



## MEETING MINUTES

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
 HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC)  
 TOWER 101-101 NE 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
 SUITE 1100 CONFERENCE ROOM  
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.**

<b><u>Committee Members</u></b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Paula Yukna, Chair	P	9	1
Robin Martin, Vice Chair (left at 2:11pm)	P	8	2
Ray Dettman	P	9	1
Michael O'Brien	P	9	1
Amy Schimelfenyg (arrived at 1:11pm)	P	9	1
Colby Williams	P	7	3
Dr. Wesley Julius (arrived at 1:11 pm)	P	1	1

### **Staff**

Marie Joseph, Homeless Initiatives Coordinator  
 Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development  
 (HCD) Division Manager  
 Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department (CSD)  
 Director  
 Katrina Johnson, CSD Acting Assistant Department Director  
 Carole Mitchell, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager  
 Olivette Carter, Assistant HCD Manager

### **Others**

Tony Docal, Hope South Florida  
 K. Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

#### **I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Yukna called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

#### **II. Determination of Quorum**

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

### **III. Public Sign-In**

### **IV. Approval of November 2025 Minutes**

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

### **V. Agenda Items**

#### **a. City Data and Program Updates: By Carole Mitchell**

##### **i. HB 1365 – FixIt FTL**

Discussion was held on HB 1365 and the FixIt FTL program. Staff reported that for Quarter 1 (specifically November 2025), there were a total of 139 FixIt FTL requests received.

##### **ii. Community Court Data and Potential Service Expansion**

Discussion was held on Community Court data and the potential expansion of services. Staff reported 162 unique participants. Volunteer for Hope South Florida was present and was recognized for assisting the unhoused every Wednesday during Community Court to apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

##### **iii. Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) FixIt FTL Response Time**

Discussion was held on Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) response times for the FixIt FTL program. For November, staff reported 85 encounters, one reunification, and 53 outreach contacts, along with one community engagement. Ms. Yukna asked about red tags, and Ms. Mitchell provided clarification. Staff also noted that the data point for the Caring Place shelter placements needs to be updated.

##### **iv. Housing and Community Development/Development Opportunity**

Discussion was held on Housing and Community Development opportunities related to Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery funding and an upcoming request for proposals for permanent supportive and affordable housing. Ms. Williams, HCD Division Manager, outlined plans to seek proposals focused on programming and supportive services rather than project size, with an emphasis on onsite services, including mental health support. Funding would be provided as gap financing, with up to \$18 million allocated for affordable housing within an \$88 million total funding pool, and up to \$75,000 per unit contingent on proposal viability.

Chair Yukna raised questions regarding eligibility, flood-impacted requirements, and the extended timelines associated with development and construction. Williams explained that projects must have a documented tie-back to disaster recovery, HUD approval is required, and the total timeline for expenditure is up to six years.

Vice Chair Martin questioned the use of the term “permanent,” asked whether vouchers would be required, and emphasized the importance of strong case management, oversight, and medication management services, particularly when serving mixed populations or working with for-profit entities. Ms. Williams clarified that the funding is a one-time development source, open to nonprofits and LLCs, does not cover operations or maintenance, and that affordability levels may be set at or below 80% AMI, with flexibility to be more restrictive.

Board members expressed overall support for the approach while noting the need for clear service requirements, safeguards in the qualification process, and coordination with County and HUD partners.

v. Social Service Event Application Ordinance Revision

An update was provided on the Social Service Event Application Ordinance revision. Ms. Mitchell advised that a full update is not yet available, as the item remains under review by the City Attorney’s Office. Vice Chair Martin asked whether issues related to food provision had increased. Ms. Mitchell indicated they had not, and Ms. Joseph, Homeless Initiative Coordinator, noted that only one parking-related complaint had been received.

vi. Safe Parking Program

Ms. Williams reported that the City will not publish the Safe Parking Program RFP yet, as the County has already released theirs to provide supportive services. The City will evaluate the program over the next three months and offer referrals to HCD programs, including priority referrals for rapid rehousing, contingent on funding availability. An additional \$30,000 was allocated this year, plus rollovers. Tenant-based assistance administered by Homes Inc. will provide approximately \$400,000 in funding this year, serving roughly 10–20 clients, with potential consideration for HIV-related needs via the HOPWA program. The Homeless Family Safe Parking Program, facilitated by Hope South Florida, is scheduled to open on December 15, at a church location not disclosed at the time.

Vice Chair Martin thanked staff for the update, noting that this is a good strategy to soft test the program. Mr. O’Brien asked whether the County typically seeks feedback from local civic associations; Ms. Williams replied she was not part of those meetings. Vice Chair Martin noted the program will primarily serve families, likely single mothers with

children. Ms. Williams confirmed appropriate parameters will be in place regarding hours and that the County will manage the referral process, with City resources intended to assist roughly 30 households into housing.

Mr. O'Brien asked who made the decision to proceed. Ms. Williams explained that staff drafted the RFP in collaboration with County leadership, who supported the proposal. Vice Chair Martin clarified how Hope South Florida was chosen and noted potential for expansion or alternative locations. Dr. Julius inquired about \$200,000 in funding; Ms. Williams confirmed it is already allocated.

vii. 2026 HAC Meeting Dates

Ms. Mitchell noted that the HAC operates on an extended year ending June 30, 2026, and any recommendation to extend beyond that would need to be made no later than March.

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Martin, seconded by Mr. Dettman, that at the appropriate time, a request for extension be submitted. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**c. Homeless Advisory Committee**

i. Open Discussion

None

**VI. Public Input**

Chair Yukna opened public comment

Tony Docal, a volunteer, from Hope South Florida reported that the organization has closed mail processing but will continue under certain conditions. He noted ongoing challenges for clients in receiving disability checks and EBT/food stamp cards and requested that the City consider having mail for the unhoused delivered to Community Court. Hope South Florida previously processed mail for approximately 600 people, but the number has now decreased to about 450 at LifeNet for Families.

Mr. Dettman expressed frustration, noting that the issue was first raised nine months ago. Ms. Joseph, Homeless Initiative Coordinator, explained that clients apply for SNAP at Community Court and require a mailing address; at Ruth Ministry, clients have already received their cards. Mr. Docal noted that the ongoing hurdle is clients needing continuous access to mail.

**Motion** made by Mr. Dettman, seconded by Dr. Julius, to send a message to the City Commission regarding the homeless that are unable to receive (important) mail without a specific address, requesting assistance to provide a solution. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously

Chair Yunka closed public comment.

Dr. Julius reported on a meeting with the Fire Department regarding Mobile Integrated Health (MIH), noting there is only one paramedic and limited medical support. He raised the possibility of volunteer involvement and discussed staffing challenges due to funding constraints, seeking ideas for how the Committee could assist patients in crisis. Chair Yunka noted that this body may have limited capacity to help.

Ms. Garcia, CSD Director, stated she would consult with Monique Young (Fire MIH) and follow up with the Committee. Ms. Joseph reminded members that MIH and the HOT Team have previously presented to the Committee. Ms. Garcia added that a new lieutenant has been assigned to the MIH team and could be relevant to future discussions.

## **VII. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2025, AT 1:00 P.M.**

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