

June 3, 2019 Observer Report

Committee: Human Services

Observer: Eileen Lowery

Meeting began: 7:43 p.m.

Meeting Ended: 8:25 p.m.

Committee Members: Ald. Rue Simmons (chair), Braithwaite, Revelle and Fleming; absent: Fiske.

Staff Present: K. Richardson, N. Whyte, V. Benson, I. Ogbo, P. Martinez, Sargent J. Hart, I. Perkins

Media Present: EvanstonNow, Roundtable, Evanston Woman (magazine)

Citizen Comments: There were 6 citizen commenters. Three spoke in favor of the “Ernest W. Jackson Way” sign; one commented that we are designated as a sanctuary city and approximately 15% of the population is Spanish, however there is a lack of support and services available for Spanish-speaking residents, another commented that at least there official city business forms and communications to citizens should be translated; and one commented in favor of ongoing equity training.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(HH1) Resolution 46-R-19, Designating the Portion of Lake Street between Florence Avenue and Dewey Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign, “Ernest W. Jackson Way” The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Board recommend adoption of Resolution 46-R-19, naming the portion of Lake Street between Florence Avenue and Dewey Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign, “Ernest W. Jackson Way”. Ald. Braithwaite introduced resolution stating that Mr. Jackson is an icon of the neighborhood. He also noted that the correct designation is for Florence Ave between Lake St. and Greenwood and he will see to the correction. The resolution passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(HH2) Review of Police Complaint Sgt. Hart took questions from committee regarding packet. Ald. Fleming asked that CR1901 can be brought up at future meeting as the involved party would like to make a public statement. Ald. Fleming thanked Sgt. Hart and the department for the report details.

ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION

(HH3) General Assistance Update I. Perkins took committee questions and comments and invited any committee members to join General Assistance clients for lunch. Ald. Fleming commented that she had lunch with very appreciative GA clients.

(HH4) Rodent Control Update I. Ogbo was there for questions/comment about the packet. Ald. Braithwaite mentioned two conditions that invite rodents – garage doors that do not close and construction debris and noted he has seen his residents remedying these situations. Ald. Revelle offered thanks for the neighborhood specific messaging stating it will help her educate constituents.

(HH5) Limited English Language Access Policy Update P. Martinez and K. Richardson provided update and took questions/comments. Currently there is no specific policy or procedure regarding translation services or materials. The process began with a survey of staff and their spoken/written language skills. They are reviewing specific department needs, prioritizing options while keeping in mind confidentiality especially with sensitive city business/forms. Ald. Rue Simmons and Fleming thanked them for beginning the process and would like to be kept updated as process moves forward.

(HH6) Hiring Process/ Training of Administrative Hearing Officers K. Richardson reported that there will be 2 independent contractors hired this year, there were 3 last year. They will need implicit/explicit bias training to ensure judgements are equitable. Ald. Fleming asked that the dept. track rulings by hearing officers to have objective data to hold them accountable for judgement equity.

Alderman Fiske will be the next Committee Chair