

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hudson at 1:33 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Wendy Hudson, Chair
George Kaimiola, Vice-Chair
Faith Chase
Lisa Darcy
Joyce Kawakami
Mary Trotto
Scott Hansen

Excused:

John Decker
John Tomoso

Absent:

Henry Costales
Zhantell Lindo

Present Staff:

Lori Tshako, Director
Mimi Desjardins
Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Kim Ferguson, Secretary

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no public testimony presented.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hudson adjourned the Public Hearing at 1:39 p.m.

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REGULAR MEETING

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III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Keisa Liu provided testimony to agenda item IV.

Ms. Liu spoke about Amala Place and how the County's actions caused not only to residents but to all involved, traumatic. She expressed that it was poorly coordinated and it lacked communication. She expressed that majority of the residents there were female and that the workers were mostly male. She stated that the County needs to

do better, and that there needs to be follow up with the residents to make sure that those who entered into a temporary shelter did not end up on the streets again.

Member Chase thanked Ms. Liu for her testimony and asked for an update on Amala Place as of today. Ms. Liu responded that some residents moved behind the iron wood trees but must move by 9/24 or will be cited.

Kahala Johnson provided testimony to agenda item IV.

Mr. Johnson stated that the actions taken by the County at Amala Place also known as Pu`uhonua o Kanaha were illegal. He expressed that the CDC guidelines were not followed, and that a moratorium against sweeps needs to be maintained. He stated that the County need to tend to the needs of houseless residents and that the County has the kuleana to undo trauma caused by the Mayor.

Stacey Moniz provided testimony to agenda item IV.

Ms. Moniz introduced herself as the Office Manager of Councilmember Johnson's office. Expressed that Councilmember Johnson has been working hard to decriminalize homelessness and has advocated for managed encampments and referred to discussions at the June 28, 2021 Affordable Housing Committee meeting. She explained that Councilmember Johnson's office is committed to working with the Commission and collaborating with other stakeholders to find solutions.

Stan Franco provided testimony via chat. An agenda item number was not provided.

"Sorry, but I cannot continue on line with you. I just want to say that over the past 35 years of my housing advocacy work has been based on this idea of housing is a human right. In 1986, I and Fr. Bob Turner started the first homeless shelter on Maui. We are still after 35 years not assuring that all of our people have a safe shelter for themselves and their families. I encourage this Commission to make this principle – Housing is a Human Right – their guiding light to create healing solutions for the homeless. Thank you for your work."

Noelani Ahia also signed up to testify but left the call prior to her turn.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Resource Mapping Subcommittee – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Kawakami, and Trotto
Commissioner Kawakami reported that the subcommittee met on September 7th and 20th. Further reporting was inaudible.

- Diversified Housing Solutions Subcommittee – Members Darcy, Decker, Lindo, Tomoso, and Chase
 Commissioner Darcy reported that she met once with Commissioner Tomoso and provided an update on discussion centered on the following objectives:
 - Research diversified housing solutions across the state and make recommendations to Administration & Council. Also request that DHHC do research
 - Possibly revive the Old Maui High School project started by former Mayor, Alan Arakawa
 - Ceasing cycle of sweeps/compassionate relocations and apply trauma informed care
 - Incentives for community member assistance
 - Consistent presentations from DHHC on sweeps
 - Regular reports from MPD on homeless activities
 - Strengthening `ohana through ho`oponopono and using trained healers to assist with mending families
- Social and Community Impacts Subcommittee – Members Darcy, Decker, Kawakami, Tomoso, and Chase
 Commissioner Darcy reported she met with Commissioner Tomoso and provided an update on discussion centered on the following objectives:
 - Provide policy and recommendations to Administration on various features regarding housing and homelessness
 - Taking on a mental health approach will require funding
 - Identify stakeholders in the community to collaborate
- Sustainable Housing Temporary Investigative Group – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Decker, and Darcy
 Commissioner Chase provided her report via chat as follows:
 “Purpose of TIG is to research realistic housing solutions.
 Scope of work includes making periodic reports of findings to the following active government bodies: Maui County Affordable Housing Committee, Maui County Department of Agriculture, Maui County Department of Public Works, Department of Environmental Management, Department of Waste Water Reclamation and Dept. of Housing and Human Concerns. By doing so these entities may operate with improved preparedness on action priorities. The tasks to begin include selecting a Chair, in which as the introducer I am prepared, willing and organized to do this. The tasks identified within Housing Solutions are divided into four areas: Housing examples (options), sustainability, water and waste.

If selected as Chair, I would like to explore an online working group portal that is can ultimately be a written record of TIG work and will aid greatly in reporting goals”.

Discussion on election or choosing of TIG Chair ensued. Chair Hudson suggested that the TIG meet and nominate a Chair of the TIG before the next meeting. Commissioner Chase referred to the advisory of Deputy Kunkel. Deputy Kunkel responded that the TIG can decide among themselves who their Chair is.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Stan Franco, President of Stand Up Maui (SUM) Housing is a Human Right Letter – Member Tomoso
Mr. Franco left the meeting prior to discussion of this item.
- Presentation by Carol Hayashida of Unite Us
Ms. Hayashida introduced her agency and its staff members, Ms. Moira Kenney and Krystal Alcayde. She shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Commission and followed up with a Q&A session.
- The New York Times Grandfamily’ Housing Caters to Older Americans Raising Children Article – Chair Hudson
Chair Hudson was experiencing technical difficulties however expressed that she felt the article was interesting to share with the Commission and she referred to Hale Mahaolu’s policy regarding grandkids.
- Convert all current Subcommittees into Temporary Investigative Groups
Deputy Kunkel explained the reason for conversion, citing a result of an opinion from Office of Information Practices (OIP) (06-02) relating to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (92). Discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hudson adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m. No motions made or votes taken.