

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(5)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2004

**TITLE:** Request for Funding to Support the Homeless Roundtable Discussion  
Scheduled for November 18, 2004

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Mayor's Office	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES or <u>NO</u>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Letter from Mayor Foy C. Agenda for Roundtable Discussion	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> James R Harris, Director of Community and Econ Development, 918-7319

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to present to the Board of Aldermen the proposal for a Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness and a request for \$333.00 to support the community-wide discussion scheduled for November 18, 2004. Staff recommends that the request for financial support be honored and that as many town representatives as possible participate in the discussion.

### INFORMATION:

The issue of homelessness is an issue that the broad community should address collectively. We should not only look at the current issues of how and where to house and feed the population but how to move the population from homelessness utilizing the vast resources in our community.

This item will describe briefly how the issue is being looked at Triangle wide and how we might approach it locally.

### BACKGROUND

Last fall, Triangle-area elected officials were briefed on the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* initiative sponsored by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Attendees were asked to begin similar planning in their localities. Our counterparts in Wake County along with the Triangle United Way have developed a program that incorporates public forums and action-oriented workshops. For more information about their program you may visit [www.raleigh-nc.org](http://www.raleigh-nc.org) and click on *end homelessness* in the lower left hand corner of the page.

At the Chapel Hill Town Council Planning Session on January 17, 2004, the Council received a report from Council Member Greene regarding the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Following that presentation the Council agreed to add a public dialogue on homelessness to its list of goals for 2004. Council member Greene and I agreed to lead this initiative.

In May, Mayor Foy's office sent a letter to County Commissioners about partnering to sponsor a Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness in Orange County. It was the intent of Mayor Foy's office to invite the Town of Carrboro to participate at the same time. The County suggested a committee be organized with members from each of the governing bodies. The group began meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Members include James Harris (Town of Carrboro), Sharron Hinton (Orange County), Tara Fikes (Orange County), Loryn Barnes (Chapel Hill), Emily Dickens

(Chapel Hill), Linda Taday (Triangle United Way), Chris Moran (IFC), Kristin Lavergne (IFC), Bille Guthrie (OPC Mental Health/Orange County Continuum of Care).

In August, the IFC Community Planning Group, a committee Natalie Ammarell and I convened to consider the future of the Inter-Faith Council and services for individuals and families who are homeless and at risk of homelessness in our community, released its report. Chris Moran shared the report with the Roundtable Committee. Thereafter a public discussion of this report was added to the agenda for the roundtable discussion.

## DISCUSSION

The Roundtable Committee proposes to hold the **Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness** on November 18, 2004 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Airport Road. A draft agenda is attached to this memorandum. The group has determined the following goals for this event:

1. **To educate the community** by dispelling myths and putting a face on the homeless
2. **To develop a long-term plan to end homelessness** in Orange County
3. **To encourage personal responsibility** by inviting the community to address this issue individually

Invitations will be mailed to individuals and community groups that currently provide services to the homeless. In addition, registration is open to the public. The members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints will provide a continental breakfast for the participants. The Roundtable Planning Committee requests the following support from the Town Council in order to complete planning for this event:

1. Facilitator's Fee - \$1000
  - a. Andy Sachs of the Dispute Settlement Center has agreed to provide assistance including meeting design, consultation and facilitation services. The fee is \$75/hour. Mr. Sachs estimates nine (9) hours of preparation time for the event, plus three (3) hours at the event. In addition up to three additional facilitators will cover breakout groups at no additional cost.
  - b. Orange County has agreed to pay one-third of this fee. Mayor Foy is requesting that Carrboro provide financial support for the project in the amount of \$333.33.
2. Videographer's Fee - \$200

The Planning Committee determined that it would be helpful to develop a tool that can be used to continually educate the community following this event. It has been proposed that a five-eight minute video including testimonies from members of the homeless population and those who provide services in Orange County would provide an educational tool that the governing bodies, IFC and Continuum of Car can use on an ongoing basis for community education. The video will be unveiled as part of the agenda for this event.

### 3. Web Support

Online registration will provide easy access to the public. Since this is a Chapel Hill Town Council goal, the group proposes that a registration link for this event be added to the Town of Chapel Hill website. This would also include assignment of a registration e-mail address ([homelessroundtable@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:homelessroundtable@townofchapelhill.org)). The other agencies involved have agreed to post information on their websites directing visitors to the Town's website for more information.

4. Other Financial Support - The Triangle United Way has signed on as a sponsor for this event and will donate \$300 towards costs associated with this event.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

If the Board decides to honor this request for \$333.00 the contingency funds will be reduced to \$14,666.67.

### **Staff RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the request for the financial support be honored and that as many town representatives as possible participate in the discussion. By paying a third of the total cost of the facilitator this breaks with the tradition of sharing cost based on a per capita basis.