

## BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

### AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: March 1, 2005

**TITLE:** Recommendation for a Process to Develop a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Orange County

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Community and Economic Development	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES ____ NO <u><b>X</b></u>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Comments from November Homeless Roundtable C. Memo from Billie Guthrie	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Sally Green, Chapel Hill Town Council James R. Harris, Director, Community and Economic Development

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this item is to present to the Board of Aldermen a follow up report from the November 18, 2004 Round Table Discussion hosted by Chapel Hill, Orange County and the United Way and a recommendation from the planning group for developing a ten year plan to end homelessness in Orange County. The town staff recommends that the Board receive the report from the November 18, 2004 Homelessness Roundtable and appoint a representative to serve on the planning committee.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Homelessness is a very big problem in Orange County, which cannot be solved without the help of all governments, and housing advocates working together. With the projected cut backs from HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services the need to assist population will only worsen, therefore requiring a more concerted effort on all our parts to try and address this issue collectively.

In October 2003, 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.

At the 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.

This goal was implemented on November 18, 2004 when Chapel Hill, Orange County, and the United Way hosted a Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness in Orange County. Over one hundred and fifty community members, including the majority of the Town Council, and elected officials from Orange County and Hillsborough, attended this event. Attached for your reference is a summary of the small group discussions from this event. This summary will be mailed to the roundtable attendees.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Roundtable Planning Committee consists of representatives of the Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, Triangle United Way, IFC Community House, and the Community Initiative to End Homelessness (formerly the Continuum of Care). The Committee has continued to meet to review the feedback from the November 18<sup>th</sup> event and discuss the next steps for creation of a *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* in Orange County. At the last meeting, Ken Manness, a presenter at the November 18<sup>th</sup> event and a planner with the City of Raleigh, provided insight on Raleigh and Wake County's partnership to develop a *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Mr. Manness and the Triangle United Way have offered to assist Orange County's municipalities in the development of a plan for Orange County.

The Planning Committee believes that Orange County's success in this initiative will rest on the strength of the partnership of its municipalities. Therefore, the Committee recommends pursuing full cooperation from elected bodies of Chapel Hill, Orange County, Carrboro and Hillsborough for this initiative. In January and February, presentations will be made to all of the governing bodies and request that they by resolution officially join a "Partnership to End Homelessness in Orange County". Membership in the partnership may involve a commitment to providing staff, funding and other resources for this initiative.

If a Partnership is created, the Planning Committee recommends the following steps:

- Request that the Towns of Carrboro and Hillsborough officially appoint representatives.
- Request that the Chambers of Commerce, the University of North Carolina, the University of North Carolina Hospitals, and Orange Congregations in Mission to appoint representatives to the Planning Committee.
- Charge the Planning Committee with developing a process for the creation of a *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*.
- Organize a second roundtable discussion to be held in the evening before June 30, 2005.

- Use feedback from both roundtable events to develop a process to end homelessness in Orange County.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The town staff recommends that the Board receive the report from the November 18, 2004 Homelessness Roundtable and appoint a representative to serve on the planning committee.