

Council Committee Meeting Approved Minutes



Human Services and Community Safety

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Hybrid Meeting

September 20, 2023

12 p.m.

Tempe City Hall 31 E Fifth Street Tempe, AZ 85281

Meeting Video: <https://youtu.be/AfWWm1b-TT4>

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL**

COUNCILMEMBER NAVARO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 12:01PM WITH COUNCILMEMBER NAVARRO AND GARLID BOTH PRESENT.

2. **REVIEW MEETING MINUTES**

COUNCILMEMBER Garlid MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.

- A. Comment Cards Submitted
Sarah Kaplan

4. **COMMITTEE SESSION ITEMS**

- A. Current Items and Updates

1. Lithium Batteries Presentation by Tempe Fire Medical Rescue

Deputy Chief Anthony Butch presented an overview on Lithium-Ion Batteries. He discussed the Fire Department incidents in the state and in just Tempe to date. Phoenix Fire Department is collecting the data for the 27 Fire departments. These Fire Departments are developing a unified approach to responding to Lithium Battery Fires. Safety first for the firefighters responding to the fires and to the community. There is research and data being captured to utilize the best practice to extinguish and dispose of waste from these fires. Lithium-Ion batteries are relatively new and increasing in numbers year over year. Public education is going to be a big part of this. Council Member Garlid wants the public to be educated and informed of the danger and how to protect yourself. Council member Navarro agrees and wants to make sure the fire department has the proper equipment and connected with proper Public and Private Partnerships. Deputy Chief Burch states this is all very new and fluid, but public education and Partnerships are being built into the process.

2. Sober Living Homes update Presentation by Community Health and Services Director Tim Burch

Community Health and Services Director, Tim Burch presented an update on Sober Living Homes Fraud Crisis. Sober Living Homes that are operating properly provide a great environment for individuals that are working to recover from their addiction. Unfortunately, there are some sober living homes that are operating fraudulently. In 2019 the Tribal leaders identified an issue with Sober Living homes and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System ACCHHS launched an investigation into irregular billing. It was founded that providers were preying on the most vulnerable populations. 50% of the victims had no tribal affiliation. May of this year Governor Hobbs announces operation Rainbow Bridge to help tribal victims find their way to friends and family. A Sober Living Crisis Taskforce was formed for communication, coordinate response, to identify/report, Investigate and enforcement. Identify gaps and solutions, and to make recommendations. The task force convenes monthly to work on these issues. Recommendations is to have ongoing collaborative response and work with intergovernmental affairs and legislative responses, Council member Garlid said education to the community is important, if you see something then say something. Tim Burch said the number to call is 211 option 7. Council member Navarro wants to know the progress and utilization of that phone number to make sure it is operational and successful with people reporting.

B. New Items for Consideration
No New Items for Consideration

C. Announcements
No Announcements

5. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023

6. **ADJOURN**
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:46 PM BY COUNCILMEMBER NAVARRO.