



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 04/11/05
No.: 05-191
Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Communication

Roll Call

Submitted by: Eric A. Anderson, City Manager

SUBJECT—

City Council approval to implement Churches United Shelter and Primary Health Care transportation projects for the homeless.

SYNOPSIS—

Receive and File the Affordable Housing and Homeless Partnership (AHHP) Homeless Transportation Plan and authorize Churches United, Inc. and Primary Health Care to proceed with 2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – funded transportation projects for eligible homeless persons.

FISCAL IMPACT—

A total of \$48,000 (\$24,000 for both Churches United and Primary Health Care) of 2005 CDBG funding was set aside by the City Council on November 8, 2004 at the public hearing approving the 2005 HUD Consolidated Plan, contingent on development of a plan to provide transportation for the homeless.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND—

On November 8, 2004 by Roll Call No. 04-2428, the City Council approved the 2005 HUD Consolidated Plan which included a set aside of \$24,000 of CDBG funds for Primary Health Care and a like amount for Churches United to purchase and/or lease vans to transport their homeless clients to jobs and services. Based on recommendations from both the Neighborhood

Revitalization Board and myself, the Council made this funding award contingent on the development of a transportation plan that would ensure that various transportation resources would be fully utilized and duplication would not occur.

The Affordable Housing and Homeless Partnership (AHHP) appointed a Transportation Committee to develop the plan. The committee held its first meeting on November 23, 2004 and laid out the parameters of the plan in several subsequent meetings. A survey of homeless agencies conducted in February 2005, provided an inventory of transportation resources available to the homeless and identified gaps in service. A copy of the survey instrument and a compilation of results are attached. Also attached is a copy of the plan which outlines the next steps in implementing the service, monitoring progress and evaluating performance.

The MTA will be involved in presenting information to the AHHP Roundtable, an information and networking group made up of all homeless and support service agencies in Polk County, that will describe the various transportation programs currently available to the homeless. The MTA will also analyze information provided by agencies to coordinate routes and destinations for homeless persons where bus service is needed but not available.

Based on the information provided to date, it appears that AHHP has developed a workable plan, which contains the elements needed to ensure that homeless transportation will be coordinated and address needs to the extent that current resources allow. I will direct Housing Services staff to remain involved in the development of the plan and provide periodic reports on the progress of the effort.

I recommend that the project agreements with Churches United and Primary Health Care for the purchase/lease of vans for homeless transportation services be implemented.