



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Christina Montague, Chair
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

DATE: July 5, 2000

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Advisory Council

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approve the Neighborhood Advisory Council for the Huron Street Shelter.

BACKGROUND:

The County and the City have a long-term commitment to the serve the homeless and reduce homelessness. Since 1996, the City and County have been leading groups of community members to review current programs and facilities and make recommendations for improvements to the Shelter on Huron Street. The Washtenaw County Task Force on Homelessness and the Joint Steering Committee on Homelessness have recommended that the current facilities are inadequate to meet current needs, while stressing that a downtown presence is critical to the process of reducing homelessness. In addition, supportive housing and affordable housing are cornerstones to less dependence and greater stability. These programs are part of the larger plan of which the Huron Street facility is a part.

As members of a concerned community, homelessness is a shared responsibility and must be addressed collaboratively by all of the institutions, agencies, businesses and individual members in our community.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance was selected for the operation of sheltering services and coordination of necessary supportive services.

DISCUSSION:

The City and the County have moved forward to addressing the needs of the homeless by approving the construction of a homeless shelter on Huron Street. The County has bonded for 3 million dollars for this project. The City of Ann Arbor will fund 1 million for this project and the remaining balance will come from the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and St. Joseph Mercy Health Systems through their fund raising efforts.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance will be responsible for the operation and coordination of supportive services at the Huron Shelter. To ensure the widest community input into these activities, there is interest in creating a Neighborhood Advisory Council for the Huron Street Shelter. This nine member Advisory Council would be appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Representation on this Advisory Council would come from various neighborhoods and interest groups (including downtown property owners).

The Neighborhood Advisory Council would create its own bylaws and conduct its own election of officers. The Neighborhood Advisory Council would participate in the Washtenaw Housing Alliance meetings (Operational Committee). Any reports of the Neighborhood Advisory Council would become a formal part of the Housing Alliances' records. The Neighborhood Advisory Council would provide the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and the Shelter Association Board with quarterly written reports.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council would serve as an education and outreach resource for the community and should be referenced in materials presented and distributed by the Alliance and other parties.

The Alliance has agreed to this arrangement in the attached letter.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council appointments will be done during the Board of Commissioners November appointment process and will be included in the solicitation for representation process.

IMPACT ON HURON RESOURCES:

There is no impact on Human resources.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

There is no impact on the County's budget with this action.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

There is no impact on the County's indirect costs.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES:

This action will have a positive impact for all parties involved and show as an investment to the well being of the community.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

This action conforms to the County's Policies and Procedures.

A RESOLUTION CREATING A NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE
HURON STREET SHELTER

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 5, 2000

WHEREAS, the County and the City have a long-term commitment to serve the homeless and reduce homelessness; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, the City and County have been leading groups of community members to review current programs and facilities and make recommendations for improvements to the Shelter on Huron Street; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Task Force on Homelessness and the Joint Steering Committee on Homelessness have recommended that the current facilities are inadequate to meet current needs, while stressing that a downtown presence is critical to the process of reducing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, supportive housing and affordable housing are cornerstones to less dependence and greater stability; and

WHEREAS, as member of a concerned community, homelessness is a shared responsibility and must be addressed collaboratively by all of the institutions, agencies, businesses and individual members in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City and the County have moved forward to addressing the needs of the homeless by approving the construction of a homeless shelter on Huron Street; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance will operate the shelter and provide coordination of necessary supportive services; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the widest community input into these activities, there is an interest in creating a Neighborhood Advisory Council for the Huron Street Shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Advisory Council will consist of nine members appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners consisting of various neighborhoods and interest groups (including downtown property owners); and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Advisory Council would create its own bylaws and conduct its own election of officers; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Advisory Council would communicate current issues, concerns and information, as needed, in the Washtenaw Housing Alliance meetings (Operations Committee); and

WHEREAS, any reports of the Neighborhood Advisory Council would become a formal part of the Housing Alliances' records; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Advisory Council would provide the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and the Shelter Association Board with quarterly written reports; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Advisory Council would serve as an education and outreach resource for the community and should be referenced in materials presented and distributed by the Alliance and other parties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to advising the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and the Shelter Association, the Neighborhood Advisory Council shall advise the Board of Commissioners, Ann Arbor City Council and any other appropriate body on issues as they arise; and

WHEREAS, these appointments will be done during the November appointment process and will be included in the solicitation for representation process; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby creates the Neighborhood Advisory Council consisting of nine members with representation as follows for the Huron Street Shelter to carry out the advisory and educational functions enumerated above:

- 1 Old West Side Neighborhood Association (nominated by the association)
- 1 West Park Neighborhood Association (nominated by the association)
- 1 Huron-Jackson Neighborhood Association (nominated by the association)
- 1 Chapin Street resident
- 2 Commercial property owner/operator within 100 yards
- 1 Citizen's Advisory Council (DDA) (nominated by the CAC)
- 1 At-large
- 1 City of Ann Arbor designee (nominated by City Council)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to include in its annual process for soliciting interested individuals to service on the Neighborhood Advisory Council

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs that the Neighborhood Advisory Council once appointed, adopt bylaws as their first order of business and forward to the Board of Commissioners for receipt and filing.