

**LWVE Observer Report**

**Human Services**

**Date: May 7, 2018**

**Observer:** Eileen Lowery

**Meeting began: 6:05 pm**

**Meeting Ended: 7:17 pm**

**Aldermen Present:** Revelle (Chair), Fiske, Rue Simmons and Fleming; **Absent:** Braithwaite

**Staff Present:** Atty Mario Treto, Evonda Thomas-Smith, Nicola Whyte, Deputy Chief Pickett and Commander Wright

**Media Present:** EvanstonNow, 2 NU students, Facebook video

**Citizen Comment:** 3 comments preceded related agenda item. One citizen gave an impassioned statement regarding his encounter with the police, identified discrepancies in the related police complaint review report and called for increased office training in de-escalation techniques and improved police behaviors on school campuses. One commenter commended and raised questions with the Citizen Police Complaint Assessment Committee. One citizen expressed statements on several topics.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**(HH1) Bed and Breakfast Renewal** Staff recommends approval for the renewal of the Bed and Breakfast License for Stone Porch by the Lake Bed and Breakfast located at 300 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Ald. Fiske questioned policy not requiring this B & B to pay hotel taxes; Ald. Fiske and Fleming voted not to renew, Ald. Revelle and Rue Simmons voted to renew; without a majority will move forward with a neutral recommendation.

**For Action**

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**(HH2) Rodent Control Update** Ms. Thomas-Smith reported requests for rodent treatment have decreased over the past 3 years; in 2017, there was a 32 % decrease from the previous year. Control methods were highlighted, including scheduled rodent walks and community education. Efforts were applauded by Alderman.

**(HH3) General Assistance Program Update** Ms. Thomas-Smith reported community partnerships continue to grow resulting in increased enrollment and improved outcomes in GED & ABE and financial literacy programs. GA program assisted 2 participants with approval for Social Security benefits through Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI). The eligibility differences between GA and Emergency Assistance were discussed. Ald. Fleming asked if Evanston, since it is no longer a township, needs to continue following state township mandate for GA no eligibility for citizens with a history of Class 1 or Class X felony, Ms. Thomas-Smith will review question with legal counsel.

**(HH4) Victims Advocacy Update** Ms. Thomas-Smith reported continued collaboration with EPD Chaplains, Presence Mental Health and YMCA working toward providing 24/7 coverage and program is in the interview process for the 3<sup>rd</sup> advocate position.

**(HH5) Mental Health Board 2019 Funding Priorities** Staff recommends consideration of the Mental Health Board's proposed 2019 Funding Priorities. At its April meeting the Mental Health Board (MHB) discussed ways to better align MHB priorities with City Council goals as part of the development of their priorities for 2019. MHB is submitting these funding priorities to the Human Services Committee for review and acceptance. Ms. K Ruetzel, MHB Chair, and MHB members M. Pierce and G. Hall expressed concerns that MHB is being considered for budget cuts while maintaining their priorities to collaborate with established community agencies who respond to citizens, including refugees and immigrants, with mental health and substance abuse to include mental health care, crisis intervention, mental health promotion and basic human needs such as housing, case management, nutritional services. Aldermen encouraged the board.

**(HH6) Police Issues Work Plan Update** Citizen Police Complaint Assessment Committee Status Report packet discussed by Deputy Chief Pickett.

**(HH7) Review of Police Complaints** Commander Wright reviewed complaints. Ald. Fleming asked if it was necessary to include extensive background information of complainants and requested caution of police interactions on school campuses.

**(HH8) Citizen Police Complaint Assessment Committee Status Report** The Committee recommends that the Human Services Committee receive the status report. M. Mitchell, Committee Chair, reported first meeting was in Oct 2017 and final report will be delivered in Oct 2018. Progress to date includes analysis of current and development of improved Complaint Register Form, review of best practices in similar departments and results of preliminary community survey. Aldermen appreciated the committee's work so far and look forward to final report.

**(HH9) Arrest Records** Alderman Fleming requested staff review the City of Evanston's policy regarding the posting of arrest records to the City's webpage and the length of time they need to be made available. Held in committee on March 5, 2018. Mr. Treto, Assistant City Attorney, reports there is no requirement that records need to be posted to website as long as they are provided when requested. Questions to be reviewed and reported on at next meeting: what must be reported on the website and how long must that information, if any, be required to remain on the website.

#### **ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**

**(HH10) 1st quarter 2018 Cannabis Report** as provide in meeting packet.