Rajagopalan, YHHAP, Richard Cain, SCSU, Betsy Yagla, New Haven Advocate

M. Castro, J. James, J. Rodriguez, S. Rodriguez, BOA

Meeting called for 6:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 6:07 P.M.

R. Plattus chaired the meeting in place of G. Spinner, who was excused. She called the meeting to order and after introductions, asked for a motion to approve the September 11, 2008 Meeting Minutes with B. Reisfeld making the motion and N. Hogan seconding. The motion passed: YES-8: N. Hogan, B. Reisfeld, R. Plattus, **BY PROXY:** D. Ecton (10/16/08), J. Goldblum (10/09/08), W. Johnston (10/15/08), G. Spinner (10/13/08), V. Wilson (10/15/08). NO-0.

Next, members reviewed the proposed Commission regular meeting schedule for YR2009 and R. Plattus asked for a motion to approve the schedule with B. Reisfeld making the motion and N. Hogan seconding. The motion passed: YES-8: N. Hogan, B. Reisfeld, R. Plattus, **BY PROXY:** D. Ecton (10/16/08), J. Goldblum (10/09/08), W. Johnston (10/15/08), G. Spinner (10/13/08), V. Wilson (10/15/08). NO-0.

Next, R. Plattus reported on the September 23, 2008 meeting of the Shelter Policy Group, which met to discuss Commission recommendations concerning shelter policies, given budget cuts and across-the-board reduced City funding, and increased client demand, particularly as it affects the opening of a seasonal Overflow Shelter.

The following text, concerning the development of a “residency clause” was the recommendation made by the Group, and discussed by members.

“The Group was not able to come up with any residency requirement that was acceptable, with the exception of refusing formal institutional admissions from the CT Department of Correction (DOC) and hospitals, in which the DOC brings someone to the shelter, or a hospital sends someone in a cab. For these situations, it was felt that DOC needs to be notified that these planned discharges to New Haven homeless shelters will be denied, and that the DOC needs to find alternative placement for them.

For people whose DOC obligation has been fulfilled, and the client is dropped off at the Whalley Avenue Jail, it makes no sense to refuse them. But if DOC staff are notified that in discharge planning for non-New Haven residents, they need to be notified that dropping someone off at the Whalley Avenue Jail with the intent of having their client go to a homeless shelter in New Haven is unacceptable. This obviously would require some communication from CSA to DOC to have any impact, should it have any at all.

Both shelters are going to provide us with some data on the number of DOC clients in their shelters over the past year, if possible, as a percentage of overall population, and further, the number of DOC clients who do not originate from New Haven.

Other than that, the process of refusing clients who originated from other towns made little sense, especially in light of the data that CCEH provided that stated that 30% of Hartford’s sheltered men originate from New Haven.”

Four members of the Board of Aldermen (listed above) joined the meeting and introduced themselves.

Lengthy discussion ensued on the Group’s recommendation with the major points including what would be a reasonable way of defining/documenting residency? Issues related to state departments/agencies (DOC/Judicial Services/DMHAS/DSS) dropping/leaving non-residents at New Haven shelters; Long-term solutions related to regional cooperation and short-term solutions related to resource development.

Several of the alderpersons in attendance asked informational questions. J. James apologized for interrupting the meeting and indicated that the BOA was planning a “major, major” fund-raiser dinner with top level entertainment, on behalf of the Overflow Shelter. J. Plattus offered to set up a meeting, if alderpersons desired additional information about the Overflow Shelter situation, prior to their planned fund-raiser.

After further discussion, and due to the fact that several members were not present, and to the importance of the issues involved, members present decided by consensus to receive the Group's recommendations, and to have a final discussion and vote, at it's next regular meeting (November 13, 2008).

There was some confusion and discussion on the date for the tent fund-raiser on the Green and clarification would be forthcoming.

Next, members present, by consensus, tabled the remainder of the agenda until the next regular Commission meeting (November 13, 2008).

With no further business, J. Plattus entertained and received a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 P.M. (Motion passed unanimously).