



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

April 14, 2026

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Tom Eblen, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, and Whitney Elliott Baxter were in attendance as voting members. Council Members James Brown, Emma Curtis, Dave Sevigny, and Hil Boone were present as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Motion by Ellinger for approval of the March 17, 2026 Committee Meeting Summary. Seconded by Hale. Motion passed without dissent.

II. AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS UPDATE

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Affordable Housing Fund is the community's primary tool for producing and preserving affordable housing for households earning at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). The fund leverages local dollars with federal, state, and private financing to reduce development costs, enabling lower rents and more affordable homeownership opportunities.

Since Fiscal Year 2015, the Fund has committed approximately \$59 million to support 3,826 housing units, while leveraging over \$474 million in outside investment—a significant return on local funding. On average, LFUCG investment equates to approximately \$15,474 per unit, demonstrating strong financial leverage. A substantial portion of resources has been directed toward deeper affordability, with 84.2% of funded units serving households at or below 60% AMI.

Recent developments include senior housing, supportive housing, and mixed-income projects across Lexington, reflecting a diversified approach to meeting housing demand. To maintain long-term affordability amid rising rents, the Affordable Housing Board has adopted policies that ensure funded units remain affordable to households at or below 60% AMI, even as market pressures increase. Despite strong performance, the program faces ongoing challenges, including rising interest rates, escalating construction and property management costs, and limited availability of affordable land.

Looking ahead, Fiscal Year 2027 priorities include expanding permanent supportive housing, increasing units for households at or below 30% AMI, and advancing targeted developments such as the Transylvania project. The Fund will also continue aligning investments with identified community housing needs. Overall, the Affordable Housing Fund represents a high-impact, leveraged investment strategy that delivers measurable housing outcomes, supports vulnerable populations, and remains central to Lexington's broader efforts to address housing affordability and supply.

III. LEXINGTON MOBILE MARKET

Ciara Coleman, Opportunity Officer in the Mayor's Office, provided an update on the Lexington Mobile Market. The market is a public-private partnership advancing health equity by delivering affordable groceries directly to underserved neighborhoods with limited food access and transportation barriers. The program was developed in response to the 2020 Commission for Racial Justice & Equality, which identified improved food access as a priority recommendation.

Launched through a phased process (2020–2022) and now fully operational, the model leverages coordinated roles across LFUCG (ownership and oversight), God’s Pantry Food Bank (operations and logistics), and Kroger (inventory and sales systems). Service is targeted using data-driven site selection, with a concentration in high-need areas such as Districts 1, 2, and 11, and a focus on low-income households and seniors with mobility challenges.

The program has demonstrated strong and growing utilization. In 2025, the Mobile Market generated 9,259 transactions and \$163,542 in sales, up from 2024, with EBT usage increasing to over 35%, indicating a deeper reach into low-income populations. Average sales per stop have nearly doubled, reflecting improved efficiency and demand. High-performing locations are concentrated in senior- and dense-residential communities.

Primary opportunities moving forward include expanding performance metrics (customer demographics and outcomes), assessing service coverage gaps, and evaluating scalability through additional routes or capacity. The Lexington Mobile Market is emerging as a replicable regional model, with interest from nearby communities. Continued refinement and targeted investment could further strengthen its role as a core component of Lexington’s health equity and food access strategy.

IV. DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

Stephanie Theakston, Program Coordinator, explained that the Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition (DSVPC) serves as Lexington’s coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. The Coalition brings together a broad network of stakeholders, including law enforcement, courts, schools, healthcare providers, nonprofit service agencies, and LFUCG divisions, to ensure a comprehensive, victim-centered approach to prevention, intervention, and system coordination. The Coalition’s mission is to foster a culture of safety and empowerment through advocacy, education, collaboration, and service alignment. Its core work focuses on improving system responsiveness to survivors, promoting best practices across agencies, and strengthening public understanding of interpersonal violence and available resources.

In the past year, DSVPC has significantly expanded its prevention and training efforts, particularly through its bystander intervention program, which has delivered multiple trainings and developed a growing network of trained community members equipped to intervene safely before violence occurs. The Coalition has also prioritized youth and child-focused initiatives, including training on the impacts of domestic violence on children, teen dating violence education, and the development of public awareness materials such as videos and PSAs.

Looking forward, DSVPC is focused on strengthening evaluation of program outcomes, expanding housing-related support for survivors, and continuing to build partnerships that address emerging needs—particularly those affecting children and vulnerable populations. Overall, the Coalition represents a critical infrastructure for coordinated violence prevention and response in Lexington, delivering both direct community impact and long-term system improvements through sustained collaboration and targeted prevention strategies.

V. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.