



General Government & Social Services Committee

November 3, 2015

Summary and Motions

Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members Bledsoe, F. Brown, Evans, Gibbs, Henson, Lamb, Moloney, and Scutchfield were in attendance. Committee Members Akers and J. Brown were absent. Vice Mayor Kay was also in attendance.

I. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Bledsoe to approve the October 6, 2015 General Government & Social Services Committee summary as amended, seconded by Scutchfield. The motion passed without dissent.

I. Review of Ethics Ordinance – Update

Evans provided an update of the Ethics Ordinance Review Subcommittee. She reported that the Subcommittee met on October 27, 2015 to review changes. Evans informed that the Subcommittee has forwarded the proposed changes to the Ethics Commission for their input. Evans informed they expect to have a final report out in January.

There was no additional discussion on the item.

II. Lexington Global Engagement Center

Isabel Taylor, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator, presented an update on the Lexington Global Engagement Center. Taylor reviewed immediate and long-term goals for the Center; she stated that the long-term goals are to engage the local community and the immigrant community. She reviewed the challenges that the Center faces, including a need for interpreters, education and training, and workforce and entrepreneurial support.

Henson urged Council Members to visit the Center and inquired how interpreter services are provided. Taylor stated that staff is researching long-term, stable solutions to supply interpreters to the LFUCG and area hospitals. Taylor stated she is on the Board of the Southeastern Medical Interpreters Association which brings yearly training to Lexington for medical interpreters. Henson inquired if funding is budgeted for interpreters, to which Taylor replied the majority of the budget is for Professional Services, which includes interpreters.

In response to a question from Bledsoe, Taylor confirmed there are no Spanish-speaking interpreters at LexCall, but noted that Language Line is utilized as needed. Taylor informed that Social Services and 911 also use this resource. Bledsoe stated that additional internships could supplement language needs and that the Center should continue to be used as a language connector for the greater community.

Bledsoe further inquired if there are community ambassadors actively recruiting individuals. Taylor stated she has connections to the larger communities via interpreters, and that she passes along relevant information through them. Taylor stated driver's education classes are a primary reason for visits to the Center.

Moloney stated his support for the Center, and stated Kentucky has a high demand for trades. He recommended a program that provides training for in-demand trade careers with Home Builders of Lexington, and he provided a reference. Moloney stated the importance of relationships in assisting professional immigrants with transitioning into professions. Taylor stated that internships are one means to assist with those transitions. Taylor stated advocacy is needed at the state level to better meet these needs.

Lamb inquired how Council can support the work of Global Lex. Taylor stated the Commissioner and the Administration have identified focus areas, and workforce development is a high priority. Taylor stated needs for professional counseling, grant writing assistance, and Spanish translators to be utilized across all of the LFUCG. Lamb inquired of CAO Sally Hamilton if they have identified other areas of government where a multi-lingual staff would be of benefit. Hamilton stated that this needs to be evaluated in the near future. Hamilton stated their first goal was to get the Center opened, and the next budget request will address further priorities.

Taylor stated over the past several years she has met with the Secretary of Transportation and others to advocate for having the driver's manual translated, which would be a \$9,000 one-time expense. Taylor stated this will require further advocacy.

III. Items in Committee

Kay inquired about the ESR process timeline, and Commissioner Ford stated they have begun work on process improvements and anticipate completion and presentation to the Committee by March 2016, with the possibility of an earlier interim report.

A motion was made by Henson to adjourn, seconded by F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

D.S. 11.3.2015