



MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC)
TOWER 101 – 101 NE 3RD AVENUE
SUITE 1100 CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.

Committee Members

	Attendance	Present	Absent
Paula Yukna, Chair	P	5	0
Robin Martin, Vice Chair	A	3	2
Ray Dettman	P	5	0
Michael O'Brien	P	5	0
Amy Schimelfenyg	P	4	1
Colby Williams	P	4	1

Staff

Christopher Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager
Carole Mitchell, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager
Luisa Agathon, Neighbor Support Manager
Jorg Hruschka, Chief Volunteer Services

Others

Goldie Weakland
Kyle Pollock, Fellowship Recovery Community Organization (FRCO)
Sara Barclay, Fellowship Recovery Community Organization
Tony Docal
Greg Hunt
K. Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Yukna called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. Determination of Quorum

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

III. Public Sign-In

IV. Approval of May 2025 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Schimelfenyg, to approve the minutes of the May 2025 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Agenda Items

a. Presentation: Fellowship Recovery Community Organization (FRCO)

i. Kyle Pollock, Chief Operating Officer

As part of the City's state grant with the Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Mr. Kyle Pollock of Fellowship Recovery Community Organization presented to the Homeless Advisory Committee (HAC). Fellowship, a local nonprofit celebrating its 20th anniversary, provides recovery residences and operates two community centers—one in Fort Lauderdale and one in Margate. It is one of the few organizations offering substance use respite care. While its primary focus is substance use disorder recovery, approximately 60% of its clients have co-occurring issues, including mental health conditions and gambling disorders.

Mr. Pollock shared that since March 2025, FRCO has engaged 118 individuals through the City of Fort Lauderdale's Community Court Program, with 61 referred to Fellowship for recovery housing and 26 currently active in the program. All individuals referred by the City are unhoused at the time of entry, with homelessness durations ranging from a few months to several years.

The program is voluntary, and individuals may leave at any time. Some decline services, while others are connected to external resources. Of the organization's 200 beds, about 40 are in monthly transition, with approximately 160 individuals stably housed and working toward long-term recovery. Clients receive weekly case management and peer specialist support to address various recovery-related needs, such as obtaining identification, benefits, and mental health care. Fellowship also conducts outreach in neighborhoods and civic associations and allows participants to remain in the program as long as they are actively engaged in their recovery efforts.

b. City Updates:

****The following items were addressed collectively during the discussion.***

- i. Service Agreements/ Homeless Initiatives
- ii. HB 1365- FixIt FTL Data
- iii. Community Court and PD Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Data

Mr. Cooper presented an overview of the City of Fort Lauderdale's FY 2025 Homeless Initiatives, including program statistics, funding allocations, and strategic goals. Key initiatives include continued support for Community Court, Housing Navigation via TaskForce for Ending Homelessness, emergency shelter beds, mental health and substance abuse housing, and city staff including the Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) totaling approximately \$12 million in combined general fund and grant-funded support. A new "safe parking" pilot program, with a \$200,000 budget, is proposed pending the adoption of the City's FY 2026 annual budget. The program may serve up to 25 vehicles prioritizing families and women with children.

Committee Members raised concerns about the effectiveness of current spending and whether funding is reaching those in need. Mr. Weakland, a member of the public, proposed reallocating a portion of service provider funding to create a direct-assistance pilot program for individuals ready to be housed. Mr. Cooper acknowledged the concern expressed and shared that the City, in partnership with United Way, has requested \$500,000 in state funds to support new housing options. The Committee also discussed public perceptions of homelessness, panhandling, and ways to better engage the business community and public in supporting structured programs. Mr. Cooper concluded by noting ongoing communication efforts, including video outreach and recent media coverage highlighting Community Court and homeless services.

c. Homeless Advisory Committee

i. Committee Member Reappointments

Ms. Mitchell announced that all Committee members have been reappointed, with the exception of Mr. O'Brien, whose reappointment is scheduled for June 30th. The update was confirmed via a recent email.

ii. Revision to March Minutes – HAC extension date

The Committee revisited a revision to the March meeting minutes, correcting an error that had the Homeless Advisory Committee's extension through June 30, 2025, instead of the correct date, June 30, 2026.

Motion made by Mr. Dettman, seconded by Ms. Schimelfenyg, to approve the correction to the March minutes to reflect the HAC extension through June 2026. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

iii. Open Discussion

None.

VI. Public Input

Mr. Greg Hunt shared that he is organizing a fundraiser for Alzheimer's Awareness Month on June 21st at Club Nowhere from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., with 100% of the proceeds going to support the cause.

Ms. Mitchell announced that the July meeting location has changed. It will now be held at Fire Station No.2, 528 Northwest Second Street, Fort Lauderdale in the 3rd floor conference room. This update will also be included in the formal meeting notification.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 10, 2025, AT 1:00 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by J. Burnham, Prototype, Inc.]