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.
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.