

Sonoma County Community Development Committee



Human Services Dept. Representative: Oscar Chavez (Chair), **Tenant Representatives:** Stephanie Hiller, Jessica Vega
1st Dist: Betzy Chavez (Vice Chair) **2nd Dist:** Michael Regan **3rd Dist:** Vacant **4th Dist:** Willie Lamberson **5th Dist:** Linda Garcia
Executive Director: Geoffrey M. Ross

Public Meeting
Wednesday, January 15

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Oscar Chavez called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and roll was called

CD Committee Members Present: Oscar Chavez, Betzy Chavez, Linda Garcia, Michael Regan, Jessica Vega

CD Committee Members Absent: Willie Lamberson, Stephanie Hiller

Staff Present: Barbie Robinson, Interim Executive Director; Tina Rivera, Interim Assistant Director; Felicity Gasser, Equity and Compliance Manager; Michael Gause, Ending Homelessness Manager; Martha Cheever, Housing Authority Manager; Valerie Johnson, Senior Community Development Specialist; Holly Kelley, Senior Community Development Specialist; Darrin O'Hara, Administrative Aide

2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Linda Garcia wanted to go on record thanking the Community Development Commission staff for their hard work and dedication.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2019 Meeting

Linda Garcia moved to approve the minutes from November 20, 2019. Betzy Chavez seconded the motion:

Ayes: Oscar Chavez, Betzy Chavez, Linda Garcia, Michael Regan, Jessica Vega

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Willie Lamberson, Stephanie Hiller

4. Report on Joe Rodota Trail

Michael Gause, Ending Homelessness Program Manager, presented an update on the efforts being made to address the growing homeless encampment on the Joe Rodota Trail. The Emergency Operation Center has been activated for a week and a half and most work is flowing through their operations. The Board of Supervisors held a meeting about the conditions of the trail on January 14th and authorized the purchase of two houses with the hope of moving 15-20 people into those houses. They also authorized the location of an "outdoor shelter" at Los Guilicos to begin immediate relocation of up to 60 individuals from the trail by the weekend. St. Vincent de Paul was selected as the program manager. The Committee asked whether the Valley of the Moon Children's



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facility had been considered, if Geoffrey Ross would be brought back, and whether the county interdepartmental teams were working with partner service agencies such as COTS and Catholic Charities. They also asked if the house purchases had been tried as a model for the County and what an indoor-outdoor shelter would look like. Oscar Chavez requested that the Committee get a monthly update on the status of the declared homeless emergency.

5. Report on HOME Sonoma County Leadership Council Funded Projects

Felicity Gasser, Equity and Compliance Manager, presented a brief summary of the HOME Sonoma County Leadership awards from 2019. A memo included in the agenda packet provides an update for what is going on with those funding streams and the decisions made by the Leadership Council.

6. Update on CDBG-DR –Felicity Gasser

Felicity Gasser, Equity and Compliance Manager presented an update on CDBG-DR. We have been given program guidelines and have asked jurisdictions allocated funds to respond to October 2017 fires to submit a notice of intent to apply for funds. Sonoma County was allocated \$4.698 million for multi-family housing development. The CDC is required to do an open and competitive solicitation for this, but these projects need to be completed by 2025, so these need to be shovel ready and fairly far-along. The solicitation process will be similar to how we do CDBG, HOME and CFH and will have our own threshold criteria. Projects with a Permanent Supportive Housing component will rank higher. We will then submit a list in our order of priority which this committee and the board will approve. HCD will vet for compliance with federal regulations, and funds should roll out in the summer.

7. Adjournment

Oscar Chavez read a letter to CDC staff submitted by Committee member Willie Lamberson, and adjourned the meeting at 10:46AM



Oscar Chavez

From: Willie Lamberson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Oscar Chavez
Cc: Don & Linda
Subject: Letter to CDC committee and staff

Dear Committee members and staff,

Last week we lost one of the Best of the Best. Geoffrey Ross was truly an inspiration to us all. Let us as a group dedicate a continuing effort to implement the innovations that Geoffrey started. To our CDC staff, keep up the great work. We need your support. To my colleagues, keep up the thoughtful reflections of all work brought before us. Make every effort to attend every meeting. Our decisions will become more important as we continue to seek housing solutions. While I am profoundly disappointed at CDC's loss I am hopeful of the future.

Respectfully,

Willie Lamberson
CDC Committee member

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