Relocation of the Lighthouse Center

Questions, Answers and Discussion

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Outline of Our Presentation

- Why Are We Here?
- Background on Homelessness and Some of Our Work
- What is the Current Lighthouse Center?
- Why is New Lighthouse Multi-Service Center Needed?
- What is the Proposed Location for the New Center?
- What is Planned to Happen at the New Lighthouse Multi-Service Center?
- What are the Next Steps and Proposed Schedule?
- What are Your Questions?
Why Are We Here?

- To provide information on the proposed new Lighthouse Multi-Service Center
- To hear and discuss your questions
Background on Homelessness

- Homelessness is a complex issue
- Nationally, homeless numbers are increasing
- In Virginia Beach, this trend holds true, with families with children being the fastest growing segment of our homeless population
10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

- Key Goals of Plan:
  - Prevent Homelessness
  - Move Homeless Persons into Permanent Housing as Quickly as Possible
  - Expand Decent, Safe and Affordable Housing Opportunities
  - Provide Housing Opportunities Consistent with City Housing and Neighborhood Goals
  - Connect people to services and resources
  - Enhance community leadership, support and understanding
Some of Our Work to End Homelessness

- In FY 09-10, helped prevent or end homelessness for 252 households through Dragas Foundation and federal funds. In addition:
  - 35 homeless veterans were moved into permanent housing
  - 22 new beds of housing in JCOC’s West Lane apartments are now leasing up
  - 25 additional vouchers for veterans to obtain permanent housing are available
  - 6 additional vouchers for chronically homeless to obtain permanent housing are available
Some of Our Work to End Homelessness

- 6 permanent housing units in South Bay now leasing up, for a total of 60 region wide permanent supportive housing units for Virginia Beach
- Over the past five years, 180 units of permanent supportive housing have been created in the region
- Virginia Beach coordinates the Continuum of Care, which provides over $1.2 million of federal funds annually to non-profits who provide housing and support services to the homeless:
  - Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation (VBCDC)
  - Samaritan House
  - Community Alternatives Management Group (CAMG)
  - Judeo Christian Outreach Center (JCOC)
  - Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH)
- City annually budgets hundreds of thousands of dollars to support activities/programs to end homelessness
Current Lighthouse Center -- Its Role in Connecting People to Services and Housing
Background on Lighthouse Center

- City-owned facility, but leased to and managed by Volunteers of America (VOA), a non-profit organization that has provided services to the single homeless
- Has provided day support services to single homeless men and women since 1997
- A few words from Debbie Maloney, VOA, Director of Lighthouse Center
Services Currently Offered

- Provides day services for single homeless adults
  - Refer and connect people to housing
  - Case management and life skills training (i.e. education and employment)
  - Shower and laundry facilities
  - Transportation for offsite Winter Shelter Program (Oct. – April)
Current Location: 825 18th St.
Why is the New Lighthouse Center Needed?

- New development between 17th and 19th St.
- City’s desire to expand and enhance range of services currently offered at existing facility as part of 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
- City’s desire to expand who we serve:
  - Families, in addition to singles
  - Anyone experiencing a housing crisis
  - Other low-income families and individuals who need similar services
Proposed New Location: 215 N. Birdneck Rd.
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Proposed Location vs. Current Location
Why Was This Site Chosen?

- We have been looking at sites for the new Lighthouse Multi-Service Center for quite awhile.
- When choosing a site, it must:
  - Be available for purchase
  - Pass an affordability test
  - Not cause displacement of existing businesses or homes
  - Meet BRAC requirements – cannot be in Accident Potential Zone 1
- Proximity to Oceanfront
  - Where most of the city’s homeless are concentrated
- Zoning to support development
What will the building look like?
(proposed conceptual design only -- not final)

Will approximately be 12,000 sq. feet
(current facility is 3,300 sq. feet)
Proposed Floor Plan
(proposed conceptual design only -- not final)
What is Planned to Happen at the New Lighthouse Center?

- People with housing crises and who are homeless will go to the center for information and appointments to determine if there is help available.
- Homeless individuals and families will get connected to housing opportunities and other services, make calls, have showers, and do laundry.
- City housing staff and some social services will be available.
- Other organizations (i.e. Social Security, Veterans Affairs and VEC) will periodically be available to provide services.
Examples of New or Expanded Services

- Centralization of intake and referral information for those experiencing a housing crisis or who are homeless
- Applying for housing assistance of various types including homelessness prevention funds, security deposit assistance and housing vouchers
- Applying for benefits administered by the Dept. of Human Services, such as SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid
- Expanded opportunities for veteran’s outreach, social security, connection to employment, and other federal and state programs
What Will Not Happen at the New Lighthouse Center?

- No emergency shelter or overnight housing
- No soup kitchen or dining hall
Key Points to Consider

- The new Lighthouse Multi-Service Center is a contributor to the community:
  - Quality construction and architecture
  - Utilization of a difficult-to-use site that is currently vacant

- The new center is not a place to keep people homeless. Rather, it is envisioned as a center of opportunity to help people obtain housing services and escape homelessness.
Key Points to Consider (continued)

- It will serve families with housing crises, including low-income families from the surrounding community, by providing city and non-profit housing, employment and other related services delivered onsite.

- The center is not bringing homeless people into the area – homeless persons in Virginia Beach have been located in the area, from the Oceanfront to Birdneck Rd., for over 25 years.
Key Points to Consider (continued)

- The center will **not** have a dining or housing component.
- It will not duplicate services available elsewhere, but it will expand what is available at the current Lighthouse Center
  - Capacity to serve families and others with housing crises, as well as continuing to serve single homeless persons
Key Points to Consider (continued)

● New center will provide expanded opportunities to build partnerships with the faith community, non-profits and the business community to enhance services and move people out of homelessness.
Key Points to Consider (continued)

- Security and behavior issues are a key concern
  - A security plan will be developed in consultation with the Police Department, the private operator, and the community.
  - Perimeter of property will be fenced.
  - Exterior/interior security cameras for monitoring activity.
Small Group Discussions

● Each table has been provided with a facilitator/recorder who will help lead the discussion

● The city wants to hear your input regarding the new Lighthouse project:
  – Any questions on purpose, structure or services?
  – What concerns do you have?

● Each group will be asked to prioritize and report out on their top questions

● Your input and answers to questions will be posted on our department webpage: www.vbgov.com/housing
What’s Next After this Meeting?

- Staff will respond to any questions you have that we can’t answer right now.
- Staff will report back to the City Manager.
- Citizens can express their views to the City Council or city staff.
Official City Action

- City Council and the City Manager will discuss how to proceed
- Depending on their direction, this item (acquisition of the proposed site) may be placed on the City Council’s agenda on Tuesday, March 8
How to Contact Us

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Thank you!

Discussion, questions and answers

Where to Get Additional Information

- Housing & Neighborhood Preservation’s Website: [www.vbgov.com/housing](http://www.vbgov.com/housing)
  - Find information under “Hot Topics”

- Provide us with your email address to receive notifications about the proposed new Lighthouse Multi-Service Center