

March 27, 2022

Lynnwood City Council
19100 44th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Honorable Councilmembers,

I am writing in my position as Chair of the Lynnwood of Lynnwood Human Services Commission (HSC) regarding Lynnwood's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Before proceeding, I wish to make clear this is a letter from myself individually and not the HSC, due to time constraints preventing a special meeting to discuss the content of this letter without breaking requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. However, I have requested the content of this letter be the first agenda item at the April 7 meeting of the HSC.

It has come to my attention that HSC comments on ARPA funds, in combination with comments from other people and organizations, were received by Council with supplemental information, and either moved forward or eliminated from consideration by the Council at the March 21, 2022, meeting.

It is, of course, the Council's prerogative to determine how they receive and deliberate on information. However, it appears that many of the items up for consideration—including those from the HSC—were not fully understood by the Council on March 21st. This is not to say that I expect the Council to have total understanding of the issues from the materials provided by the HSC or others. In fact, I have quite the opposite expectation. With that in mind, I had hoped that Council Members, recognizing they did not have all the information they wanted on the proposals, would have invited representatives from the submitting bodies to speak on the item, answer questions, and receive requests for further information, before deciding whether to accept or strike the proposal from further consideration. In the case of the HSC, this could be accomplished by the Council's liaison, staff liaison or the commissioners themselves.

The HSC's submission, I believe, deserves particular attention by the Council. It represents five months of ARPA-focused work, which was built on a foundation of three years' strategic work by the HSC and City liaisons to engage with the community and stakeholders (presented to Council in May 2021). The HSC ARPA summary presented for Council review for the March 21 meeting was just that, a summary. It was not intended to comprehensively describe Lynnwood community needs, or programmatic particulars. Finally, both the May 2021 HSC recommendations and the ARPA supplement, are recommendations that the HSC is directed to produce by LMC 2.47.020(A),(C),(D), and (F).

Reviewing Council deliberation, I infer additional comment may be sought from some individuals or groups that made proposals to the Council regarding ARPA, and that these discussions will occur around late April. This is appreciated, but it appears out of order since it comes after some proposals were struck from consideration on March 21st. This ordering means proposals were struck without discussion to address real or perceived issues on which the proposals may have been disqualified.

It is not my intention to advise the Council on how to operate. However, I feel it is appropriate to observe that the Council risks not moving forward on actions investing in Lynnwood's community due to having incomplete information. Not seeing other comments in the public sphere addressing this possibility, I feel it my responsibility to present this perspective.

If, in response to this letter, the Council feels that I, the HSC, or others should have more adequately described their proposals preemptively, there is a further item to address. HSC meetings have for months grappled to find clarity on the Council's wishes regarding HSC recommendation for ARPA investment. Council's expectations on depth of study, proposal detail, communication timelines and City priorities, have been guesswork to me, and I believe to my fellow Commissioners. The HSC recognizes its role as an advisory body to the Council, and respects that relationship, but also must understand what is expected of it to be effective. If I can request improved clarity in how the Council wishes to receive information from the HSC, similar confusion may be prevented in the future.

Thank you for your time in considering this issue, for your leadership of the City of Lynnwood, and for your commitment to its people, both current and in the future. I, and the HSC, look forward to further opportunities to engage with the Council on this and all issues related to human services within the City of Lynnwood.

Sincerely,

Chris Collier

Chris Collier
Commission Chair
City of Lynnwood Human Services Commission

Corbitt Loch

From: Art Ceniza
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 12:01 PM
To: Corbitt Loch
Cc: Michelle Meyer
Subject: FW: Letter from HSC Chair

Fyi below.

Art

From: Lisa Harrison <lharrison@Lynnwoodwa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:17 AM
To: DL Council <Council@Lynnwoodwa.gov>; Christine Frizzell <cfrizzell@Lynnwoodwa.gov>; Art Ceniza <ACeniza@lynnwoodwa.gov>; Lynn Sordel <LSordel@lynnwoodwa.gov>
Subject: FW: Letter from HSC Chair

Please see note from Council President Hurst:

For you information Below is the response I sent to Chris Collier, chair of the HSC.

Thank you for the letter, a close review of the Council meeting on the 21st will reveal that very few items were eliminated from consideration, some items were consolidated under one topic, a few items were postponed as budget item actions rather than ARPA expenditures. I believe all the recommendations of the HSC are still in a review process, the 21st was a time for questions to be raised so further discussion could occur. And these deliberations will happen, perhaps in a time frame that is not to the satisfaction of yourself. My intent is to have the April 20th meeting devoted to answering questions that Council raised on the 21st. And there will be further Council work sessions on ARPA.

I very much appreciate the work of the Human Service Commission. On March 14th I met with Director Sordel and we reviewed the work of the HSC. The final HSC recommendations (with the addition of the Human Services position and funding for Fair on 44th) were sent to me Thursday evening, well past the deadline of when the agenda for March 21 was sent out to the Council. I instructed the City Clerk to send out a revised agenda on Friday that would include the updated HSC recommendations.

I look forward to future discussions with you and the Human Services Commission.

George Hurst
Lynnwood City Council President
