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## Safety and Well-being Committee Summary Minutes

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**Tuesday, December 09, 2014 1:30 PM City & County Building, Room 391**

**Committee Members:** López, Chair; Faatz, Vice-Chair; Brooks; Kniech; Lehmann; Susman

**Committee Staff:** Gretchen Williams

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**Council Members Present:** Faatz, Kniech, Lehmann, Lopez  
**Members Absent:** Brooks, Susman

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### Presentation

Lopez introduced officers Jimenez, Waidler, Clark, and Gomez that are being honored by the Denver Police Department. Commander Pozen recognized the four officers for their involvement with the Orthodox community in West Denver.

**Employee Recognition: Denver Police Department**  
**Lieutenant Paul Jimenez**  
**Sergeant Robert Waidler**  
**Officer Michael Clark**  
**Officer Denise Gomez**  
*Commander Paul Pazen*

### Bill Requests

Chair Lopez introduced the bill and agenda. Welcomed Bennie Milliner and Chris Connor from the Department of Human Services Office of Community Impact to present on the contract extension for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

Faatz and Kneich asked to elaborate on funding mechanisms. Mr. Milliner stated that the Denver Road Home at 1601 Colorado Blvd. receives appropriations from public and private sources and a local the mil-levy. The mil-levy pays for wrap-around services. Wrap-around services include service workers, treatment programs, and other assistance. Primarily focused on behavioral health and substance treatment.

Lehman asked about the matriculation to these apartments. Mr. Milliner elaborated on the waitlist process for homeless citizens to determine those with the greatest needs as well as respecting the list priority. Moving the citizens to permanent supportive housing such as this.

Faatz elaborated more on the mil-levy and and the appropriateness of local funding for wrap-around functions.

A motion offered by Councilmember Kniech, duly seconded by Councilmember Lehmann, to file the bill carried by the following vote:

- AYES: Faatz, Kniech, Lehmann, Lopez(4)
- NAYS: (None)
- ABSENT: Brooks, Susman(2)
- ABSTAIN: (None)

**BR14-0993 Amends a contract with The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless to extend the term through 12-31-15 and add \$325,000, for a new total of \$650,000, to provide housing placement and treatment services for 60 chronically homeless adults in Denver.**

*Bennie Milliner and Jon Luper, Dept. of Human Services*

**Presentation**

**Denver's Road Home: Accomplishments, Status, Plans and Strategies for the Future**

*Bennie Milliner, Dept. of Human Services Office of Community Impact*

Mr. Milliner gave the presentation on Denver's Road Home.

Performance management led by external audits. Supportive services address the issues surrounding chronic homelessness. Surveyed homeless population is down in 2014, not necessarily indicative of a lower homeless population in Denver. Unsheltered number of homeless population is a major driver of facility needs.

Most emerging homeless population are young families. Urban Peak addresses much of the youth homeless population. Seniors are another population with an increase in population. The newly opened women's shelter reflected this population with the initial population.

Unsheltered population is around 360.

Standard shelters are at capacity, additional facilities are utilized during cold weather alerts.

Road Home is involved with the 25 cities initiative - a nationwide program to address homelessness in cities with large populations of homeless. The Road Home brought back lessons learned to initiate a regional program around Denver. 150 days in to the initiative.

Other initiatives include the Intervention Center, Rapid Entry Pilot, and other regional efforts. The Rapid Entry Pilot has been active for 90 days and provides data that will be used for future policy-making.

In 2015 the Road Home will continue to offer additional housing, including women's shelters. Will offer a "2.0" plan in July. Continue to work with other organization to address issues affecting the homeless population.

Challenges include decline in affordable housing and employment/housing barriers. Other systemic challenges are continuing to break down barriers in the regional system.

\*\*\* Questions \*\*\*

Faatz - The mapping out of public restrooms is a good tool. Where are we in developing a comprehensive system of public restrooms? Looking at the system utilized in Portland to possibly use in Denver. May be cost prohibitive, approximately \$100k each.

Faatz - Could you describe the influx of people and how this is addressed with a finite number of facilities? The troublesome nature of the influx is the aggressiveness in the younger populations.

Kniech - Question about the 25 cities initiative - what is the timeline of establishing a central intake system? Milestones are in 100-day increments. Max of three years.

Lopez - \$100k for a restroom seems like a lot. Can you explain? The drivers of cost are permanence and infrastructure improvements.

Lopez - Increase of homeless in the perimeter of the city. What is being used to outreach to this population during inclement weather? The staff are consistently out there, until 10PM. There are 18 staff participating in outreach.

Lopez - How do the outreach staff work with the police? The staff works collaboratively with the police. The Salvation Army also participates with rescue in inclement weather.

Lopez - Is there another number to use aside from the police? The non-emergency number is the primary contact.

Herndon - Are there a lot of people not wanting services? Yes - there are that 8-10% that are more 'survivalist' types that prefer to be on their own. Some of the new population do not understand the services that are provided.

Kniech - If we had the housing and it was safer we would help reduce homelessness more. The alcohol and mental services are key to helping address homelessness. Where are we at with the role of the Commission in addressing the homeless population? Discussing involving a small group of the Commissioners in the "2.0" plan. Will use the Commission as a sort of steering committee. The size of the Commission makes it hard to invigorate everyone (41 members). Needs to include substance and mental health members on the Commission.

Faatz - Thank you for listening to other solutions and looking in to innovative alternatives.

Lopez - Thank you for all the hard work. Citizens can donate to Denver Road Home privately through Salvation Army, Samaritan house, Delores project, McAvenue place, St. Francis center, Denver Rescue Mission, etc.