



Lowell City Council

Non-Profit Organizations SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: January 7, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, Lowell City Hall, Lowell, Ma. / Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Gitschier, C. Nuon, C. Mercier and C. Robinson. Also present were C. Belanger and C. Yem.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Gitschier called the meeting to order at 5:30PM noting the discussion with Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) and the Merrimack Valley Food Bank (MVFB).

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Gitschier introduced first topic of discussion, the LTLC, and introduced Mr. Isaiah Stephens of the organization. Mr. Stephens provided his background and presented power point regarding the LTLC. Mr. Stephens outlined the mission statement of the organization noting its goals and services provided. Services provided an emergency shelter, supportive hiring, advisory and case management and free drop-in health center. Mr. Stephens noted the volunteer opportunities along with different fundraising and donation options. Mr. Stephens noted the City could provide assistance with affordable housing, increase emergency shelter funding and public transportation. Mr. Stephens outlined the challenges of the LTLC noting the growing number of clients, state of the facility, engagement with community and better standing in the community. Lastly, Mr. Stephens noted the goals of the organization are to increase housing, enhance services, work with



surrounding communities and strengthen partner relationships. C. Robinson commented on fundraising events and working with surrounding communities. C. Robinson noted need to communicate with the City to ensure services. C. Mercier noted the services provided and indicated that she would promote the organization for fundraising. C. Nuon commented on the presentation and his concern with the number of people in the facility. Maura Fitzgerald (Homeless Supervisor) commented on the success of the Green Program. Lisa Golden (HHA) noted the relationship of the LTLC with the City. C. Gitschier noted the use of government services and that there needs to be a mental health aspect to approach.

C. Gitschier introduced second item, MVFB. Deb Callery, Director, provided a handout to the body. Ms. Callery outlined the services of the MVFB providing the operational structure of the organization which is food production and distribution. Ms. Callery commented the food services of the organization which include a mobile pantry, Operation Nourish, community market, summer lunch programs and food rescue. Ms. Callery commented on the service area and the service groups which include schools, elderly and homeless. Ms. Callery commented on the new facility in 2025 which will benefit operation. C. Robinson noted Council support. C. Mercier noted her willingness to promote the organization. Ms. Callery noted different ways to support MVFB by way of donation or volunteer. C. Gitschier commented on the benefits to the schools.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Robinson. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk