

Homelessness, Housing, Mental Health Task Force

March 8, 2023



Meeting Purpose:

Hear from the business and tourism community about addressing common concerns voiced by employers, employees, and patrons. For example, trespassing, theft, obstructing public entrances, being accosted or a general feeling of threat, discarding unsanitary items including bodily fluid, drug paraphernalia, and other personal items.

The logo for the Tulsa Regional Chamber features a green, upward-curving line above the text.

TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

Justin McLaughlin – Executive Vice President & COO
Jonathan Long – Vice President of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



About Us

- **Our Mission:** We transform the Tulsa region by attracting and retaining employers, talent, and tourism for long-term prosperity.
- We convene business leaders to take well-informed stances and to engage in high-level conversations around topics to support business growth in our community.
- While several of our members are organizations that serve our unsheltered community, we find ourselves most often working with the Tulsa Area United Way.

Business Impacts

- ***Current state of homelessness in Tulsa impacting the business community we represent***
 - Concern for continued business investment based on an increase and more prevalent issues around homelessness from a safety standpoint.
- ***Availability and quality of housing impact on existing businesses and recruitment***
 - Previous recruitment activity traditionally had not considered housing in their factors of determination; however, we are starting to see more housing questions during the process.

Recommendations

- The business community is eager to be engaged and willing to be a part of the solution.
- Homelessness is a multifaceted issue, one that requires equal parts empathy and policy, and it's difficult to know where to start.
- ***What can the City do to support our organization as we focus on addressing the individual needs and community impacts of homelessness?***
 - Right-of-way ordinance
 - Diversification of housing options

Panel Discussion

Justin McLaughlin, Executive Vice President & COO - Tulsa Regional Chamber

Jonathan Long, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion - Tulsa Regional Chamber

Jerry Floyd, General Manager - River Spirit Casino Resort

Shawn Terry, Secretary of Health - Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Trisha Kerkstra, Director - Metro Tulsa Hotel & Lodging Association

Elliot Nelson, Founder & CEO - McNellie's Restaurant Group

Vicente Ruiz, Electrical Contractor - VR Electrical Services

Brad Venable, General Manager - Brut Hotel

Jacqueline Dutton, Owner - Mad Dog Liquor

Casey Keefer, General Manager - Hampton Inn & Suites Tulsa

Kim Koch, Vice President - Saied Music Company

Pete Patel, President & CEO - Promise Hotels



Business and Tourism in Tulsa

- What is the single most important item you want to share with the task force?
- What community partners or city departments do you interact with to assist when needed?
 - What is going well?
 - What improvements are needed?
- How does your business/organization address the various needs of people experiencing homelessness?
 - What is going well?
 - What improvements are needed?

How can the City help to more effectively support an individual's needs and mitigate the impacts to businesses stemming from homelessness?

- Policy changes in local ordinances and/or state laws.
- Convening among community partners and broader public.
- Financial resources for programs, services, staff, etc.