

Research Committee, 2/1/2023, 9:30 a.m., Dunlap Conf Room

Present: Michalek, Miller

Absent: Ford

Notes from Cmr Miller:

I reported my findings on what would be useful in our community to keep people out of jail and thus the system.

I spoke to a social worker who reported what they think would be beneficial. Those items are as follows:

1) Community center/s where people can make true connections with one another. We used to have a few one Rhinos and it was sad to see it go. The property owner either sold the lot or was the one who built more expensive downtown apartments. I suggest that research is done to find such spaces. I will ask a few people that are in my network about this topic.

2) Small housing communities are needed. Often people are released onto the streets. I have read and saved a half dozen or more articles about communities using these models and they work for people who suffer from chronic homelessness. She said the programs that already exist in our community, while good to have, are not what is needed to help with the housing crisis. I was hoping this was being worked on in the housing work group and am saddened to hear it is not.

3) Mental health workers that are not court ordered. A volunteer based program. Someone wants to talk, there would be people to listen and connect with them, thus feeling cared about and helped by those not having power over them.

4) They also suggested we stop segregating the city and instead deseg by scattering all types of people throughout the city. In other words, rich with poor etc, thus building positive community. Everyone learns from everyone.

Notes from Cmr Michalek:

1) I reported on the START program project on housing. The director is currently interviewing three applicants for that particular project. In addition, I was contacted by someone in [Net Impact](#), a student organization in the Kelley School, who has been structuring project teams to also research projects related to housing. I reported that I met with them and discovered they operate with internal project management, needing one a point person to correspond as the produce research. Nejlá had reached out to them to gather information but Renée also offered to be the point person. Since we also discussed focusing our committee efforts on more than housing, I reported I'd ask the preference of the director and **we should discuss the coordination with Net Impact in Old Business in our next meeting.**

2) To expand on the topic of housing, I mentioned previous work with a group from SPEA that discovered tiny houses and alternative housing communities were either unsustainable or

unsupported by people in our community. I said I would reconnect with that working group to see if they might share their findings with us as we move forward with our own research. Depending on what the START program produces, we may consider reforming a working group for housing with those interested, so it sounds like another item for next meeting's discussion is **addressing the housing crises, either in our committee or in the broader commission.**

3) Renée also made a good point from attending the Criminal Justice Response meetings about shifting away from blaming past wrongs and instead listening to the lived experiences and needs of the broader community to figure out where we can allocate funds for both prevention of criminality and support for people after they're released from incarceration. That connects with the notes she communicated but we also touched upon START project we had discussed with Kamala a few meetings back about Navigators. Depending on how our current START project proceeds, we might also return to **discuss future START projects** in our next meeting.