

EQUITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Committee Minutes

March 22, 2022

Call to Order

Councilwoman Raquetta Dotley, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m. in the Council Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present, including Council Chairman Chip Henderson and Council members Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Others present were Phil Noblett, Special Council to City Attorney, and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist. Council Vice Chairman Ken Smith was not present.

Others in Attendance

Community Development: Tony Sammons (Administrator), Erskine Oglesby (Deputy Administrator), Donna Casteel (Chief Code Enforcement Officer), and Chris Brown (Community Center Director), Ty Armour (Community Center Director), Rachel Howard (Director of the Office of Family Empowerment), Carol Hunter (Director of Operations & Performance); Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga: Megan Jones (President & CEO) and Dwayne Marshall (VP of Community Investment); and Cosette Consulting: Alexa LeBoeuf (President)

Eviction Prevention Initiative (EPI)

Ms. Jones, Mr. Marshall, and Ms. LeBoeuf gave a presentation on EPI that included information on the following:

- History of the program
- Impacts on the program
- Partnerships
- Goals
- Clients/Target Population
- System Level Change

A discussion ensued, wherein the following questions and concerns were addressed:

- Court Snapshot (Councilwoman Hill)
- Rates of Negotiation (Councilwoman Hill)
- Eviction Court Process (Councilwoman Hill)
- Legal Municipality Representation (Councilwoman Hill)
- Process for filing (Councilman Ledford)
- Client Communication (Councilman Ledford)
- Soft job skill training (Councilman Henderson)
- Services provided along with other partners (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Housing Burden (Councilwoman Hill)

Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Community Development Updates

Mr. Sammons, Ms. Casteel, Mr. Brown, Mr. Armour, Mr. Oglesby, Mr. Howard and Mr. Hunter gave a presentation on the Department of Community Development that included information on the following:

- Department of Community Development
- Meet our Leadership Team
- Code Enforcement
- Community Centers
- Neighborhood Services
- Office of Family Empowerment
- EMPACT (Economic Mobility Program for Advancement & Career Training)

A discussion ensued, wherein the following questions and concerns were addressed:

- Code Enforcement on Signs (Councilman Ledford)
- Enforcement for Inoperable vehicles (Councilman Hester)
- Shade Tree Mechanics
- Code vs. Zoning Enforcement (Councilwoman Berz)
- Code Change (City Attorney)
- Partnership between Youth & Senior Citizens (Councilman Hester)

Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Dotley adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.