MEMORANDUM

Date: March 12, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: Request to Reconvene the Eviction and Homelessness Prevention Taskforce

At the last Board meeting where the issue of eviction was discussed, the Board asked that the Eviction and Homeless Prevention Taskforce reconvene.

We have communicated with the Chairman of the Taskforce, Mr. Michael McDonald, who is also the CEO of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. His March 11, 2021 response is attached for your information.

What is conveyed in his letter is that the Taskforce’s report is up to date since the Taskforce began its work in the summer and met for four continuous months to reach its recommendations, which was a final consensus report provided on December 20, 2020.

At this time, Mr. McDonald believes those recommendations would not be significantly altered by anything that has occurred in the intervening time period of the last 60 days. The Taskforce is willing to reconvene, but I believe they would want to do so after the next round of rental assistance funds have been distributed.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
March 11, 2021

Chuck Huckleberry
Administrator
Pima County
Via email

Re: Eviction & Homelessness Prevention Taskforce Report (December 2020)

Dear Chuck:

I understand that the Pima County Board of Supervisors recently requested that the Eviction & Homelessness Prevention Taskforce reconvene and continue our research and recommendation process.

As you know, the representative diverse task force began its work in August 2020 and was asked to forward its recommendations to you by mid-September.

But given the complexity of the urgent and important issues – as well as the dedicated commitment of the twenty-three expert community members on our task force – we simply failed to adhere to your original mid-September deadline. Instead, our task force and its subcommittees met numerous times over a four-month span into November 2020, completing a thorough (and admittedly, somewhat contentious) set of 40 robust recommendations, which were presented in our final consensus report to you on December 20, 2020.

Consequently, on behalf of a diverse task force with admittedly differing parochial interests, I will assert that our research and recommendation process has already been successfully completed, as we collectively looked beyond our respective self-interests, centered the greater good of people at-risk of experiencing eviction and homelessness, and came up with a comprehensive set of timely and (hopefully) value-added and diverse recommendations that we felt that the Pima County Board of Supervisors could subsequently act upon, in close partnership with you and County staff.

I now take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the talented and dedicated members of our taskforce for all their insights, expertise, and hard work on behalf of our community. I also thank you for the amazing staff support our taskforce received throughout a process that could have devolved into unproductive territorial camps. But didn’t.

At the end of the day, southern Arizonans always come together to do what is right and just and needed. And for the sake of our neighbors continuing to be at risk of eviction and homelessness, I’m confident that our Pima County Board of Supervisors will lead the way in ensuring that this commitment continues in this incomparable place we all know as home!

Sincerely,

Michael McDonald, CEO