



Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement
In-Person Meeting Agenda
August 8th, 2023 (11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)

Clearwater East Community Library @ St. Pete College
2465 Drew St., Clearwater, FL 33765

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement (TBACE) was at the Clearwater East Community Library @ St. Pete College 2465 Drew St., Clearwater, FL 33765. The following active members were present and signed in:

Ismail Gonzalez	City of Tampa	Dillon McClure	Hillsborough County
Barbara Riley	City of Tampa	Carmen Marcano	City of Tampa
Sarah Green	City of Clearwater	Cecil Lundy	Hillsborough County
Sergio Grillo	City of Pinellas Park	Marc Huey	Hillsborough County
Vicki Sudduth	City of Clearwater	Christine Zien-McCombs	Hillsborough County
Lisa Byington	City of Clearwater	Arthur bork	Pasco County
Gregory Dixon	City of Clearwater	Abe carmack	Pasco County
Stefan Burghardt	City of Clearwater	Wallace McMillan	City of Largo
Brian Simon	City of Clearwater	Shane Rank	City of Largo
John Stephen	City of Clearwater	Kae Okon	City of Largo
Doug Allen	City of Temple Terrace	Antonio Costeira	City of Largo
Rebecca Mulder	City of Clearwater	Ernie White	Manatee County
Robert Caswell	City of Clearwater	Tami Campbell	Manatee County
Jose Silva	City of Temple Terrace	Florentino Rodriguez	City of Tampa
David Jehnzen	City of Clearwater	Joe Gross	Hillsborough County
Krystal Ramos	City of Tampa	Lawrence Hoffman	Hillsborough County
Kyonne Goodman	City of Tampa	Shelby Brown	City of Clearwater
Carmen Marcano	City of Tampa		

CALL TO ORDER:

President Doug Allen called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM. Doug did pledge of allegiance. President Doug Allen introduced Shelby Brown with the City of Clearwater and thanked everyone for coming to clearwater. Shelby talked about the past educational programs and introduced the August educational program Guest Speaker. Shelby introduced Rebecca Mulder, Code Enforcement Division Manager for City

of Clearwater. Kathy introduced herself and gave a background of her profession. Briefly spoke about the City of Clearwater's" homeless initiative."

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

Introduction:

City of Clearwater, Police Social Services Specialist, Kathy Hamm introduced herself and shared her background with the audience. Kathy Hamm then commenced the August education program.

Topics:

1. *Is it illegal to be homeless in Florida?*

Kathy talked about how homelessness is not illegal but the activity they do while homeless is.

Kathy described other jurisdictions and how they also have their homeless program. Kathy stated that tents are 130 to 140 degrees. Kathy also stated that the homeless are coming to Florida because covid shut down rest of country and Florida is open.

2. *Homeless outreach:*

Kathy stated that they help families with stable housing and that churches help out. The wait time to get into shelter could be 2 to 3 years. House with 6 kids would cost 3400 dollars in Florida (cost of living). Kathy stated that sometimes they help connect with family to go back home. Kathy also said that some transients come down believing a better life awaits with nothing on hand.

3. *Project Blanket:*

Kathy mentioned that they acquired blankets and distributed them to St. Pete, to Churches etc. and that they went through 4,000 blankets. They also take donated bikes for transportation purposes. They also assist with their pets with various things such as, service dog license, pull carts for dogs and stated that shelter don't take pets unless they're service animals.

4. *How does Code Enforcement apply?*

Kathy then mentioned that homelessness can become an environmental public nuisance. Kathy illustrated homeless camps on CSX property, showed many images and talked about how many pests, rats' snakes' homeless camps attract. Kathy showed vacant commercial property camps, and that they re-direct to services. They go in and talk about their options. They talk about the services, mental health, etc. She mentioned that sometimes landlords believe that the city will "eat the cost" to clean up their property from vagrancy. Kathy shared an example that vagrants were using apartment pools for swimming. She talked about the effort that vagrants will go for obscurity. She talked about the risk of alligators, water moccasins and that Pinellas County has no foster care services, or no funds. Waitlist for shelter for family 2 to 3 years. Kathy shared a story about the alligator that a homeless family "raised." Talked about how vagrants relocate habitually.

5. *Homeless initiative*

Kathy stated that their initiative is to have someone out there to engage with the homeless, to explore their options. Kathy stated that there is a 400% increase in senior vagrants. She said "We were not ready for this." Kathy stated that giving money to them enables them. City of Clearwater has an estimated 350 homeless people. Kathy talked about the couple from Arizona and how they acquired items such as solar lights. Kathy stated that housing voucher \$1800 and that 1000 vouchers equals 1.8 million a month.

Question: Has there been a multi-jurisdictional collaborative effort to address homeless?

Answer: Kathy tried to initiate a homeless outreach task force with other jurisdictions, but it fell through.

Question: Does city have initiative to keep homelessness off public property.

Answer: Kathy Hamm stated that she would be the City's response to do so.

Presentation END 1235 hours.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: New TBACE Email. TBACE Pay online feature. TBACE Scholarship program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Secretary: None

Treasurer: Reported that the current balance on the treasury is \$6,543.72

Vice president: None

President: Thanked everyone for coming and the City of Clearwater for hosting the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

John Carrion

Secretary,

Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement

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