



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, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.

Committee Members

	Attendance	Present	Absent
Paula Yukna, Chair	P	8	1
Robin Martin, Vice Chair	P	7	2
Ray Dettman	A	8	1
Michael O'Brien	P	8	1
Amy Schimelfenyg	P	8	1
Colby Williams	A	6	3
Dr. Wesley Julius	A	0	1

Staff

Marie Joseph, Homeless Initiatives Coordinator
Kayla Weinberg, Homeless Initiatives Senior Administrative Assistant
Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development
(HCD) Division Manager
Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department (CSD)
Director
Katrina Johnson, CSD Acting Assistant Department Director

Others

Tony Docal
Greg Hunt
Carlos Lang
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 October 2025 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Vice Chair Martin, to approve the minutes of the October 2025 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Agenda Items

a. Welcome Dr. Wesley Julius – Mayor Trantalis appointee

Dr. Julius was unavailable and unable to attend via Zoom as planned.

b. City Data and Program Updates: By Marie Joseph

i. HB 1365 – FixIt FTL

Ms. Joseph presented the City Data and Program Updates, reporting a total of 2,315 FixIt FTL requests for fiscal year 2025: 1,329 homeless concerns, 56 homeless outreach requests, and 934 HB 1365 requests, with an average 28-hour closure time. Homeless outreach received 56 requests. Chair Yukna requested clarification on the figures, and Ms. Joseph explained that requests are distributed among three teams. Vice Chair Martin asked about HB 1365 timelines, and Ms. Joseph confirmed a five-day requirement. October FixIt FTL results: 89 homeless concern requests, 7 homeless inquiries, 17 HB 1365 requests for a total of 113 down from 137 the previous month.

ii. Community Court and PD Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Data

Ms. Joseph also reviewed the Homeless Outreach Team's activity, noting 146 encounters, three reunifications, 76 outreach, 3 red-tagged individuals, 76 warnings, 6 NTAs (notice to appear) issued, 69 property checks, 35 FixIt FTL, 2 placements at The Caring Place shelter, and 2 community engagements. Mr. O'Brien questioned why only two individuals were sheltered, and Ms. Joseph responded that this is one specific shelter location. Individuals may also receive shelter placements, if available, via community

court or may be offered placement during street outreach. When asked whether encounters were proactive, she noted they are however, that is not specified in the dashboard. Mr. Williams inquired about “community engagement,” and Ms. Joseph provided clarification. Vice Chair Martin also asked about shelter bed availability; Ms. Joseph reported two female beds open and confirmed that The Caring Place holds eight male beds, eight female beds, and a family room funded by the City. Ms. Garcia noted that a single engagement may involve multiple individuals, and Vice Chair Martin asked about counting methods. Ms. Joseph explained that encounters—not unique individuals—are recorded, resulting in possible duplication.

The Community Court report for October 2025 noted 311 unduplicated participants and 447 total visits. Ms. Joseph stated that the totals reflect registered individuals only. Vice Chair Martin observed that the numbers appear to be declining, and Ms. Joseph agreed, noting that not everyone who enters Community Court is registered, also individuals receiving SNAP benefits and SSI are attending less frequently and weather conditions also influence participation. She added that some individuals with income are beginning to take advantage of shared housing opportunities, which may also contribute to the decrease in visits.

iii. Housing and Community Development

Ms. Williams provided programming highlights for the Housing and Community Development (HCD) division, noting that Homeless Initiatives is now part of the HCD/Community Services Department and explaining the organizational structure. She reviewed the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), which, if approved by HUD, would allocate \$2.5 million for homeless services tied to mitigation or restorative efforts related to the April 2023 flood. Ms. Williams explained that once HUD approval is received, the Homeless Advisory Committee will be asked to provide input on which services to fund. The grant will benefit all those affected, including large sums for homeowner repairs and reimbursements, and an affordable housing component will be drafted for committee input.

Vice Chair Martin asked whether the \$88 million total applies to a specific period, and Ms. Williams confirmed it spans five years, with a large portion designated for infrastructure; the full plan is available online. She clarified that the \$2.5 million for homelessness covers the life of the grant through 2030 and has not yet been spent, with funds expected to become available by late summer or October 2026. Discussion addressed displacement in Edgewater, primarily of renters, and the process for applications under the affordable housing component. Ms. Williams emphasized that “displaced” reflects extensive outreach and feedback from residents and City Council. She explained the homeowner reimbursement program and discussed rental assistance options for displaced renters, noting that data captured by FEMA will allow affected individuals to opt in, though policies still require fine-tuning. The board provided positive feedback on the program, including

Chair Yukna, Ms. Schimelfenyng, Vice Chair Martin, and Mr. Dettman. Ms. Williams also noted the grant includes an elevation component and clarified that landlords are not eligible for repair funds; only nonprofit organizations may receive funding.

c. Homeless Advisory Committee

i. Open Discussion

Mr. O'Brien asked for an update on the Fort Lauderdale (FTL) Safe Parking Program. Ms. Williams reported it is still in process, noting that the County issued an RFP for an FTL location and that she recently met with Hope South Florida to explore alignment and support. When Mr. O'Brien asked whether FTL would run its own program, Ms. Williams said that option is still open and could serve as a baseline if successful. Vice Chair Martin noted that two providers applied, and one was selected.

Mr. O'Brien inquired about changes to the ordinance regarding social service event feeding, and Ms. Garcia reported that a draft, prepared by Chris Cooper, is moving forward and will be discussed at a December 8 meeting with the City Attorney's office. Discussion included the current limit of four feedings per 12-month period per person, group, or organization in the same park. Vice Chair Martin requested that pending and open items be added to future agendas for monthly updates, and Mr. Dettman suggested including response times. Mr. O'Brien expressed being impressed at the speed of progress.

Vice Chair Martin also referenced emergency procedures included in the backup materials for a local shared housing provider that was previously presented before the Homeless Advisory Committee. Ms. Joseph confirmed that a Board and Committees training will be held from 6–8 p.m. on 11/24/25. She clarified that the training can be attended in person or via Zoom and shared that City Board and Committee Liaisons training is also scheduled for that date.

VI. Public Input (Heard before Homeless Advisory Committee open discussion)

Vice Chair Martin opened public comment

Carlos Lang raised concerns about the HOT's 28-hour response time and suggested incorporating rapid response into the CAD system. Mr. O'Brien noted that the state requirement is five days, and Vice Chair Martin agreed more timely responses are needed, noting October–December averages were 20 hours. Discussion focused on HOT team operations, resources, and visits, with Ms. Garcia explaining that regular officers are generally not equipped however, code enforcement officers follow the FixIt reporting process and additional homeless initiatives staff are coming on board. Chair Yukna noted that chronically homeless individuals may refuse help, and Mr. O'Brien suggested

expanding Community Court hours and changing the word “Court” which is only part of the concept. Ms. Joseph and Ms. Garcia explained delays due to staff transitions and committed to exploring options with the City Manager and potential grant funding for additional hours.

Mr. Lang also expressed concern about the \$88 million funding cap and limitations on homeowner assistance, advocating for more infrastructure investment. Ms. Williams clarified that 46% of CDBG funds are allocated to housing, with full details available online.

Greg Hunt also spoke about HOT team response times, noting they are long. He shared that he once slept in the library and was awakened only once and described people begging for drug money and the presence of drug dealers in the area.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2025, AT 1:00 P.M.

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