

Captioning Transcript of Budget Committee Meeting -
December 8, 2022

"Hollander, Bill"

Good afternoon. This is the regular meeting at the Louisville metro council budget committee. Today is Thursday December 8th it is 5:18 PM. This meeting is being held pursuant to KRS 61.816 and council rule 5A. I'm the committee Chair Bill Hollander. I'm gonna try to read, the names of everybody, who is here, but if I miss anybody, please just jump in and say you are also here, I'm doing this meeting very reluctantly remotely because, not feeling so. Well, but I'm happy to be here. So members that I see on screen councilman, council members Triplett, Fowler and then, I don't know who is in chambers. If you read, the people read the names of the people in chambers. Maybe that might help.

"Brown, Marissa"

Of course, we have committee member McCraney, committee member Piagentini, Committee member Arthur and committee member or vice chair Kramer.

"Hollander, Bill"

Okay, I do know that we have an excuse absence for Councilwoman Armstrong and I think Councilman Winkler will be joining us in just a minute.

"Brown, Marissa"

We have Committee member Engel just joined us as well.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much and you'll continue to add people in as they join in we'd appreciate that. We have 3 items today, 2 resolutions. The 1st, the Jefferson County sheriff's budget, then a resolution approving the Jefferson County clerks budget and finally 1 ordinance, and it relates to some changes in some AARP funding I do want to say at the outset here and seems like an appropriate thing to say at our, last budget meeting and my last budget meeting ever since we've spent so much time talking about CERS, we did get a word this week from the board, and it relates to what we're going to be talking about in terms of the clerk's office and CERS particularly the sheriffs, budget that the CERS contribution rate for 4 is going down in both cases down almost 6% in down CERS 3.45% in for, for hazardous down 3.45% for a nonhazardous and again, we'll get into how that relates to the sheriff's budget and the, Clerk's budget, but it's, clearly very good news. The 1st item is a, and I have put by the way attached to the agenda for the clerk side I'm just

this afternoon I've attached something from which shows, how that rate is going down and why it's going down. The 1st item is R-185-22, a resolution approving the Jefferson County sheriff's 2023 budget. Is there a motion to approve?

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Motion Arthur.

"Triplett, Kevin"
Motion to move, Triplett.

"Hollander, Bill"
Probably moved by accounts from a Triplett, seconded by councilman Arthur. The resolution is before us is Sheriff Aubrey in the chambers? Is someone from the sheriff's office? All right Sheriff Aubrey, the floor is yours.

"Aubrey, John"
Thanks chairman, vice chairman, those that are members of this particular committee. Put my readers on. Some of you'll recall this a opportunity to become before you and a few to review and approve our budget is the 19th time I've been here, but prior to 2003 yeah, 03, we went to fiscal court but after merger, then we were invited to come before you guys overall 2022 that's been a very positive year with the exception of our personnel vacancies. Currently, we have 62 deputies vacancies, but are in the process hiring 20 certified court security officers, and they will be doing their 1st year of employment going to start January and February. We also have 4 deputy recruits and basic training at Richmond who are scheduled to graduate in January. These additions will reduce some of the pressures we currently are experiencing was scheduling. During this year we were able to increase salaries for all our employees, and we're still dependent on which seniority here you look at where 68, even more than that thousand, annually below metro police and then there's some smaller departments that are that are paying even more than metro. Our proposed budget, we anticipate a 10% increase for all our employees. A review of the 2023 actual increases and expenses will determine the amounts and when the sheriff's office employs participate in what the chairman just mentioned County employee's retirement system, only full time positions are in that retirement system neither are a part time nor seasonal workers participate in the retirement system. Appreciate coming up with the latest figures for 2024, on editor, written and nonhazardous, we're always found out guess what they're going to do. Normally it's around July the year that we hear what those rates are going to be. I think that that

I hope everybody appreciates. We've had major upgrades this year, and a lot of them was to keep us compatible with Metro, safe in the communication system. We purchased 364 portable radios and some Council upgrades in our communication center. These additions, like, I mentioned that it keeps us compatible with natural safe and the cost was just shy of 2 million dollars. We replaced all our outdated Tasers with new versions and this was a 1,000,004. We are committed to keeping our fleet up to a safe and acceptable standard. We have a vehicle replacement program based on the vehicles, primary assignment, safety and road worthiness this year we're 840,000 for 15, new cars one K9 car in and a prisoner van. I've mentioned in the last few years, how much emphasis we try to put on training in specific areas. This year we purchased 12 laptop computers for online training and I'm currently I'm really in Owensboro doing my 40 hours this week, but they made a presentations yesterday that in 2024, 10% of the servers that the LGCLT puts out will be online in the next year 30%. I'll be online and to stay certified you got to have 40 hours each year in service. We're continuing to upgrade our software to Microsoft current products. We have purchased 50 mobile, digital terminals to replace our other models that need replacing. We're looking to add printers and scanners to the vehicles used by the process unit. In the area of revenue and employee benefits, our tax revenue continues to show an increase as they have over the last 4 years due to our property assessment values, increased home sales in various tax and jurisdictions, raising their rates. Since fees and commission revenue that the sheriff office receives are subject to a 75-25 split with Metro government we both are, both of us are gaining. We continue to put emphasis on our community relation and outreach and I think in my presentation last year I mentioned that we were in the process of bringing bishop David Lines in, as part of our sheriff's office family as Chaplin/community outreach liaison this job description includes support our deputies support staff in her families in areas, such as stress management, but also to assist with victims of crime, disasters, accidents and domestic violence. He serves as a liaison with the other clergy and between our office and the community this includes attending community events is our agency representative. He is challenged and enhanced and build in Louisville faith leaders and houses of faith that we experience now, 1 of his critical roles is he puts a strong effort in the area of recruiting and retention of minorities with our agency. I mentioned earlier about how much emphasis we put on training and support in the areas of training, both for deputies, commanding officers and our civilian. Our training includes firearms in service orientation

for new personnel. There is a strong, repetitive emphasis on de-escalation, use of force, weapon, retention 1st aid, including stop the bleeding and the duty to intervene to trigger words, intervene and the de-escalation, it's national and we've had a lot of if it says, put on that in the current 40 yards that were taken in Owensboro. 1 of our best cap programs is our reserve deputy we currently have 70 they get under the statute, you can hire a special deputy. He doesn't have to have any training. Our special deputies have to have 240 hours trained in, which they have to do at night and on the weekends and then our training staff says sheriff, we think they're ready. And to really make sure they know what they're doing the schedule is such that on Derby Eve and Derby day they're assigned to the track with other deputies and that's about a 12 to 14 hour shifts both days. But then they really look in the mirror and decide this is what I want to do. We did 74 charitable events. I got all kinds of stats, but in the interest of time, 74 charitable events, 27 community sponsored events. Metro events where we assisted, and I mentioned Derby, we do our part on thunder, boat raised, bad raise Vegas, spray, Mini marathon, balloon racing will light up Louisville all the river view festival the MLK piece wall and those ARS that were put into those events total 2487 dollars and I think the critical thing is. It didn't cost us 1 dollars. We did they get no salary by statute that cannot be paid. We had a deep dive details requested from other agencies. As you probably know, we've got river patrols, they did 29 events on the river, usually with Metro river patrol, and the Coast Guard for 762 hours. Our bike patrol did 536 hours and we assisted Metro they assisted Metro on 9 detail. Metro has a bike patrol, and it really helps when you can pair them up together. The motorcycle escorts did 1781 hours. The other details to probably goes a little bit I notice, but then them reserved deputies spent 29 over 2900 hours in the criminal unit and we literally have 2 that almost come in every work day and a with our shortage, you can imagine how critical that is to help us get our mission done. At the Kentucky State fair we had 664 hours. And during the election, we provide security for the warehouse we provide a deputy who rides with the columns, Europe's a Republican and a depth Republican and a Democrat if there's a complaint at a polling place, our deputy is transporting them. His 1 role is to maintain the peace they solve whatever the issues are or whatever the problems are. In closing personally, thanks for your time and support of the sheriff's office. We try very hard to be good partners with Metro government officials and agencies a special metro police. I respectfully, I asked you to approve our proposed 2023 budget that is submitted. Stay safe and stay healthy.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you sheriff. Clerks, you can help me if, if anyone joins the queue here. I did want to note that the documents you've presented, indicates that your preliminary assessment of your 4 year surplus to return to Metro is 4.4 Million dollars we, I can assure you, we can put that to very good use and I appreciate your, you're managing your office, in a way that can do that. Just to elaborate a little bit on what I said and of course this will affect your budget does not mean we need to change your budget or hold us up at all and the documents are attached now to the agenda. So hazardous rate right now is 4959, as of July 1st, 2023, it will go down to 4,369 instead of going up as you had estimated and non hazardous. Who said, 2699 now it will go down to 2334, which is also, considerably less than what you had estimate. Of course, you've got it interesting situation the rates are based on a fiscal year and you're on a calendar year. So your budget, over lapsed to, the 2 payment rates but that's all good news and, of course, will be great news for Metro as well next year when we're someone is putting together the budget. Is there anyone in the queue to address this matter metaphor.

"Brown, Marissa"

No, no one's in the queue.

"Hollander, Bill"

All right. If not, thank you very much for being here sheriff. This is a resolution that we can prove on a voice vote all in favor say, aye. Any opposed? Thank you Sheriff, thank you very much here for being here and congratulations.

"Aubrey, John"

Thank you Mister chairman and thank you the committee and vice chairman.

"Hollander, Bill"

The next item is R-186-22, a resolution approving the Jefferson County clerks 2023 budget. Is there a motion to approve?

"Winkler, Markus"

Motion, Winkler.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Second Arthur.

"Hollander, Bill"

Properly moved by councilman Winkler seconded by councilman Arthur the resolution is before us. I did want to note that, Council George, I think has joined us since we last recognized people here and councilman Winkler. The clerk, Bobbie Holsclaw is with us and, clerk the, the floor is yours.

"Holsclaw, Bobbie"

I come before the metro Council today to present our request for approval of the 2023 fee budget. Our budget request is for 8,724,100 dollars of which 21,360,900 dollars is for ongoing payroll and operating expenses 289,100 dollars is for new capital initiatives. And 7,072,100 dollars is to cover the election center expenses. Our expected surplus at the end of 2022 is approximately 6.9 Million dollars for the 4 year term. Our estimated revenue for 2022 is 25,700,000 of which 5.9 Million dollars is to cover the reimbursable election center expenses. Approximately 71.5% of the overall expenses are for personnel costs to maintain 322 employees. 27.5% is for operating expenses. And the remaining 1% is for capital for capital for emergency replacement as, you know, our duties and fees are set per KRS. The clerk's office has a wide variety of duties. We issue registration and plates replaced details. License and transfer used vehicles for dealer. Issue dealer tags, collect taxes, collect usage, taxes, filings on title collateral, issue disable person, parking permit, record all legal documents and file for public record, issue marriage licenses, notaries and professional licenses. We collect delinquent taxes and coordinate property assessment appeals. We also responsible for certifying and generating and personal property tax bills each year. Our office also oversees voter registration and the elections for Jefferson County. We request that you approve the budget as submitted.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you, thank you very much for Madam clerk and let me also comments since I did in connection with the Sheriff's budget you've also indicated that the estimated surplus 4, your surplus is 6.9 Million dollars. Which would be returned to Metro sometime during the next year and that's very much appreciated too. We can put that to good work as well. Are there questions for the clerk?

"Brown, Marissa"

A committee member Engel is in the queue.

"Hollander, Bill"

Councilman Engel, the floor is yours.

"Engel, Robin"

Thank you Mr. chairman, you know, I've been listening to this, this county clerk's budget address if you will, or presentation for, for quite some time, and really haven't ever made a comment, but I have to make a comment tonight, Bobbie 6.8 Million dollars surplus, you know, and it's 1 year after another that we get presented with surplus is from this from this department, and this, this, this clerk, I want to applaud you for that for many years of service. You know, you went over all the things that you did not long ago we sort of solved something on TV that, you know, had all those things that you do and one thing that you mentioned that, or what I saw on TV what you don't do is you don't get political. And it's, it's, it's evidence that you don't and you are respected throughout this community otherwise you wouldn't be in the position that you're in. You have many, many people of different registrations that work for you and make your office click and I will tell you raising 4 kids and not looking forward to April every year when I have to go into the clerk's office and renew and pay some heavy taxes I will say that the efficiencies, the efficiency of the clerk's office over the last several years makes that much less painful, Mister chairman. And so I just wanted to take the opportunity tonight to say, thank you to our county clerk for her outstanding, many years of service to Metro Louisville. Thank you very much Mr. chairman.

"Holsclaw, Bobbie"

Councilman Engel, I just want to tell you from my heart I appreciate those kind words thank you so very much.

"Engel, Robin"

You're welcome.

"Brown, Marissa"

Committee member Piagentini is next in the queue.

"Hollander, Bill"

The floor is yours.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you Mr. chair. Ditto to everything councilman Engel said I would I would also highlight, that the secretary of state, Michael Adams has been on the record in talking about the, the difficulties brought on by, I'll just say outside sources to the county clerk's office through this last election cycle. And I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the incredible work that all our county clerks, certainly ours in your office, Bobbie, and all the employees that work there. I know that you and similar clerks across the state we're bombarded with in many cases, frivolous, freedom from information act, requests and look, this is coming from a guy that is not happy with how we're handling that in Metro, and I am all about, you want to take a look at my email for free to look at it anytime you feel like it type transparency and at the same time, there's a difference between that and specifically targeting hardworking government employees for no reason whatsoever. So I just wanted to complement the work that your office did through the election cycle thought the returns came in promptly, which was great to see and, and all the clerks across the counties. So, let me start with that, the the only thing I wanted to confirm, Bobbie, Chairman Hollander mentioned you're running a surplus, will you be returning the surplus to metro?

"Holsclaw, Bobbie"

Yes, it will be returned to metro, when all the bills for sure are paid and whatever the, the rest of the revenue that comes in for the remainder of the year and the bills we're trying to close those books out now.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Well, thank you very much for that. And, I aired and not asking the share of the same question, specifically it was pointed out to him the surplus that he has but I think we need to get clarification if it's his intent to return it back to Metro because this is a, you know, I could wax poetic about our deferred maintenance needs, potential, recessionary pressures and other things and I think we should probably reach out since we did it during didn't do it during the committee hearing, reach out to the sheriff's office just to confirm. But I appreciate that Madam clerk really appreciate your stewardship of the office and, to return that surplus to Metro, thank you very much.

"Holsclaw, Bobbie"

Thank you so much, and for from all of the clerks and the deputy clerks, we thank you for your current comments.

"Hollander, Bill"

And Councilman Piagentini I did, I did referenced the fact that he would be returning that to Metro. Thanked him for that. That's actually in his document. I think it's statutory. And I think he has to return that the end of the 4 year, if there's a surplus, so I, you know, it's certainly appreciate it. Certainly as I said, I certainly appreciate the the surplus returned from the Clark too, and gas manuals, right? We've seen this year after year and, it's very much appreciated. Prudent fiscal management. Anyone else in the queue, councilman Arthur.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Thank you chairman I'll be quick and I just wanted to personally think as the county clerk for assisting corrections. We passed a resolution calling on corrections to make sure people had access to their voting rights and you jumped in and your office was so helpful in that effort, helping about 117 people get access to the ballot and we, thank you for that. And we, thank you for being committed to that going forward and we appreciate your work.

"Holsclaw, Bobbie"

Well, thank you very much. You know, it's, it's our desire to make sure that everyone is entitled to vote, gets to vote and that every vote does count.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much Councilwoman McCraney.

"McCraney, Paula"

A woman recruiting Thank you. Mister chairman. Your honorable Holsclaw I could not let this day go by, without just saying, hello and happy holidays to you and your family and thank you for running an efficient office and all that you do for our county best wishes.

"Bobbie Holsclaw"

Thank you. I cannot Thank you enough for recognizing it.

"Hollander, Bill"

I don't see anyone else in the queue. This is a resolution that we can approve on a voice vote. All in favor say, aye. Any opposed? The resolution is approved, and this will be on the consent calendar at our meeting next week. Clerk Holsclaw, thank you very much for all you do and for being here tonight and congratulations. The final item is, ordinance, 365 22. An ordinance amending ordinance number 168 series 2021, relating to

the 2nd, round of the American rescue plan ARP, local fiscal recovery by transferring a portion of the funds relating to compliance and reporting (LAT-0059) to premium pay (LAT-0056) to be administered by the office of management and budget. Is there a motion?

"Winkler, Markus"
Motion Winkler.

"Piagentini, Anthony"
Second.

"Hollander, Bill"
Okay. Properly moved by councilman Winkler and seconded by councilman Piagentini. We have an amendment by substitution on the system, which amends both the title for this and also, changes the schedule a. So, what this does is to change from the public health department 1,200,000-dollar appropriation to 900,000 dollar appropriation and then redirect that 300,000 dollars of ARP funding to winter, 2022 crisis, mitigation program, providing services to homeless individuals and families during the winter of 2022- 2023. Is there a, is there a motion to put this amended ordinance before us?

"Winkler, Markus"
Motion.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Second.

"Hollander, Bill"
Properly, moved and seconded all in favor of that to get this in front of us say aye. Any opposed? So the amended ordinance is now in front of us, it's got a new title, some new language and a new schedule, right? Monica Harmon are you in the audience to speak to us tonight? About this change? The floor is yours.

"Harmon, Monica"
Thank you, Monica Harmon office, a management budget. The ordinance as amended by substitution is the 1st item that we are addressing is transferring funds from compliance and reporting to meet the budget deficit that was created by the premium pay that exceeded the original appropriation. I do want to make a recommendation that that this is pulling away funds that we still are forecasting we're going to need in terms of compliance and reporting, but we needed to get the Treasury report that we report show that we had funds appropriated for the expenditures

that were made. And so we're making this adjustment. There is an anticipation and I speak to that in section 2 that we would have some funds remaining in the lat 59, which is premium excuse me 57, which is the premium pay for component units we are resolving and settling up with the firefighter suburban firefighter districts to get their premium paid distributed and depending on how that nets out with the related small cities and what their contribution is, is that there is expected to be some funds with this ordinance I'm requesting that any surplus that remains from that activity would then automatically be returned to the compliance and reporting of funds. So that those, we would have sufficient funds and acknowledge that we may end up if we don't allocate any further, we may have to eventually pay for compliance and reporting out of general funds. Again, that's not an immediate need and this gets us trued up and balanced out. The 2nd item I will defer to Dr. Buchino in terms of the item that's before regarding homelessness that was an amendment made outside of OMB. So any questions I'll be glad to answer them.

"Hollander, Bill"

I don't know if anyone is in the queue. Well, Councilwoman Fowler is in the queue. Let me make just 1 comment about compliance and reporting.

But this is not the only compliance and reporting money that has been appropriated for ARP just so everyone knows that there is also another 5 Million dollars, it's appropriate so this leaves 5 Million+ the 3,000,006 that would be left for potential compliance and reporting and I, I get it what you're saying is you may need all of that and potentially more the let me just and we've gotten a report on this council members, but the premium pay overage that we're compensating far tonight is basically for metro employees and the reasoning I mean, what happened is frankly, we, when this was initially passed I think it's fair to say that I want to be underestimated the number of people on, which would be in the highest tiers therefore, getting the most premium pay and when all that netted out it ended up costing us 6.4Million dollars more than we anticipated. Is that a fair general assessment of the situation?

"Harmon, Monica"

That's correct. The analysis and comparison is provided in the report that was submitted by OMB on November 1st there was e-submit ARP reporting and we provided a little bit more detail on that, but that is the just cause of the overage in that that there wasn't any, we just don't know estimated the allocation between the 3 tiers.

"Hollander, Bill"

Councilman Arthur, I'm looking at the queue where you on the queue for this. Did you already speak?

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Yes, sir.

"Hollander, Bill"

All right, thank you, the floor is yours.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Thank you so much, I just wanted to kind of tee us up before we hear from Dr. Susan Buchino between kind of level set with folks, you all know, we made historic investments in affordable housing last year, and even some funding this year, but our 2019 housing needs assessment was very clear that this is a multi Billion dollar need in 2019 it was 3.5 Billion forward estimates it's over 5 Billion at this point because of the cost of labor and lumber increasing. So as much money as we put into it, and we should be very proud of that we didn't even hit 3% of the overall need. We invested millions, but we desperately need billions, not only from local government, but also from state and federal government, until we get there we have a responsibility to make sure that people have access to shelter and that's what some of this funding will help with and to give some of those details shout out the councilman chairman Hollander for allowing Dr. Buchino to come and present.

"Hollander, Bill"

Councilman Piagentini.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

I'll reserve until Dr. Buchino between I was spoken, I'll come out of the queue wait for her to speak and then I'll come back in thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

Okay, Councilwoman Fowler, did you want to speak? U

"Fowler, Cindi"

I do. Thank you. I just have a question for Monica, I got an email from a constituent who was a retired firefighter, and he was questioning why the retired firefighters didn't, weren't included on the premium pay and I haven't answered him yet, I just got the email yesterday, but, you know, my recollection is that, you know, we, we did this to increase retention of our

employees and to reward them for the front, the front line workers, public facing workers. So that that was never considered was it, Ms. Harmon?

"Harmon, Monica"

No, we focused on the current, you had to be employed currently to receive that. So anybody who had retired prior to when the funding was provided for this, and it's been a while I can't remember the timeframe but there was a specific date you had to be employed, but to receive it so anybody who retired or separated was not eligible. I understand there were people that left and didn't, but we just had to cut it off at 1 point.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Mr. Chair, it's Kevin Kramer, would you mind if I interject?

"Hollander, Bill"

Yes, sir Councilman Kramer.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Thank you. I would point out to Councilman Fowler and others who may be listening in the retired firefighter that you spoke of, from 1 of the suburban fire departments perhaps they would want to understand that the process we used when we extended this to this premium pay to suburban fire they used exactly the same process that we use for all of our metro employees. So if we've got folks in the suburban fire district to our asking questions please make sure that they understand that we did not treat them in this process any differently than we did our own EMS staff. Our own fire staff, our own police department, public works the process that was used was a process consistent across that was one of the conditions I'll defer to Councilman Hollander, but that was one of the conditions when we worked with suburban cities to make sure that people understood the same process would be used for everybody who was receiving these funds.

"Harmon, Monica"

Thank you, that was correct. We were very equitable in treatment across all.

"Fowler, Cindi"

Yeah, so chair Hollander if I may respond so, he was talking about our Louisville firefighters, he's a retired Louisville firefighter wasn't a suburban, but I'm glad to know that it was, you know, everybody was treated the same. So that's all. Thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you. Councilwoman McCraney.

"McCraney, Paula"

Thank you Mr. chairman and along the lines of the inquiry from councilwoman Fowler, the letter I received from someone who inquired because he was in place during the pandemic, and he retired right at the end of the year and so he was wanting to know our work during that time, period that you are referring to for the payment, yet now I'm retired, why wouldn't I be considered? And so I would like that just to be publicly addressed.

"Harmon, Monica"

I don't I need to have more specific information to address it, but we specifically looked at the time a point in time where they were employed at that time and then they would receive that payment. If they separated before that date then they did not receive it they had other conditions to meet as well. They had to either provide a proof of vaccination or a declaration form. There was the complete step process they had to go through and then their director recommended them for which tier they would be eligible for based on the conditions that were laid out in the ordinance in what criteria was met.

"McCraney, Paula"

Follow up Mr. chairman? Yes, so are you saying that if he retired, if he's a, he's retired now, but during the period that they worked there was a time frame that he should have been employed before being considered for the premium?

"Harmon, Monica"

I, I don't know the timeframe, but what I'm saying is, is that if he separated before the date, that was the cutoff date that you had to be employed to receive the 1st payment, remember if you will re-call this was split over 2 payments so, if you received half a payment at that date, that you were still employed, you would get it then but perhaps you separated later, you were not eligible received the 2nd half of that payment so.

"McCraney, Paula"

And I too have no been able to respond so, is there any way we can get what those dates were so that I can let him he'll be satisfied?

"Harmon, Monica"

Absolutely. I'll be glad to provide that information.

"McCraney, Paula"

Wonderful. Thank you so much. Thank you. Mr. chairman.

"Hollander, Bill"

Let me see if who else might be in the queue at this point.
Committee Member Piagentini?

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Yes, thank you. Mr. chair. I just want to clarify something because I have a constituent suburban firefighter to reach out to me regarding this. There's some conversation that I've copied, the vice chair on the chairman is aware of councilman Winkler as the majority caucus chair, and we're getting some clarity here, but I will say one of the but I personally doesn't mean it's right I'm just saying this is my personal humble opinion is that 1 of the major differentiators on the not overuse equality or equity use whichever term you'd like and how we're distributing these dollars is that the dollars distributed to Louisville metro employees we're done a year ago we are now doing this for suburban fire. So that left an entire year of people retiring and separating who worked valiantly during the period of covid and I have story after story of people who had to take personal sacrifice either direct, financial or other personal sacrifice to work during that time, who have separated in that period of time between when metro got paid and we got paid we can debate all the live long day about why it was delayed part of it it's not fully metro's responsibility as to why it was but nonetheless it was government related or quasi government agencies that took this extra year to make decisions that differentiated between the day that Metro employees got paid and suburban fire employees got paid. So, it is true that everybody's being traded by the same rules the difference being we have, because of that year delay there may be many or at least some suburban firefighters who retired and or separated for other reasons who are not going to get compensated via the premium pay because of that year delay. And to me, I, I fundamentally believe that's a source of inequality or an equity, whichever word you'd like. I think it's fundamentally unfair to put it that way that we're using a different date that is much different than how, when we paid metro employees to determine that there may be also technical reasons why we can't go back and do it. So, if, I mean, you know, there may be nothing we could do, even if we wanted to adopt my idea, which is we go back to that original date. But, yes, my understanding is we're using the same rules all be it for the suburban firefighters and others who are watching this, the difference is

the date metro folks we did this a year ago, we are now doing it now, and if you were separated for whatever reason between that, and now at least, it seems like you won't be considered as part of the payment. So thank you. Mr. Chair.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you, I don't see anyone else in the queue. Dr. Buchino, do you want to speak about the 300,000 dollars appropriation?

"Buchino, Susan"

I would be happy to speak about 300 dollars or 300,000 dollars appropriation. I'm Susan Buchino. I am the director of the homeless services division in the office of resilience and community services.

Councilman Piagentini invited me to be here and he asked quite a few questions in an email. No, that's great, I love the questions because I would like to answer them and so I prepared some slides. Heads up 1 of the questions that you asked was about a strategic plan and metrics and I'd like to share that with, you because we have 1. All right. Oh.

I see. Okay, I see what I did, so. Okay, got it you're going to have to see it. So, I have to see it like that, so they can see it like this. Yeah. Perfect. I can, thank you. All right, so, 1st, I want to address a few myths. The 1st method we keep hearing is that housing 1st does not work. I want to start by saying, then that despite the myriad of reasons that people become or remain homeless hard data show that unaffordable housing is the main cause of homelessness. And so the solution to homelessness is housing and so, housing 1st is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry. This approach, removes unnecessary barriers and assumes that supportive services are more effective in addressing the needs when the individual or family is housed and when the daily stress of being homeless is taken out of the equation and this refers back to Maslow's hierarchy of needs for those of you who had to take a random psychology class at some point and housing is a basic need and until those basic needs are met, it's really hard to get to the next step. Housing 1st does not posit that supported services aren't offered. It, in fact, says that they should be offered however, it also says that a person has autonomy to decline those services but again, many times people on the street do review services, it's hard to connect. They've been traumatized. They've tried and failed and despite anybody saying that you can try and fail and fall and get up again there are so many times really that you can do that and to fit into that box. And so

when people are stabilized, they are more likely to accept services and this applies to a variety of housing models, whether it's scattered site, whether there's 1 building that's dedicated to housing with permanent support of housing and so councilman Piagentini, you recommended this book San Francisco, San Fransicko I'm going to say it. Okay. So I went to the Louisville public library and pulled out this book but I got your email on Tuesday. I did not have time to read the entire 300 page book by today. What I did have time to, as a researcher is look at the reference list for this book, so what I found is that very largely this gentleman sites, news articles, YouTube videos there is a page of references there, there are maybe a handful of studies that were done specifically targeting housing and successive housing for people with chronic and persistent mental illness. So not housing first and largely just different housing programs and houses were approached. So, I challenge you to take this then with a grain of salt, because as a journalist, you can find all sorts of evidence to support the theories without looking at research. So, the next myth I would like to address is that people experiencing homelessness choose to live on the streets no one grows up with the goal to be homeless. That is not something that we want to do. Right? So that said it happens to a lot of people and there are a lot of people even those working for metro government, as council member George pointed out earlier about equity pay, who are on the edge of housing stability because of the pay scale, and the fact that our minimum wage right now has not changed despite the cost of living that is inflated and very inflated right now. So before all the inflation, we said that it took about 15 dollars an hour to be able to rent a 1 bedroom apartment in Kentucky and housing costs, it's certainly risen. So let's talk about displacement versus chronic homelessness and displacement really refers to the people who can't meet your their utility bills can't meet that rent, make choices to make sure that their kids stay alive instead of paying that utility and rent and therefore then get evicted. We have a large population that that's occurring to right now. So solving chronic homelessness, and the people that have been on the street for a long time is difficult. It has the longer that someone is on the street the harder it is to house them. So, studies have estimated that about half of the sheltered, homeless and 40% of unsheltered, homelessness have employment. We are talking about people who are trying their best and not able to make it. Additionally 64% of the homeless population had a reported disability in Louisville, Kentucky. If you look at SSI, so people with a disability who haven't had their 40 quarters of work over their lifespan, make 841 dollars a month, they can get a rental subsidy, but the rate of

apartments is clearly more than that and so when we're talking about the disability population we are talking about a population that is doing their best but doesn't have the income to really survive and thrive. So I've also heard that we've thrown a lot of money at homelessness in the last couple years. What we've done is throw a lot of money at housing and by a lot, I mean, I am really excited that this year the ARP funds went to 40 Million dollars of the affordable housing trust funds so some new units coming on board what we've been talking about though, in homelessness is those who are at 30% or below the average median income and in the last several years we have actually only funded the development of 717 affordable housing units through the Louisville allowable affordable housing, trust fund and those units from 2020 may not be completed yet because it takes a while to build. We've also allocated 32 Million dollars of ARP funding to permanent supportive housing, many of those are new belts and that's great too. So we'll be adding more permanent affordable housing units. I also want to say that not everybody in that 0 to 30% AMI category is already homeless so, those people will also be interested in getting lower rates in their in their housing if they're homeless, if they're not homeless and increasing their ability to have flexible income. So as much money as we've thrown at it, and it feels like a lot as councilman Arthur mentioned are 31,000 unit shortage for that level of AMI isn't going anywhere. All right, I've also heard a couple of times that the storage facility is no longer in operation and that was confusing because I administer the funds from the homeless initiative, and it continues to fund the storage facility when the storage facility was initiated in 2019 it was 1st pulled up at the 1st link property on Liberty and that was anticipated to be a really great site, a really great use of the space that was dead and it wasn't so St. John's center was approached to stand up that operation they took that on, they found that it wasn't really aligned with their mission and their capability, especially because it wasn't on their property, but thought that Salvation Army who has a. Gated property, and a lot more parking lot space would be a better place, and a better solution for the service, especially because they do have overnight shelter and so people could leave their stuff in that overnight shelter area and go back and forth a little bit more easier throughout the community. I will say that as a partner agency, Salvation Army, like, so many of our partner agencies has been challenged to staff and they're at low capacity they're working on that consistently but so their hours of operation last year were a little tighter but the storage operation itself has never gone away. So this chart really shows you how much money has been allocated to homeless services

through the homeless initiative in the past 4 years and also, last year, thank you very much for the homeless services division, and adding additional funding. We've used the funding that it was appropriated to our division budget partly from division operations and a lot to continue to fill the gaps in the community and in the system of services and so almost a Million last year, and over a Million this year, we have also been able to dedicate towards filling those gaps in those needs. I will point out though, that almost half a Million dollars this year is really actually going to supporting camp clearing events and I'll talk a little bit more about how that works out. Director Lairds been here on the for all of this activity, and I have peripherally. Did you want to add anything?

"Laird, Tameka"

Actually no, I did want to add that the Salvation Army hours are on Wednesday, Monday well on Monday through Friday they're open from 9 to 12 and then housing state safety model 2 they're open from Wednesday through Friday 4 to 6. so those are their hours of operation for the storage, so it is open and it's running.

"Buchino, Susan"

All right. So I want to talk a little bit about this gentleman, Carter, as a case study 1st. Carter presents with both psychiatric and physical illnesses. He lives on the streets and has made his way through lots of services his story exemplify the barriers we faced in multiple systems. Homeless Services division was 1st introduced a Carter when we were called to remove a man from the stop near a hospital he was covered in his own feces and was unable to walk. EMS wouldn't pick him up because of the proximity to the hospital. The hospital took some coaxing to bring a stretcher out to the street and bring Carter inside to clean up. Once they did, they sent him on his way immediately an outreach team picked him up to stay overnight in a hotel and described his psychosis when they retrieved him from the emergency room it was still very evident. By the next morning in the hotel Carter had removed his colostomy bag without replacement supplies, clearly he was not capable of staying in an emergency shelter, nor our shelters equipped and staffed for that level of care. HSD Helped to take out a mental inquest warrant for Carter, but then outreach waited more than 24 hours for LMPD to serve the MIW and for EMS to transport him to the hospital for emergency psychiatric services. Even though an MIW, is for a psych assessment, when someone has physical needs, the hospital addresses those 1st and then discharges that person without necessarily sending them back for psychiatric evaluation. And so Carter was again, right back on the street.

I've talked to both hospital systems about Carter, and they are both very familiar with Carter, one pulled his case file to report that at 1 time the hospital social worker had called 50 nursing facilities before finding 1 in Indiana that would accept him as a resident, but, no, 1 had checked with Carter to learn that 1 of his paranoids was about crossing water and so he quickly refused to move to Indiana. HSD checked carter's record in the homeless services database and I learned that he 1st, encountered service in February of 2019 and had stayed in multiple shelters in the past. His record reflected that he was not assessed for housing and he wants them until September 2022. We failed Carter. We are failing many people like him. So, hearing his story helps when I present this slide now. This is our system of services with arrows depicting the various paths that someone might encounter providers. Sometimes there are direct paths more often though, someone bounces around the system unable to find all the supports and resources they need. While, all the services are valuable and had essential functions the goal is to see the provider circled in red for a housing assessment called the common assessment. The common assessment is the only way to be included in the homeless services fast track toward a housing voucher, because I think many of you might be familiar with the fact that section 8 voucher can take 3 to 4 years before you can get. So, although Louisville offers many valuable services that are meeting the needs at many points within the continuum of care and among other agencies few gaps have become hurdles and meeting the goals of getting someone into permanent housing. The most obvious being the lack of housing inventory, but also, Louisville needs some, the capacity and coordination to provide the supports to move someone quickly into housing when someone needs to take on this complicated system. The length of time it takes to find the appropriate supports to identify a permanent housing option, results and prolonged homelessness. Moreover, instead of using opportunities to extend assistants and foster trust, the owner of the requests for help is on the client. So instead of the system of supports providing a coordinated effort to navigate resources and remove barriers and identify solutions, the individual experiencing the trauma of homelessness may repeatedly slip through the cracks as multiple opportunities for developing relationships and supports are missed. In the past year HSD was able to apply an approach to make sure that people were stabilized as we cleared camps and so this is another little case study, but really this was a harm reduction strategy and tested the system with high levels of coordination and accountability by contracting with outreach providers to move an account resident to a hotel for 9 days just prior to the camp clearing. During the 9 days coordinated with

providers to work out of the hotel to provide the services. Although the hotel will stay with short term it provided stability so that people felt safe with a locked door and were able to shower, sleep in a bed and know meals would be available once their basic needs were addressed and they were out of crisis, they were more likely to accept the services offered. These pictures are from the encampment under 64, along the riverfront between 10th and 15th streets and commonly known as Mercer in the community. This encampment was generally out of sight and therefore out of mind and became one of Louisville's oldest hiding spots for individuals experiencing homelessness. And as, you know, this area is now in preparation for the next phase of the waterfront park expansion. Preparation for the clearing of this camp took months of conversation and strategizing. We worked really hard with water parks to do that, and during the 21 day notice period, the HSD team collaborated with partners to complete needs assessments on 76 individuals and help 2 folks use the vouchers that they had already been granted to move into housing. When it was time to vacate the premises for clearing, only 34 individuals moved into a hotel. The rest decided to stay out or move along, during the 9 days in hotel, 13 individuals were connected with housing referrals and then able to stay in the hotel while working with the housing navigation team to find them an apartment, but at the end of the week, 21 individuals were back on the streets. The encampment clearing was 1 of 9 camps that HSD has approached with this methodology in 2022. This picture is of data from the reports from 301 for fiscal year 2022. Despite efforts, unsheltered, homelessness continues to grow throughout Jefferson County and will continue to grow. Our projection that Louisville's homeless census will grow by 2000 people between fiscal year, 2021 and fiscal year 2023. Is based on a recent study by the U. S. government accountability office that a 100 dollars increase in media and brand where's the results in a 9% increase in homelessness. Mobiles media and monthly rent has increased just under 150 dollars since the most recent pick count in February 2022, but nearly 400 dollars since 2019 and there are just simply more people experiencing homelessness than shelters can accommodate. So, we're busy doing a lot of things to address encampments, but not achieving much. More than 1.3 Million will go toward camp clearing efforts in 2022 there is also a number of costs to the city that are not in this total such as those assumed by the LMDC Department of corrections and the impact of street homelessness on businesses.

Dr. Buchino, this is a very good presentation. Let me say, Piagentini needs to leave in a minute and he has a question or a comment. He'd like to make and then I'd certainly like to come back to this presentation.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you. Mr. chairman. I apologize for the time crunch. So, I had a bunch of things here. I'm going to summarize a little bit 1st of all I'm not sure and maybe it's coming later in the presentation, but I want to read because not, I didn't copy everybody on the committee. What I said in my 1st email, because we agree on many things we probably still disagree on 1 or 2 things, but this is what I asked for I said, quote, "I think the best way to think about this is 1st, let's lay a line in the sand and agree on the data points, we are trying to solve for could be the spot homelessness count the total average homeless count, or for some variety or group of metrics that tell us if we're doing better or worse and we'd be better if we agreed on those metrics and backed them up a few years to see how the last 5 or 10 years have performed, then how we're moving forward". Right so because the fundamental question is, is it getting better or worse?

"Buchino, Susan"

Worse.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

So, let me just ask that quick question. Is it getting better or worse? Okay so, we have the highest wage growth in the history of America. We have, or at least modern economic data. We have the lowest unemployment. We have twice as many job openings as we do job seekers. We're spending more on affordable housing than we've ever spent. I realize there's many many factors this is, this is why I said it's got probably a multitude of factors, but when we're spending record amounts of money on the issue, and the other economic factors that typically increase homelessness such as unemployment, or a lack of wage growth, because you mentioned the minimum wage ups right now starts people at 19 dollars an hour and doesn't even do a background check I know, because I have a family member who has a criminal record is recently homeless and got a job with them in hours and start getting paid 19 bucks an hour, and they are 1 of many major national employers that are paying in the 19-20 dollars range an hour and not even doing background checks and don't steal from them. So, the, I do want to come to a question because I didn't say it again I'm not going to read my whole E mail I forwarded it to a few other colleagues who are here I

didn't say that that sorry, what's housing 1st, I didn't say that housing 1st is always wrong I just said that in some circumstances, particularly when we're talking about mental health and addiction, and to be clear Sampson, and I'm pulling this data right Sampon.Gov and you a bunch of long list of stuff, quote, Over 8, so, according to analysis from the big acronym of the study, "Over 60% of people who are chronically homelessness have experienced lifetime mental health problems, over 80% have experienced lifetime, alcohol and or drug problems". Again, I will use the anecdotal family circumstance to prove my point, but I think Carter, because he brought him up as a case study, is another perfect point, stick him in the house 1st or any what he needs is inpatient psychiatric care, first and then when he's mentally stable, right? I'm sure. He needs to stable housing. There's no question about that. You could even call it housing and mental health simultaneous, right? Or something like that. I said in my email, I said the state has a map States, the biggest funder of state through federal government through Medicaid, biggest funder of mental health services, again we're spending record amounts of money in mental health ever in the history of America, frankly, don't have enough mental health providers, don't have enough inpatient beds, all issues that just as councilman Arthur said we need to state to help us solve. Again, my point was, I am not against voted for almost all these funding sources to increase housing and I would like to explore with why the 1st, you know, if there's extra dollars by the 1st, couple of dollars, maybe the 1st 700,000 goes to get the emergency shelter to a Million then we'll deal with reporting. Right? Because, you know, 1 may be more important than the other in my eyes. But so again, I'm coming back to you if it's getting if I see macroeconomic data, like, locally, we're spending more than ever the state's spending more than ever in mental health other macro economic data, including local unemployment wage growth and all this is historically never been better and the situation is getting worse, I'm just questioning whether or not we're going about this the wrong way and whether or not, we need to deploy things in a different order, or in a different manner to solve the problem.

"Buchino, Susan"

Absolutely. We do and, fortunately, at the state level, they have now had a resolution to move forward with creating a Medicaid waiver to address chronic persistent mental illness and provide more community based services with that waiver, unfortunately, it's not going to happen right now I mean,

they'll work on it, it takes a minute Medicaid state and federal partnership and so the feds will still have to approve that. And I agree Carter needed to be stabilized first, but permanent housing looks lots of different ways it doesn't have to be his own house it just needs to be that stability factor. Right? Addressing that on the street and having to find him to make sure he takes medication every day isn't going to happen.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Agreed right? And again, that's why I call it sort of simultaneous right? Patients psychiatric care housing because I would agree it is, if you're sleeping there, that's where he's housed, right? And there's no question that again, there's Councilman Arthur talks about this and he's right there's multiple levels of housing affordability, which is the whole other. So we're talking about homelessness right now, and there's housing affordability, which is sort of the overlay. You have almost being the worst case scenario than you have what I'll call couch surfing or, you know, home sharing right? Not your home you have, no, you're not on the lease. Again, I know people who have done this in my own family been in the circumstances, but that's how they had to live for a period of time. Next is of your housing burdened as I think counselor North were talking about it, you're spending too much of your disposable income, again the question I have some issues with the total number in the housing study in that, I don't think we're talking about every individual being in a house they can afford we're talking about family units, households being in the report, and I've sent it to a couple economists that they all say the same thing there's a lot of confusion between individuals and households in the study, right? And if you could flip the 2 things you have a big data problem, because we're not saying that every individual should be in their own 1 bedroom or 2 bedroom place we're saying that households defined in the most open way you can define that. Right? That multiple people live in 2 or 3 people live in a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment right? Which is not an uncommon thing, right? Cohabiting adults or spouses live in 1 bedroom apartment, it's 2 people at a 1 bedroom or a studio for that matter. Right? So there's layers in complexity of this again what I was saying is I appreciate the case studies, I appreciate your advocacy, as I said, in the bottom of my E mail to quote, "I will want to express my sincere appreciation for your help with this I have the highest level of admiration for those do hard work, and I hope that the rest remainder of how well, when so you have the resources, you need the homeless see a pathway off the street, and the city sees a

truly compassionate place for all to live in work" because it's not compassionate. You mentioned people refusing services on the street. It's not compassionate to accept that New York City is implementing and I think they're on the cutting edge of this implementing required mental health treatment for those with chronic mental health issues if they are homeless. I am about as freedom, loving as the next person is but if you are literally out of your mind, you don't have the capacity to make that choice. When you're are stable, you have the capacity then to make the choice about where, and how you want to live, but living on the street, when you said people don't choose it you right nobody grows up nobody said people grow up doing it but, having myself, I mean, I'm not sands having worked in homeless communities and work to support the homeless I have had homeless people deny services that were exactly what they needed to get off the streets and so I'm not saying that they were doing it rationally because I believe wholeheartedly, they were not, but it is not compassion enough to accept that as an answer. Right? So I'm just going to wrap this up because I have to go I want you to get back to your presentation and I apologize for my, it's my time limit I have to go get my daughter from volleyball practice, but the I what I want to make sure we continue to do the case studies are great all that is wonderful, but in the future, and I think that they're doing budget hearings and when we review right departments thing, quarterly or semi annual basis. There should be, it shouldn't be more than a couple slides, really right here is the numbers that we're trying to affect, here's the strategy and we're getting worse better worse. You're saying we're getting worse because you are the numbers that show we're getting worse here's the things we're recommending to adjust to make the numbers better and I think we need a little more simplicity around that so that we can help you both locally, and, you know, look the sessions about coming to Frankfurt. I'm going to be going to be there advocating for Louisville and all kinds of ways and I would be glad to advocate for more mental health services as an example. So so I think we just need to tighten that up a little bit and I think, you know, we can all be on the same page on it.

"Buchino, Susan"

I agree with all of that and I appreciate your willingness to invest the time to even email me all those thoughts and I do think that we are on the same page for a lot of things. I wanted to show you that our RCS has been working really hard on some dashboards so that you can see data points the homeless services dashboard is not quite ready for publications. So this is just a screenshot of 1 of the points that we have up there this slide

looks at the housing referral waitlist so I mentioned the common assessment earlier and so this is the individuals who have had the common assessment and this is just calendar year 2022 as we get data every month and have worked with this together and align that common assessment with the homeless management information system HMIS data. So, the goal is the number of people who are coming into the system newly coming into the system that have had this and added to the waiting list each month the blue is how many are exiting the system every month whether they've gone inactive, and that's the dark blue is the inactive and active means that they have not been in HMIS and seen a homeless service provider in 90 days. So, we can presume that they are nothing right like, it's a transient population we just don't know and that happens quite often as you can see, but the lighter blue is the number of people housed you might see the very, very thin line in June of bread that people who have deceased, but this is this is something. So currently our housing waiting list is at 7,500 people.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Okay. Yeah. Thank you. And again, that could be 1 of the metrics, right? The up or down on that is the determination, I think, for failure right? So, we're getting more because I think we do need to add the housing spot homelessness right which I know is only done periodically. I mean, plus, housing, weightlessness, waitlist plus maybe a few other things. Thank you. Just being email because I don't think it's on, I don't think it's here,

"Buchino, Susan"

It hasn't been, but I can share it.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

That would be great. Thank you Mr. Chair.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you let me let me say, Dr. Buchino we will, when you email it, we will also have this, attach to the agenda item for this so that it will be available to the public as well. Did you have more slides? There are 3 other people in the queue.

"Buchino, Susan"

I do have more slides, but I can tell you. I can move through it I can show you our strategic plan. I can tell you other metrics. We want to look at I can tell you that our goal is no 1 sleeps on the street. We know that everybody's goals should be at least

whether you care about the priorities of housing 1st, or a victim protection and no wrong door and to take care of residents and most need. Who shouldn't sleep on the street, or your priority is really about keeping our community safe and clean and attracting businesses in the thriving economy and tourism. No one should be sleeping on the street and so, I think as a community, then we can all agree that that is our ultimate goal that no one sleeps on the street. I can tell you that none of the people who are currently on the street are going to pull money out of their pocket and magically just put themselves back into housing and so it really is going to take the dedication both of human capital and financial capital to address the situation. Some of the metrics that we've been able to really look at are because of the homeless services division capacity that was added in the last year and a half and so, it has taken this last year and a half to be established and develop the strategic goal and really familiarize ourselves with the system and build our own capacity and we have an amazing team that's doing some great work and I think that it's something that we can all do better at and there are lots of reasons why the system doesn't work well, and why we see an increase rather than a decrease, and we're working on trying to figure out how to make those tighter and function better so that we're more effective and more efficient.

"Laird, Tameka"

Councilman Hollander go on council members oh, I'm sorry, this is to make alert the director for office of resilience and community services. I know that we're running out of time and I want to be respectful of council members time. So we do know that the presentation was a little bit lengthy, but we wanted to ensure that we would be able to answer all your questions because throughout this fiscal year, there's been a lot of questions around homelessness and what the city is doing, versus what our community is doing our homeless providers and so, we just wanted to give you all that information. So you can let us go exactly.

"Hollander, Bill"

Let me go to the queue now and you may need to refer to something in this slide for some questions. So, councilwoman McCraney has a question.

"McCraney, Paula"

Thank you Mr. chairman. I have 3 questions. 1 has already been answered that. We'll get the presentation so thank you for that. Then I wanted to know there was always a yearly assessment so we can capture the number of people that are still on the street. Is that taking place? The annual assessment?

"Buchino, Susan"

Are you referring to the point in time count that happens in January that has 3 counts in January? It is consistently in January mandated by head. Typically, the last week of January, and so it will be coming up soon. Okay. We've made adjustments in the last couple of years to accommodate so.

"McCraney, Paula"

Yeah, and I would like to have information on that and the date so that. We could participate.

"Buchino, Susan"

Absolutely. Okay. I would love to have you.

"McCraney, Paula"

Okay, and on the housing vouchers, I have 3 sub questions. 3 questions 1, is, do we know the number of distributed that were distributed this year. Do we know the number that's unused? And then, do we know the number that are that is still available that did not get distributed?

"Buchino, Susan"

I do not have all the LMHA data, but I can certainly get that for you. I know that they do publicize that on their website and their annual report, what they have shared with us is that there are 800 vouchers that have been allotted to special programs and community partners all over the city and right now about 50% of those have been actually processed and moving. Our vision is working to figure out the eligibility criteria and the application process for the various programs is LMHA under capacitate right now and so it's taking them a minute to process doctors as well. And so that is 1 of the bottlenecks that we're seeing is that processing itself can take a couple of months.

"McCraney, Paula"

So we know that processing is a problem, but we have housing to accommodate, but the processing is a problem,

"Buchino, Susan"

It's both.

"McCraney, Paula"
That's a problem.

"Buchino, Susan"
And a lot of the housing that we do have is really subpar.

"McCraney, Paula"
Well, it's better than on the street and so if that's an issue, we need to look at that as well. Right? Okay. So, there's something to think about and I appreciate your answers straightforward and we have a lot of work to do and we know data, you communicate them well, thank you and we just need to buckle down and figure it out a little bit more strategically I think.

"Buchino, Susan"
Absolutely, thank you.

"McCraney, Paula"
Thank you. Mr. chairman.

"Hollander, Bill"
Thank you, I would also point out that there is a, I think it's quarterly at this point the task force meeting, believe it's quarterly. At this point I've been attending those are public meetings you can watch them on, on your website and on Facebook live and, and I learned something about this issue every time. Councilwoman Fowler.

"Fowler, Cindi"
Thank you Mr. chair. Dr. Buchino. I wondered if you could give us an update on the services ban that we funded, in the last budget season.
Is that up and running?

"Buchino, Susan"
I don't believe so. I know they had posted the jobs and we're in the hiring process and they had acquired a van, I think I mentioned you in an email, they didn't need to purchase the van, but they did have to send that for just refurbishing it, so that it kind of set up that office space that you were hoping for, I think they are targeting January 1st, and I can double check that and confirm that for you.

"Fowler, Cindi"

Okay, so and I think the problem is the amount of money that is allocated towards I mean, we allocated more towards the personnel that their pay rate is just not up there, attractive, I think to a lot of people I think it would have to be somebody was passionate about that type of work, so were the 2 ladies that we gave you all information about where they even, approached or give them an application, do you know.

"Buchino, Susan"

I have passed that information along toTtamra at volunteers of America. It was doing the hiring and I don't know who she's hired or who applied.

We can find out that information though, and forward that to you. And I think, you know, when I last checked with them, and they were, in the hiring process, she also mentioned it does take several weeks to complete training and get them on boarded as well.

"Fowler, Cindi"

Okay, well, just when you do get some valuable information, if you could pass that along, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

Just for the public, I, I believe that that appropriation was to fund a van and services that were sort of directed outside the Waterson expressway where we have a growing population and not as many services.

I think that's correct if I remember correctly. Councilman Winkler. s right.

"Winkler, Markus"

Thank you, thanks for the great presentation. I had sort of a question going back to the example you gave the about Carter and, you know, really want to call out if I understand the issue there correctly even if you had sort of shelter, space available or money for a hotel it sounds like that's really not sort of the fundamental issue. Right? The fundamental issues more of the support of housing gap, right? That that if I understood sort of the, the details, you know, of the mental health condition that he's dealing with, that, you know even just having a room available probably is insufficient is that fair?

"Buchino, Susan"

Correct.

"Winkler, Markus"

So, tell me, I know that in the 1 of the allocations part of what we funded is, transitional housing right? Supportive housing model and I know it's hard to.

"Buchino, Susan"

So supportive, the 32 Million went to permanent support of housing.

"Winkler, Markus"

Which would solve as soon as I saw it would go towards addressing this specific type of need. Correct?

"Buchino, Susan"

No, not correct. Okay. What permanent support of housing the service that is offered is case management and so St. Joan Center is building a single site, permanent support of housing development for 80 units, so that people will be on site. It is not a 24, 7 or assisted living it'll have 24/7 security and access for crises, but it'll still be more about case management service providers being on site during the week, or during their business hours. Wellsprings also working on permanent support of housing, they use a little bit different model where they have Tri, PLEXes or 4 PLEXes throughout the community that are scattered site. And again, as an organization that serves explicitly people with chronic and persistent mental illness, they offer case management in those cases they also do have two act teams, the sort of community treatment teams and so those teams are able to provide more wraparound services because they are multi-disciplinary teams. They actually have a psychiatric time reserved for them. So they're able to get someone to a psychiatrist quickly. But even then, the level of support doesn't necessarily include daily medication management or meal preparation, or laundry services, and some of those in budgeting and pay E services. So some of those things that people may need more extensive help with are not available, even in a permanent supportive housing model.

"Winkler, Markus"

So, who I'll ask, sort of a broad question, you can answer, however, you choose right? Number 1 do you have a sense for, sort of what and you can say, answered percentage or sort of rough terms like the scope of that problem in terms of our chronic on street homeless. Okay. Who, if anyone is working on providing that type of support, okay. And who if anyone is responsible for paying for that type of support right? So, is this a failure by the federal government? Is the failure by state government? Is a failure by us? Is nobody responsible for

it? Right? Can you sort of just in just a few words kind of paint that picture?

"Buchino, Susan"

Yeah, I think if I'm correct about 30% of our homeless population right now has a reported mental illness and so if we used our pick count of just over a 1000 people, there are about 300 people on this well, using shelter and on the streets that's that's combined in the current population, although that count was from last February so I know that things have changed since then the landscape very different. So, as I mentioned, Medicaid, which is the state federal partnership will be creating a waiver, the waiver program. if you're not familiar with that Kentucky has a couple of them, the supports for community living waiver, The Michelle PE waiver, there's an acquired brain injury waiver. Those are designed for community-based services and community based living to support people to stay in the community in their least restrictive environment. And so the waiver part is that they are applied to special populations or tests, special models of care that are not aligned with what's typical eligibility for Medicaid or typical services that are approved and so as Kentucky designs their Medicaid waiver for mental illness, we have the opportunity to say what is needed and how it is provided, so I'm hopeful that some of those services will be covered by Medicaid in the future supports for community living and the acquired brain injury waiver, both have intense residential supports and 1 of the things that I'm going to say as somebody who worked on the brain injury waiver and has worked with people with chronic and persistent mental illness who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness as an occupational therapy I could provide occupational therapy for a client for up to 13 hours a week on the brain injury waiver and that's just not something that any other medical insurance pays for and so that really intense service provision is there and available if the waiver establishes it that way and I think that that's the goal. I think that's what the advocates were really asking for and I think that the resolution asks that that is put in place, I think that all of this is a layered response as far as who responsibility. It needs to be that federal push, it needs to be that state allocation and it needs to be us being conscious about.

What's happening and how we coordinate and communicate and supplement anything that where there is still remaining gaps. Does that answer your question?

"Winkler, Markus"

Yeah, it does and let me just ask. So, let's say, 300 to 400, right? If there's an increase, maybe it's more even if you had all of the funding pieces, figured out, what's our capacity? Like, is there also a capacity gap in the city in terms of providers?

"Buchino, Susan"

Absolutely, the providers are tapped out they are if they all had staffing struggles and they are all as Councilwoman George alluded to earlier, social work is not well paid. And so some organizations are able to pay a little bit better than others but attracting workers at that pay scale for really hard work that's exhausting, is difficult and so they are seeing a capacity issue, and they are exhausted. So that is something that we've asked for as far as and secondary trauma so providing those services causes secondary drama, right? You're witnessing other people's trauma all day. So burnout rates are high. You know, what we've asked for in funding has consistently been to distribute to our community partners. This isn't something that HSD is building anything else right now, or providing the direct services we are asking that we can distribute more funding to our community partners. So, one of the things that's on this side that I have up that I would love to see is another act team that a 3rd of community treatment team 1 team provide services those intense wraparound services to up to 50 people and so that's another 50 people that somebody would be working with to move them off the street and into housing, and make sure that they're stabilized and seeing medical providers, and taking their medication and getting the help that they need and then we have other ways that service providers are trying to build capacity, but, you know, as they grow, they also need to be able to have the infrastructure in place, and a lot of small grassroots organizations or that takes some time. So they're doing it. We've got a couple small grassroots organizations in the last year both the hopeless that's running the hope village and feed Louisville that's been working with us to provide the hotel services for camp Clearings. They're both now completely different than they were a year ago, because we were able to partner with them and help them to build the capacity and have the funding to do more to increase their services, they were doing the work, we're funding the people doing the work.

"Winkler, Markus"

And I just have 1 last thing to say, which isn't a question, but a comment about, you know, sort of, maybe it wasn't explicitly stated, but was somewhat implied. I think earlier, which is sort of the idea that, you know people live on the street, maybe

don't want to work and, you know what I'd reference is 2 things. I'm certain that if you went out and looked at a 1000 people that are on the street, you might come across somebody that doesn't want to work. I get, I mean, in any population that's gonna happen, but we also find the another way program with Goodwill where they go and pick up pan-handlers. And one of the things that they have done is ask them, why are you out here? Right? Or why did you accept the ride? And what we find overwhelmingly is that they are willing to go and work, right the demand is consistently oversubscribed and the feedback that we get from them is, you know, the reason I I jumped on the van is because I would rather do something of service right? But that there are barriers in the way either, you know, a substance abuse issue, a mental health issue, you know, don't have an ID and as I'm sure, you know, councilman Arthur would agree with me as he and I were texting back and forth, you know, it's hard to go have sustainable employment, if you don't, 1st, have a place where you're living, right? And sort of having that baseline to then go and get a job. I mean, you know, to an extent is sort of a chicken and egg problem. Right? I gotta have the job to be able to afford the place to live but if I don't have a consistent place to lay my head also hard to get up in the morning, go show up on work on time and hold down a consistent place of employment. So, you know, I, I would just be careful of and I'm not saying you, obviously of anyone sort of generalizing and saying, well, you know, these are people that don't want to work right? And, you know, they may not be able to work, right? Or at least not may not be able to work in their current state or living conditions. Thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you. I don't see anyone else in the queue at this point. I'll just make a couple of comments. I think the presentation is very informative. I do think we need to continue to talk about individual cases, and the story of that individual case. I think it is very easy for council members and for members of the community to generalize about the character, or the circumstances of the people they see on the street and the fact is, are not all the same and the fact is, there are new people. so when we talk about how it's getting worse we can be getting a lot of people off the street, but as new people come in it can get worse. The other thing I would, you know, I would just say is that, I'd certainly appreciate all of your work and everybody in at RCS, but I think it's also just always important when we talk about this to, recognize all of the people who are volunteers in all of these organizations that we rely on to keep people fed and try to keep people warm, throughout the year,

they are doing yeoman's work with relatively small resources and we would have a lot bigger crisis on our hands and we currently do if they weren't out there doing that. Is there anything you'd like to say to wrap up and then we need to vote on this ordinance to get some money to.

"Buchino, Susan"

So, I think the money on the table is the 300,000. I am absolutely grateful for that. And I think that we can get people inside for winter. I guess my original ask was for a lot more than that, and that didn't make it to the budget. Councilman Arthur original amendment asked for 1.2 Million that didn't make it through. So, I've scaled back what we can do.

Considerably with 300,000 dollars what I guess, I would like to know from you is are we looking for winter shelter to save lives or are we looking for an end result where I'm putting families into housing from the hotel space? Because that changes how we spend that 300,000 dollars during winter and 1 of the things that has been brought up is to what end right? So, if I, I can put a lot more families in a hotel for 60 days while it's cold outside and then kick them out after 60 days, then I can to actually move them through the system and make sure that they can get back into housing, which has been a really successful program as we've used covid funds to do that where they've had that 2 months of stability, and then can have the financial supports to pay of years and deposit and get started on those 1st, couple months back on their feet.

"Hollander, Bill"

Councilman Arthur you may want to speak to this as well. We have characterized this as the as the plan that you presented, and we realize that you can't do as much as you were going to do with 1.2 Million dollars but it's to do as much as you can on the plan that you presented. with 300,000 dollars.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Thank you so much. I'd like to hear from other committee members. If they have an opinion, if they don't, then I'll give mine, but weeks ago, I did try to move for 1.2 Million that failed. So, here we are.

"Triplett, Kevin"

Chair Hollander, Councilman Triplett here. I'm not in the queue. Forgive me but just quickly, I mean, we, we discussed this at length 2 weeks ago this and we understand this is not a cure all end all like, we would want it to be not an ideal situation and much, much more is needed with resources personnel and so forth.

This was this was money that was available that we wanted to put in this direction for this for this winter help to be used in whatever way and in the emergency situation, so, yeah, we, this body understands perfectly that we would if there was more, we would appropriate more, but we fully understand that this was just money that became available and so, we want we do know that it's, it's for emergency and the money and it's your call you guys that manage the program are our best to manage this in whatever ways most efficient as possible. Thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you Councilman Triplett, well said. Councilman Arthur, I don't see anyone else in the queue. Do you want to speak?

"Arthur, Jecorey"

We'll definitely want to make sure that we put people in emergency shelter to save lives. And then when they get out fingers crossed that they fall somewhere better than they were before they went into that shelter. Thank you all so much.

"Buchino, Susan"

Thank you councilman Arthur. And thank you councilman Hollander for giving us this time to talk.

"Hollander, Bill"

Please say, please send me your last, thank you please send the send the presentation, the full presentation, which I know is longer than we've presented to me, I will make sure it gets circulated to all council members. We'll also get loaded on the, on the agenda so that the public can see the whole presentation and I would just encourage you. I, you know, I won't be here, but you know, I hope that the council continues to have these discussions about needs and how we're doing and why people may be seeing more folks who are asking us on our streets. Despite what we're spending, and, you know, I don't think it always has to be a budget so we have other committees of the Council, but I hope hear these kind of discussions I think it's extremely important. So this is, I don't see anyone else in the queue clerk unless I've missed somebody. This is an ordinance as amended to provide this 300,000 dollars and also to transfer the money for a premium pay, this calls for a roll call vote. Madam Clerk open the voting and call the roll.

{Vote taken}

"Brown, Marissa"

Mr. chair you have 9 yes votes.

"Hollander, Bill"

This will be on old business meeting on the December 15th because of the amendment and that concludes our business for tonight.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Mr. Chair, if I may, before we adjourn councilman Kramer. Mr. chair. I wanted to point out to my colleagues in any of the viewing public Councilman Hollander is not joining us in chambers today he's home for reasons I don't want to share public health or private health issues, but I did want to make sure that this committee especially recognizes that this was the councilman's final committee meeting as chair, and actually final committee meeting so I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Councilman Hollander , and for the last several years as vice chair of the budget committee and while we have butted heads on more than 1 occasion I will say that I have been very much impressed with councilman Hollander's insistence on making sure that it's a fair process it's an open process that folks who need to be heard or heard. I can't say how much I appreciate that tons of respect for the work that he's done and more importantly, just tons of respect for Bill Hollander as a person. And so I want to say, thank you very much for your for your time and your commitment to this committee.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much. Thank you very much Councilman Kramer and all the members of committee. I've enjoyed it very much. We've done this for 5 years together. And I'll be watching maybe a little bit more relaxed next year. Thank you all very much.

"Engel, Robin"

Mr. chairman. Mr chairman? It's a councilman Engel here. I want to weigh in on this too since in 1 week, I'm probably going to be a lot of non-comments, so I'm going to take the opportunity doing the budget committee to say, thank you as well from a very quality budget committee Chairman perspective. I've watched a lot of budget committee chairs, over the years on my 20 years here and I really greatly appreciate your professionalism and you also serve jumped on the planning and zoning committee, which I've been a part of for a lot of years and the impressive part of Councilman Hollander is the amount of data that he reads the amount of background work he comes fully prepared to every committee meeting that I see him at and then the planning and zoning and budget are sort of those are pretty big, lots of

information flow. And so I'm just incredibly impressed with your, your professionalism, your all your work that you come prepared for this government to give us the such incredible insight. So chairman Mr. chairman and councilman job well done, sir, thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much. I appreciate it and, have enjoyed working with, you. Without objection, we're adjourned.