



ECHO convened at the Clark County Public Service Center, 6th Floor, Hearing Conference Room, also via WebEx Online.

Clark County ECHO

(Ending Community Homelessness Organization)

Meeting Minutes –January 10, 2023

ECHO Chair, Clark County Councilor, Gary Medvigy, opened-up the ECHO meeting with a warm welcome, introductions.

ACTION: Meeting minutes from December 13, 2022, **APPROVED** unanimously, with no objections.

1. COUNTY HOUSING PROPOSITION (RCW 84.52.105) DISCUSSION

- Presented by Lindsey Hueer & Mark Gassaway
 - In December ECHO talked about the possibility of a Countywide Housing Proposition.
 - The state’s statute limits the applicability of this tax, to a half percent.
 - Lindsey has asked Mark Gassaway to come up with some figures for the revenue that would be generated.
 - Mark Gassaway stated he worked with the Assessor’s office for a Property Tax Assessment:

Assessed Value	\$34.2B	\$63.8B	\$98.0B
Levey Rate	Vancouver	County	Total
0.10	\$ 3,420,000	\$ 6,380,000	\$ 9,800,000
0.20	\$ 6,840,000	\$12,760,000	\$19,600,000
0.30	\$10,260,000	\$19,140,000	\$29,400,000
0.40	\$13,680,000	\$25,520,000	\$39,200,000
0.50	\$17,100,000	\$31,900,000	\$49,000,000

- Q & A / ECHO Discussion

2. UPDATE ON CITY OF VANCOUVER SAFE STAY COMMUNITIES

- Presented by Jamie Spinelli & Ty Stober
 - Ty Stober stated that the 1-year anniversary of the first “Safe Stay” just passed.
 - In the first year we were able to service 80 people.
 - The operating cost for the first year was about \$571,00.00.
 - They have been able to exit 33 people to housing.
 - They have utilized 11 different programs to get people into housing, as well as reunited some people with family.
 - Many people have exited into recovery housing.
 - There has been concerns about data in HMIS.
 - Jamie Spinelli stated that Hope Village from April to October served 35 people with 5 exiting homelessness.
 - Q & A / ECHO Discussion



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3. UPDATE FROM EACH ENTITY AND ANY SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS

- Council for the Homeless: NONE
- Vancouver Housing Authority: NONE
- Community Foundation for Southwest Washington: NONE
- Clark County : NONE
- City of Vancouver:
 - Diana Perez emailed her comments, that she stated during the meeting:
 - Hold a Solutions Centered Leadership Forum - opportunity to bring together many new faces and voices to engage as thought partners, unite in efforts to address current issues with houselessness and housing availability, as well as behavioral health; educate on systems and programs; identify and agree on gaps; how to build provider capacity, etc., strengthen effectiveness of ECHO.
 - Potential Safe Stay/Safe Park sites in County - ECHO field visit to Fairgrounds site and Battle Ground site as a group to talk through functionality of site and what would be needed, what help can be provided, etc.
 - Discussion of role of childcare as a prevention to homelessness (*could be a topic at the Solutions Centered Leadership Forum*), share data if available
 - Co-responder Model in Law Enforcement - is there a plan? models to consider? what would be needed?
- City of Battle Ground: NONE
- City of Camas:
 - Steve Hogan emailed his comments:
 - First, Vanessa brought up a very important point that Camas has found to be a dilemma. Her comment in the 23rd minute of today's meeting CCTV telecast, was that it was important to identify ways to preserve the affordable housing options that our communities currently have available. Her point was that once these affordable housing options go away, low-income residents many times get priced out of the remaining options within the community and sometimes leads to homelessness. Since Vanessa brought this up, it implies that there might be a strategy in-place to prevent some affordable housing to continue to be available for people, so they do not become homeless when their previous affordable housing option goes away.
 - If it is true, that there is a strategy (Best Practice) what is that strategy?
 - If it is not a strategy, what tactical programs have been thought up to prevent these affordable options from going away?
 - Do the other cities within ECHO perhaps have strategies/tactics that the other areas of the County might be able to use?
 - Is there a need for the participants of ECHO to lobby this issue at the state level?
 - The State does not allow us to have rent control. So, that is not a strategy available for Cities and the County to use. However, the fact that the State does not allow rent controls surely makes it more lucrative for out-of-state residents and foreign investors



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to buy and convert affordable housing into higher prices rental property. Does the State have a plan or are they considering legislation to prevent current affordable housing/rental opportunities from disappearing?

- Second, can the cities in ECHO get the formal schedule from the County on when local nonprofits in our community can apply for money through ECHO/Clark County to help improve or enhance these nonprofits to serve the homeless in our local communities?
- What are the preferred transportation options to get homeless people to a shelter that has an opening for them? Police car? C-TRAN? Etc.? Do we already have a defined way that these people can get to the shelter when the opening becomes available?

- City of La center : NONE
- City of Ridgefield: NONE
- City of Washougal: NONE

5. NEXT MEETING

- February 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.