

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting

August 1, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Councilmembers Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session: None.

2. Special Meeting

(a) Resolution No. 9642 relating to providing Interim Year-round Shelter Services for Men Experiencing Homelessness

City Manager Brad Miyake said staff has been working for the past several months to identify a temporary location for the men's overnight shelter while tenant improvements are completed at the Lincoln Center facility. He said the City and the property owner of the temporary location recently agreed to the terms and conditions of a lease.

Nancy LaCombe, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office, said that efforts have been underway to provide a year-round men's homeless shelter in Bellevue at the Lincoln Center facility, which previously operated on a seasonal basis. However, a temporary shelter location was needed as soon as possible to allow the construction of tenant improvements at Lincoln Center. Ms. LaCombe said a private group raising funds to complete the tenant improvements recently indicated that it has raised more than \$771,000 and is ready to begin the work. The community partners provided design and construction services to prepare the plans and permitting documents related to the Lincoln Center improvements.

Ms. LaCombe said staff has been working with Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) and with Lawrence Lui, President of Cloudvue, to establish the temporary shelter location at the former First Congregational Church, located at the corner of NE 8th Street and 108th Avenue NE. The tenant improvements at Lincoln Center are anticipated to be completed in the fall.

David Bowling, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to provide year-round shelter and supportive services to men experiencing

homelessness. He noted that the temporary shelter location at First Congregational Church is expected to open on September 1. He thanked the community partners for their hard work and noted that a demolition team is donating its time and resources to the project. Mr. Bowling said that the year-round operation of the shelter will enable CFH to help individuals to more quickly find a path out of homelessness. The day center will continue to operate at the Lincoln Center site seven days a week to provide intake, meals, laundry facilities, supportive services, and showers. Men will be transported to the temporary overnight location at the church every evening and back to Lincoln Center in the morning. Mr. Bowling thanked King County and King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci for providing two surplus vans to be used to transport the men.

Ms. LaCombe said staff will return to the Council on August 5 with a proposal for funding operational costs from now until the Lincoln Center overnight shelter reopens in November. Staff will begin public outreach to adjacent property owners in the Wilburton and Downtown areas, and a public meeting will be held at the Cloudvue (First Congregational Church) site. CFH will apply for a temporary public safety facility permit for the short-term temporary shelter location and for the ongoing use of Lincoln Center for up to three years.

Resolution No. 9642 directs the City Manager to prepare and present, at the Council meeting on August 5, 2019, a proposal for funding the operational services of the temporary and Lincoln Center shelters beginning as early as September 2019. The resolution directs the City Manager to conduct public outreach within the Downtown and Wilburton neighborhoods regarding the operation of the temporary and Lincoln Center shelters, provide periodic updates to the Council regarding the progress toward siting a permanent men's homeless shelter, and to consider the necessary funding toward the operating expenses at the Lincoln Center shelter within the preliminary 2021-2022 Biennial Budget.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Ms. LaCombe confirmed that the Land Use Code allows the operation of a temporary public safety facility for up to three years. After that time, the conditional use permit (CUP) process would be required to operate a permanent shelter at Lincoln Center.

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to approve Resolution No. 9642, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said she is proud to see the community come together to meet the needs of men experiencing homelessness. She said the City Manager, Mayor, Council, and staff have worked with the business community and human services providers to bridge the gap in Bellevue's homeless services. She thanked Lawrence Lui, Cloudvue, for providing the temporary shelter location; Kevin Wallace, Wallace Properties, for leading the fundraising effort; and everyone who contributed their services and funding toward the project.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the motion and thanked everyone who made this possible. She noted that the City has been working toward providing a permanent shelter in the future. Last summer, she proposed converting the seasonal Lincoln Center shelter to a year-round facility until a permanent shelter is completed. She thanked Mr. Lui for his generosity in providing the temporary overnight shelter at the former church. Ms. Robertson said the year-

round operation of the shelter will provide important ongoing services to the men and allow CFH to hire year-round staff. She thanked Kevin Wallace and all of the donors who supported the fundraising effort as well as CFH, City Manager Miyake, Ms. LaCombe, and other City staff for their hard work

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the resolution and noted the success of the community team effort. He said this is a huge step in the City's commitment to providing effective services for men experiencing homelessness.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the motion, noting that the community found the Bellevue way for achieving this goal. He thanked Nancy LaCombe and City Manager's Office staff, David Bowling, Kevin Wallace, residents, and the business community for their proactive approach to addressing urgent issues related to homelessness.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the resolution and said the year-round shelter services will contribute to a stronger Bellevue. She is grateful for all of the partners and volunteers who helped to achieve the goal of providing year-round services for men experiencing homelessness. She thanked Lawrence Lui, Kevin Wallace, the business community, and CFH and City staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Lee said that people in Bellevue always come together, and this is a strong example of partnership and collaboration. He thanked everyone for their role in reaching this goal.

Mayor Chelminiak recalled that a number of individuals sleeping outside in Bellevue and the Eastside have died in recent years. He expressed support for the need for a permanent shelter and continuous services. He thanked the cities of Kirkland and Redmond for their roles in providing shelters on the Eastside. He encouraged the City to add funding for homelessness-related services during next year's budget cycle, instead of moving funding from other human services needs.

Mr. Chelminiak thanked Kevin Wallace and the business community for their enthusiastic response to the need to address homelessness. He thanked Mr. Lui for the opportunity to resume shelter services in September until the Lincoln Center improvements are completed in November.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Chelminiak read a commendation recognizing the generosity of Lawrence Lui and Cloudvue for providing space for the temporary men's homeless shelter at the former First Congregational Church on NE 8th Street.

Mr. Lui thanked the Council for the recognition and said he was honored to collaborate with the City to provide the temporary shelter location. He said the Cloudvue company values community partnerships and will continue to work with the City to address issues related to homelessness. He thanked City Manager Miyake for his persistence, noting that some of the tenants of the

former church opposed the proposed temporary shelter. Mr. Lui said his staff's contact with CFH staff during an unannounced tour of the Lincoln Center facility convinced him that supporting the shelter would be consistent with Cloudvue's company culture.

Mayor Chelminiak read the proclamation recognizing the efforts of former City Councilmember Kevin Wallace, Congregations for the Homeless, and the many community partners for their dedication to supporting the community's needs.

Mr. Wallace said he is grateful for the support of Mr. Lui and Cloudvue. Mr. Wallace noted the importance of a year-round shelter to provide the continuity of support needed to effectively help men experiencing homelessness. Noting the partnerships with the Bellevue Youth Theatre, Bellevue Botanical Garden, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, Mr. Wallace said this effort is another example of partnerships creating something special for the community. He said that Congregations for the Homeless operates the only men's homeless shelter on the Eastside.

Mr. Wallace commended the combined efforts of the development team, fundraising team, CFH, City staff, City Council, and the community in reaching a solution within a short time period at less than half of the projected cost. He noted the critical donation of design services by Mulvanny G2 Architecture (MG2), DCI Engineers, RAF Construction, and Davis Wright Tremaine. He thanked the fundraising team of Eric Stelter, Rodney Tom, Gary Guenther (Kidder Mathews), Bill Finkbeiner, and Betina Finley.

Mr. Wallace said there were many more community and business donors. He praised the CFH Board and staff for their work and collaboration. He thanked City staff who worked on the project, especially Nancy LaCombe, and the following permitting staff: Jake Hesselgesser (DSD); Mark Dewey (Utilities Department), Travis Ripley (Fire Department), Tom Miller (DSD) led by Mike Brennan, Director of the Development Services Department (DSD) and Gregg Schrader, Building Director.

Mr. Wallace thanked City Manager Miyake for his persistence and overall coordination of the effort. Mr. Wallace thanked the City Council, noting that the year-round shelter provides the time needed to plan the appropriate permanent shelter services facility for Bellevue. He thanked Councilmembers for their confidence in him and the project team to reach this accomplishment.

Mr. Bowling thanked Mr. Wallace and the community for their courage and persistence to achieve this outcome. Mr. Bowling said that Congregations for the Homeless is here for the entire community and will operate the shelter for the best benefit of the men they serve and everyone in Bellevue.

At 4:51 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw