

*The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on November 6, 2018*

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

October 16, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Mercer, Commissioners Kline, Ma, McEachran, Perelman, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Oxrieder

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Christy Stangland, Natalie Minas, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: Deputy Mayor Robinson, Fire Chief Hagen, Natasha Grossman, Fire Cares

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Kline who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman, who arrived at 6:07 p.m.; Chair Mercer, who arrived at 6:39 p.m.; and Commissioner Oxrieder, who was excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 18, 2018

There was agreement to hold off on approving the minutes until the arrival of Commissioners Perelman and Mercer.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner McEachran said he attended the Sophia Way luncheon fundraiser at which more than \$270,000 was raised. Humor was introduced and proved to be very effective. There was a broad cross section of people in attendance.



## 5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked the Commissioners for their hard work in developing funding recommendations. She said she reviewed all of the applications and all of the Commission meeting minutes and concluded that the Commission did a very good job. She noted her support for funding prevention programs, programs for kids, and programs for Bellevue residents.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said the Council meeting on October 15 included a conversation about increasing funding for human services. She allowed that the base allocation amount has not been increased since 2013 aside from an additional \$150,000 to address homelessness allocated in the 2017-2018 cycle which has become a permanent part of the budget.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that there was not enough money to fund all of the eviction prevention programs that applied. Attain Housing was not funded in favor of putting more into Hopelink; their request was \$30,000. Commissioner Kline added that some additional programs were held to either their existing funding levels or were only awarded a COLA increase. Commissioner Perelman said the ask from St. Vincent de Paul for that organization's eviction prevention program was not funded because it focused only on a certain area of the city, even though the program has proved to be effective and every dollar would go to help individuals; had more funding been available, the program likely would have been funded.

Commissioner Piper commented that there were also a few first-time applications the Commission was not able to fund. Deputy Mayor Robinson said the Commission was right in choosing not to fund the first-time applicant organizations that either did not meet the criteria or that were not able to fill out the application in ways necessary to justify funding. The process the Commission follows is pristine and making exceptions to it can lead down the wrong road. She added, however, that it is important to educate new organizations about how to be successful in applying for funding for their programs. She said she has spoke with staff and there will be some effort put into an education program in advance of the next funding cycle.

Commissioner Kline informed Deputy Mayor Robinson that the Commissioners had had a broader discussion on that topic that noted the void left by United Way pulling out of the area of education for startup non-profit organizations. The intent is to find a way to fill that education void.

Commissioner McEachran agreed and suggested an off-season workshop should be scheduled with a focus on human services generally and the Council's vision and priorities. The Needs Update should be center stage in the workshop, at least the executive report, and goal areas 3, 4 and 5 should be highlighted and discussed. The general thinking is that the need for sustainable housing on the Eastside is going to become a primary need in the coming years. He also stressed the need to read the executive summary of the city's 2019-2020 preliminary budget to gain a better

understanding of what a good job the Council does of being stewards of Bellevue's finances.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said she thought at one time that new growth in the city pays for the impacts that are created. The fact is the additional income only pays for three years of the impacts.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said Sophia Way attended the October 15 Council meeting and requested additional funding. The representative indicated the organization had only received partial funding during the application process. She asked if that was because of limited funding or for some other reason. Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano said the Commission chose to give the Eastside winter shelter application a COLA increase rather than full funding, while the Sophia Place shelter application received a 19 percent increase.

Commissioner Perelman stated that in general most of the larger ask applications received only an COLA increase due to having limited funding available.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said the Sophia Way representative at the Council meeting on October 15 talked about what they would have used the funding for had they been given an additional \$10,000. Preventing homelessness and being able to house women with children as well as men with children were issues that were highlighted, all of which is very much a part of the city's mission. She said part of her wanted to look for ways to help them out during the city's budgeting process, but allowed that another part of her realized that if every agency that did not receive funding were to come to the Council asking for money, it would set a bad precedent. The city is, however, facing a homelessness crisis, and she asked the Commissioners to comment on how the Council should respond to the request from Sophia Way.

Commissioner Kline said she was disappointed that Sophia Way chose not to attend the Commission's public hearing and bring forward their concerns. She clarified, however, that the Commission was operating under clear instructions that there was no capacity for approving additional asks. The proposals of Sophia Way were reviewed with the same attention given to all applications. The Commission recognized that there is a significant amount of money from the city and the human services budget that is earmarked for homelessness and chose to focus on funding the continuum of human services needs.

Commissioner Perelman stressed that the Commission has over the years been consistent about staying within its funding boundaries. The Council has not chosen to step up to fund single organizations not funded by the Commission, though it has stepped up to fund causes. The Commission has in the past asked for additional funds, and the Council has been able to locate those funds, but always to address a broader spectrum. She said she would prefer to see the Council give consideration to increased funding to support financial aid programs, possibly in addition to Sophia Way, as an approach to preventing homelessness. Deputy Mayor Robinson said if

she were successful in identifying additional dollars, she would seek the input of the Commission as to how they should be allocated.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that there is also a clear need for additional funding for transportation programs.

Deputy Mayor Robinson sought from the Commission suggestions for how much additional funding should be sought for human services. Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly suggested the Commission should take time later in the meeting for a fuller discussion. Deputy Mayor Robinson said she would be willing to see the Commission include a call for additional funding in its presentation to the Council on November 5.

Ms. O'Reilly took a moment to introduce assistant City Attorney Kathleen Kline who has been assigned to the Parks & Community Services Department. She said Ms. Kline will take over the process of updating the Commission's bylaws.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### A. Bellevue Fire Chief Jay Hagen and Bellevue Fire Cares

Bellevue Fire Chief Jay Hagen said he serves on the board of directors for Code4 Northwest, a first responders suicide hotline that takes calls around the clock from first responders that are in crisis. Referrals are made to treatment centers. In addition to suicide prevention, the program covers addictions. He said he is also involved with the American Heart Association, whose Heart Walk event focuses on preventing heart attacks and strokes, and is a member of the board of directors of the YMCA and is active at his Coal Creek branch. He said he was for a number of years a regular in the annual One Night Count and is a supporter of the Medic One Foundation, the organization that pays for all of the training of paramedics in King County. The Fill the Boot campaign has been active since the mid-1980s, a charity that is near and dear to firefighters that focuses on the fight against muscular dystrophy. In addition to being active with Fill the Boot, he said he is also active with Stairclimb, an event focused on leukemia, lymphoma and the fight against blood cancers which impacts firefighters more than four times more frequently than the general population.

Chief Hagen said the Bellevue Fire Department responds to about 20,000 basic life support calls every year. Such calls cover relatively minor issues and they are on a gradual increase in Bellevue. Advanced life support calls, which involve major issues, have been holding steady and in fact have seen a slight reduction recently. Such calls involve heart attack, stroke, severe bleeding and car accidents. Bellevue is one of five advanced life support providers in King County. The Medic One program is famous worldwide given that King County has a 62.5 cardiac save rate. People from all over the world come and study the program to learn what they can take back home.

Bellevue paramedics respond to a CPR call about every 71 hours and 30 minutes. Of those, about half of the alarms are witnessed, which means that someone was present and saw the person go down. In about a third of the cases, CPR intervention is given by a bystander prior to the arrival of EMS, which is a call advertisement for continued investments in citizen CPR training.

Chief Hagen said Bellevue paramedics now carry Narcan, a medicine that can slow or reduce the effects of an opioid overdose. While Bellevue does not see numbers are large as some other communities, Narcan was administered 20 times in the last quarter. The drug is very effective and the department is glad to have it available.

With regard the Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation, Chief Hagen said the charity is managed by firefighters. Several charitable activities are conducted each year.

A few printed reports were shared with the Commissioners, including the semi-monthly reports filed by every division within the fire department, and the third quarter performance report that tracks how well the department is doing against recognized standards, including turn-out times, compliance with training, and the number of times fire personnel connect with community groups in a positive manner. It was noted that the traditional EMS model, which involves fire engine to the front yard and ambulance or aid car to the hospital, is working less and less for more and more people in the community relative to calls relating to obesity, elders staying in their homes, addictions and homelessness.

Ms. Natasha Grossman, Director of Bellevue Fire Cares, explained that the program started in 2012. It was originally modeled after a program in Spokane that was a partnership between Spokane Fire and the Eastern Washington University social work graduate program. The program was designed to address how to utilize the 911 system. The program implemented in Bellevue was designed to be a match for the community and began with two social work grad students. The students serve as advocates for the program and do all of the staffing. They serve anywhere between six months and two years depending on their particular graduate program. They respond to referrals from fire and police that are made online, primarily involving the most vulnerable populations. Students are sent out in pairs to spend time in the home interviewing and making assessments. The students then serve as case managers until the client is connected with the resources they need. The focus is on building trust relationships with the residents, and the students stay with them for as long as they need to. In some cases all that is needed are safety improvements, such as grab bars, to prevent falls. In other cases clients are chronically mentally ill, are not receiving treatment and are not taking medications, and who will be calling 911 on a regular basis. In those instances Bellevue Cares continues to work with them until they die or move out of Bellevue. For some, the students are the only persons they see and connect with every week. There are currently 17 MSW students working with the program one or several days per week.

Commissioner Perelman asked how Bellevue Cares addresses the city's diversity and whether the program partners with organizations that have a particular cultural diversity focus. Ms. Grossman said the program could have more and stronger partnerships with such organizations. Many have been invited to attend meetings but have chosen not to for whatever reason. Attempts are always under way to development stronger ties. Traditionally people of color and immigrant populations do not call 911 so the program does not receive a lot of referrals for folks in those groups. The program has access to and uses Language Line and there have been students in the program who were fluent in a language other than English that proved to be very helpful, but language often serves as a barrier in trying to connect people with resources.

Ms. Grossman said a new program called Cares 1 was started a year ago. It involves a response unit staffed by three professional social workers that can be dispatched at the request of fire or police to provide crisis intervention. The team members go out as soon as a call comes in and once on site determine what referrals need to be made to the Bellevue Cares program for follow-up by the students. Currently, the Cares 1 team is available only between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Calls to the team from police have increased substantially given that officers have been instructed when responding to calls involving behavioral or mental calls to contact Cares 1 or the mobile crisis team.

People can be referred to the Cares 1 program for a number of reasons, but the top three involve issues of mobility, falls/tripping and mental health. If a firefighter responding to a call finds a person who is having a hard time getting around and deems them to be at risk of falling, the referral is for mobility. Calls for falls/tripping are made when there has been a fall. The police do not make calls to Cares 1 for incidents of domestic violence.

Commissioner McEachran said it would be interesting to put the various reasons for referrals into several circles and pair it up with the Needs Update and the human services programs funded by the city, it may highlight a number of resources folks might not know about.

Commissioner Perelman observed that the listed reasons for referrals clearly suggests the population being served by Cares 1 is aging in place.

Chair Mercer asked if there are opportunities for the cultural navigators at mini City Hall to dial into or refer to the Cares 1. Ms. Grossman said that has not been done to date, largely because the program is overwhelmed by the number of referrals it handles. There are on average some 90 open cases at any given time. Referrals to the program have been made from other city departments, including code compliance, the conflict resolution program in the Parks & Community Services Department and the community centers. The only exception made so far relative to

receiving referrals from outside the city relates to the emergency department of Overlake hospital.

Commissioner Kline asked if on the resolution side of things there is a connection between those who need repairs on their homes and the Minor Home Repair Program. Ms. O'Reilly said there definitely is. She said she attends a Cares 1 staff meeting quarterly to talk about available services. She said she has had her social worker student shadow Cares 1 students in the field, and the Cares 1 students have been invited to shadow the work done by human services staff.

Ms. Grossman said the students will visit a home three times upon receiving a referral. If no contact is made, the students will call three times. If no contact is made by that method, the case is closed.

The Cares 1 program is funded through 2019 by bridge funding from King County EMS. Passage of the levy will fund all six of the mobile integrated health programs throughout King County, beginning in 2020. The funding will be sufficient to increase the number of hours per day and the number of days per week the program is available.

Commissioner Ma asked if the increase in the number of referrals reflects an increase in need or is tied to an increase in the population or to the outreach work being done. Ms. Grossman said she thought the increase in referrals was due to the outreach efforts.

Commissioner Kline asked if Cares 1 receives any support or assistance from Aging and Disability Services given the number of calls from seniors who are facing mobility or falls/trips issues. Ms. Grossman said referrals are made to them in an attempt to get the folks connected with services, but the agency does not provide any funding for the Cares 1 program. She said she also has met with and made presentations to the Bellevue Network on Aging.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Perelman, Ms. Grossman said currently the program has three variable staff, each of whom works 28 hours a week and receives no benefits. The goal is to be able to increase the work hours for two of them in 2019, leaving the third at three-quarter time but with benefits. The program is not financially able to do that given the present budget. Ideally it would be good to extend the hours to seven days a week, and to have administrative support.

Commissioner McEachran praised Chief Hagen for his wide-ranging fire service experience and for his adaptive leadership. He suggested the challenge is Bellevue College where student housing has suddenly appeared without any on-campus health services. That often means Station 2 has become a healthcare center. Every effort should be put into making sure there is a collegial relationship between the college and the fire department.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly reported that she along with Ms. Catalano and Ms. Esparza met for about a half an hour with Deputy Mayor Robinson on October 11. Chair Mercer was unable to attend the meeting. The discussion was in regard to the spreadsheet outlining the Commission's funding recommendations. The conversation included a discussion in general terms of what might have been funded had there been more money available. Emergency financial assistance was brought up as one such example. Deputy Mayor Robinson complimented the work of the Commission and indicated her support for the Commission's recommendations. Deputy Mayor Robinson did not bring up at that meeting the issue of seeking additional funding, which she raised earlier in the meeting during staff and commission reports.

Ms. O'Reilly said it was reported to Deputy Mayor Robinson during the meeting that Commissioner Perelman had resigned from the Commission effective at the end of the year. She said the City Clerk has been informed and will handle the recruitment process, adding that the Commissioners can also spread the word.

Chair Mercer asked if potential applicants could be invited to attend Commission meetings, or if a prep meeting could be scheduled, to help make sure recruits are actually ready for appointment to the Commission. Ms. O'Reilly said she would check with the City Clerk but stressed that that office handles all recruiting for all of the city's boards and commissions.

Commissioner Perelman suggested that in addition to needing someone with knowledge and experience, the Commission could do with a bit more diversity.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Continued)

### A. September 18, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Piper. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ma and the motion carried without dissent; Commissioners Ma and McEachran abstained from voting.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

Commissioner McEachran took a moment to bring Chair Mercer up to speed relative to the comments made by Deputy Mayor Robinson earlier in the meeting during staff and commission reports.

Ms. O'Reilly said staff were taken by surprise to hear about the comments made to the Council by Angela Murray of Sophia Way. Ms. Murray had not approached staff, nor had she chosen to attend the Commission's public hearing to raise her issues about funding the Eastside winter shelter, which would have given the Commission the opportunity to have a conversation about those issues. She noted that the

Commission was clear in talking with Deputy Mayor Robinson about why the decision had been made to give the application a COLA increase rather than full funding.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the ask of Deputy Mayor Robinson was for the Commission to review its recommended funding list and identify any for which the Commission would give additional funding if any were made available, and to include those amounts in the presentation to the Council on November 6.

Commissioner Kline said it was unfortunate the issue had not been raised earlier. Had the Commission known there was the potential for additional funding, work would have been put into crafting a case. The Commission was very deliberate during the allocation process to put dollars where they would do the most good. She said one area that was on everyone's radar and for which the Commission would like to have had additional funds was emergency financial assistance.

Commissioner Perelman urged the Commissioners to avoid being too broad. She pointed out that financial aid was a top priority that had not been fully funded.

Commissioner Piper agreed but said that begs the question of what should be done with the request from Sophia Way. Commissioner Perelman said from an equity perspective, funding Sophia Way would also call for funding the men's shelter.

Ms. Catalano stated that to fully fund the Sophia Way winter shelter request would require an additional \$9662.

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Commissioners that prior to the Sophia Way representative appearing before the Council, staff entertained an inquiry from the Assistant City Manager in Kirkland who wanted to know why the Commission had chosen not to fully fund the Sophia Way application. The response given was the amount of the request was substantially higher, that the Commission had in fact allotted an increase and had funded the relatively new outreach effort.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the approach taken by Sophia Way is evidence of a pattern for the agency.

Commissioner Piper agreed the hot topic for the Commission was emergency financial assistance and said he was confident in the rationale of the Commission in terms of what got funded and what did not.

Commissioner Perelman said she would fund application 34, the St. Madeleine Sophie program of St. Vincent de Paul, before funding Sophia Way.

Commissioner McEachran commented that Deputy Mayor Robinson was clear in talking with the Commission about her desire to see funding for programs that support kids and programs that support sustainability. She was also careful in advising the Commission to avoid setting precedent with agencies.

Chair Mercer said the Commission was very deliberative in its process. During the previous funding cycle, the Commission recognized homelessness as being a huge issue, identified specific issues, and formulated a request for additional funding. The Council approved additional funding. The current recommendations include for the most part an additional increase, greater than a COLA increase, for all of those organizations. She added that it simply is not possible for the Commission to spend all of the money on a single goal area.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that after the Commission had preliminarily elected not to fund the Attain Housing application, an agency representative attended the public hearing and the Commission was able to address her concerns to her apparent satisfaction.

Commissioner Kline added that some part of her was leaning toward not even addressing emergency financial assistance given that the Commission had closed the loop on that process.

Chair Mercer commented that even in that process the Commission focused on where the dollars would do the most good. Some of the issues concerning the financial assistance programs were about coordination and understanding what all of the various groups are doing. There was no call to simply invest more funds in the category without first having more conversations and developing a full strategy. Calling for additional funding for the category could in fact circumvent the Commission's own process.

Ms. O'Reilly asked if there were any of the emergency financial assistance programs for which the Commission has recommended less than full funding that the Commission would want to see receive additional funding.

Commissioner Perelman listed Hopelink, Salvation Army, Attain Housing and St. Vincent de Paul.

Ms. Catalano shared with the Commissioners that fully funding all of the emergency financial assistance programs, with the exception of Attain Housing, would require an additional \$42,000.

Commissioner Perelman said the needs assessment underscores where things currently stand. She noted that housing prices have cooled to some degree and that there is still some job growth occurring. Maybe in the coming two years rents will not go up as precipitously as they have been, though they will probably remain high. If the economy collapse, lower paying jobs will go away and people will be strapped for cash. She said regardless of what happens in the near future, people are still going to need financial aid.

Chair Mercer commented that during the public hearing some groups called out the Commission relative to diversity. The opportunity may be ripe to seek funding for that category.

Commissioner Ma said if Deputy Mayor Robinson is going to scrape up more money, it will have to be for a specific cause. In developing a recommendation, the Commission should keep the focus narrow. The arguments made by the Sophia Way representative before the Council could be used by Deputy Mayor Robinson to argue for more money for the first goal area. He said he was inclined to keep the focus on the first goal area, which includes emergency financial assistance.

Commissioner McEachran commented that residents of Bellevue who find themselves in need of emergency financial assistance are often those who cannot get into or advance in the job market. The underlying reason could be their need for supportive child care. He said he would favor seeking additional funding for goal areas 3, 4 and 5.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that his Bellevue employer has difficulty in filling lower-level jobs simply because applicants cannot afford to live in Bellevue. Housing affordability is a clear issue and will continue to be into the future.

With regard to goal areas 3, 4 and 5, Ms. O'Reilly noted that the full request was funded for Therapeutic Health Services. Ms. Catalano added that the Child Care Resources applications were fully funded as well, except for child care financial assistance.

Commissioner Piper indicated he was leaning toward emergency financial assistance as the most acute need.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested it might be possible to weave additional funds for child care assistance into a request related to emergency financial assistance. Where families have more scholarships available to them for child care, they will have more money to put into housing.

Chair Mercer said she was hearing from the Commission a desire to push for additional funds for emergency assistance, possibly including funds for child care assistance. While all programs that fall under Goal 1 are important, the Commission is interested in funding a more diverse set of needs that have been demonstrated in Bellevue. The Commissioners confirmed that position.

Commissioner Perelman said there are multiple organizations that come to the Commission seeking funding, and the Commission does all it can to be fair. In the current recommendation, Sophia Way is treated fairly.

Ms. O'Reilly said in addition to asking to have the Sophia Way shelter fully funded, the agency representative shared with the Council some compelling information

about the increase in need for the women's shelter. She noted that the shelter is currently operating close to capacity and could see additional demand as the weather turns cold. During October the shelter has been averaging 45 women per night. An additional \$10,000 was sought from Bellevue to help the budget through the end of the year. She added that in 2015 the agency sought an additional \$15,000 in the form of an emergency request.

Ms. Catalano calculated that it would take \$128,494 to fully fund the emergency financial assistance programs.

Commissioner McEachran argued that Hopelink, Solid Ground and LifeWire all have multiple levels of service with some collaborative support for those seeking sustainable housing.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that funding LifeWire would benefit Sophia Way by helping to prevent homelessness. Commissioner McEachran said the LifeWire program provides first and last month housing payments, which enables people getting into housing.

Commissioner Perelman said her concern with Attain Housing was that their request in part was to hire an additional FTE. She said she would prefer any additional funds for that agency go directly to client services. Ms. Stangland said the Commission could direct the agency to use any additional funds to serve clients.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that while technically a new program, St. Vincent de Paul was funded previously with funds earmarked for the after effects of the recession. The program has not been funded since. Commissioner Kline added that the program is run by volunteers and all funding for the program flows directly to clients.

Chair Mercer said the concern of the Commission previously was that the program only served one zip code area. Commissioner Kline agreed but pointed out that it is a Bellevue zip code. Intern Natalie Minas added that the program involves less red tape, making it easier for clients to get funding.

Commissioner Perelman suggested seeking an additional \$30,000 to fund Attain Housing, St Vincent de Paul and LifeWire with \$10,000 each.

Commissioner Ma asked if the Commission should be more aggressive and ask for more. Commissioner Kline suggested that at \$128,494 to fund all of the programs, it could be argued that \$30,000 would go a long way. She proposed giving the Council the full range between those numbers.

Commissioner Perelman said she would not support giving additional funding to Solid Ground or Salvation Army for all of the reasons highlighted during the allocation process. Ms. Catalano noted that pulling those programs from the mix would give a new total of \$107,812.

Commissioner Kline voiced concern with the LifeWire program in light of the fact that it serves fewer clients with each dollar it receives. Commissioner Perelman also noted that the full request from the agency represents a 308 percent increase over the previous funding level, an increase not considered for any other program. She said to fully fund the program would not fit with the Commission's logic.

Commissioner Ma noted his support for giving additional dollars to the LifeWire program.

Ms. Catalano said giving a COLA increase to Attain Housing would bring the program to \$8520.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners that two years ago the Commission put forward a request for a list of projects that totaled some \$200,000. The Council chose to allocate an additional \$150,000. She suggested it might be prudent to ask for more in case the counteroffer is less so that there will be enough to make a difference for an agency. Ms. Catalano pointed out that during that process the issue went before the City Manager and the management team rather than the City Council.

Commissioner Kline said she would prefer to see the Council handed a number bolstered with solid rationale.

A motion to indicate it was the consensus of the Commission to ask for an additional \$30,000 for financial assistance programs, to be distributed with \$10,000 each for the Attain Housing Welcome Home program, the St. Vincent de Paul St. Madeleine Sophie program, and the LifeWire Housing Stability program, was made by Commissioner Ma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

By way of rationale for not recommending additional funding for Sophia Way, the consensus was that the Commission believes the program is adequately funded; the Commission had recommended funding at a level higher than in previous years; the amount of funding for the program is equitable in relation to the shelter programs serving other populations; and the program benefited from the additional funds allocated during the previous funding cycle.

Chair Mercer commented that the needs in the community are great and said the Commission wishes it could be given a lot more money to allocate to address those needs. The fact that the Commission is only asking for an additional \$30,000 is a reflection of the fact that the Commission is trying to be good stewards of the city's dollars. She added that had the Commission been given more time, it would have been able to prepare a more robust description of how even more additional funds could be used.

