



MESA HOUSING AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD

September 30, 2010

The Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 30, 2010 at 7:33 a.m.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT	BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Scott Smith, Chairperson Alex Finter Dina Higgins Kyle Jones Dave Richins Scott Somers William M. Egan, Sr.	Dennis Kavanaugh	Christopher Brady Debbie Spinner Linda Crocker

Chairperson Smith excused Boardmember Kavanaugh from the entire meeting.

1. Hear a presentation, discuss and take action on a resolution to revise the Housing Authority's Administrative Plan and open the Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List.

Housing and Revitalization Director Carolyn Olson addressed the Board and advised that staff is recommending revising the Housing Authority's Administrative Plan and taking action to open the Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list. She reported that the City of Mesa is joining with the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness to address this issue. Ms. Olson said that a survey conducted by Project H3 (Home, Health, Hope) as a pilot project identified 33 chronically homeless in Mesa, twelve of which were classified as "high risk homeless" individuals. She explained that the preference change is designed to save the lives of the most medically vulnerable homeless individuals in the City of Mesa.

In response to a question from Boardmember Richins, Ms. Olson advised that staff would investigate the possibility of requiring landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program to also participate in Mesa's Tri-Star Crime Prevention Program.

Boardmember Richins stated that he would prefer that only landlords participating in the Crime Free Program be eligible to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that requiring landlords to participate in the Crime Free Program would be subject to the HUD regulations (Department of Housing and Urban Affairs); and that staff would research the HUD regulations with regard to the issue.

Boardmember Egan said that first he wanted to acknowledge Vice Mayor Jones for his many years of service to the Board and to the City. He commented on the issue before the Board, and he explained that the proposal does not mean that other initiatives would be neglected to focus only on the homeless, but the proposal does address the needs of homeless individuals who are in the worst type of situation. Boardmember Egan added that the program should reduce many of the emergency calls for service generated by this population, and he encouraged his fellow Boardmembers to support the proposal.

Chairperson Smith concurred with Boardmember Egan's comments regarding the potential to reduce calls for emergency services. He advised that many people calling 911 are utilizing emergency services as their primary care physician, and he noted that most citizens are unaware of the significant burden that this practice places on the City. Chairperson Smith added that statistics indicate that 50 percent of the calls for emergency medical assistance are, in fact, not emergencies.

It was moved by Boardmember Richins, seconded by Boardmember Egan, that Resolution No. HGB 10-2 be adopted, which revises the Housing Authority's Administrative Plan and opens the Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List, with the additional stipulation that landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program be required to participate in the Mesa Police Department's Tri-Star Crime Prevention Program, if the stipulation complies with the guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD).

Chairperson Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those members present and Resolution No. HGB 10-2 adopted.

Chairperson Smith thanked staff for the presentation, and he thanked Boardmember Egan for his participation.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board meeting adjourned at 7:41 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board Meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 30th day of September 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK