

Education & Advocacy Minutes

Committee Meeting 8/9/2023 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Present: Marjorie Lewis, Chara Taylor, Pam Anderson, Torrie Kopp-Mueller, Michelle Hemp, Alicia Spry, Katrina Burnett, Rosa Rhoden, Matt Julian, Takisha Jordan, Aurelius Leslie, Yanette Figueroa-Cole (Guest Speaker), Rose Manjon, Michael Moody, Jessica Sims, Mary Carrasco-Schoer

1. Advocacy regarding Ordinance

-ED & Adv members sent letters to Alders regarding the removal of the penalty ordinance

-Marjorie has interview with Channel 3 regarding Ordinance

- Alder Figueroa-Cole spoke about the ordinance we are trying to remove as well as others that seem targeted toward the homeless. She is pursuing options to get legislators to be specific and name who they are speaking about specifically because she is confident that no one will be willing to name the homeless specifically, especially since they are protected in Madison. She is also trying to work with the City Attorney and others to clarify the language in the ordinances that came about from isolated instances but would target mainly the homeless.

-We are not trying to have trespassing ordinances removed only the additional penalties that would specifically impact the homeless

-while we plan to work on many other rules/ordinances that negatively impact the population this topic is currently top priority

-Next Common Council meeting is September 5, 2023 Alder Cole wants to get this matter on the radar/agenda for October's meeting.

Process for getting Topics to a vote

I. Introduce topic w/o discussion

II. Topic is referred to committee that is most closely related to topic

III. Topic comes back to Common Council for discussion/vote (11 Alders are needed to agree with your position on topic)

Next steps: Continue to submit letters asking for support. Follow-up on letters/emails already sent.

Takisha suggested that Ed & Advo members participate in a process where we will be allowed to speak and plead our case to Alders/Legislators. Would probably have to be LEC/YAB or others who are not restricted by their jobs/positions

Panhandling

- Is another area we want to tackle at some point, but Alder Cole pointed out that there are some gray areas where safety is a factor so she would like to return and work with us when we begin tackling that topic