

To: City Council
From: Debbie Laurie
Date: December 28, 2022
RE: Priority Setting Session

Overview

For the Council Year 2022-2023, four overarching priorities: ARPA Funding, Economic Development, Homelessness, and Housing formed the basis of the City Council's priority setting session on December 7, 2022. The nine priorities identified by the City Councilors are highlighted below.

Identified Priorities

ARPA

- Continue to prioritize City Council ARPA sessions

Staff Resources: City Manager's Office, Public Health
Areas of Overlap: Council Priorities, HUD TA, ARPA
Completed: First round of Penobscot County partnership
Next Steps: a. Continuation of Penobscot County partnership discussions
b. School based SUDS/Mental Health Strategies – January 2023
c. Detox Beds Update – January 2023
d. Community based SUDS/Mental Health Strategies – February 2023
e. Efficiency Maine partnership – February 2023
f. Finalize broadband partnership – February 2023
g. Develop background information, alternatives and recommended action
Timeline: January 2023 – March 2023
Committee: Government Operations and ARPA Workshop Session

Economic Development

- Investigate strategies for redevelopment of Bangor Mall

Staff Resources: Economic Development
Areas of Overlap: None Known
Next Steps: Develop background information, alternatives and recommended action
Timeline: April 2023 – June 2023
Committee: Business and Economic Development Committee

- Workforce Development (Community)

Staff Resources: City Manager’s Office
 Areas of Overlap: ARPA
 Next Steps: Obtained contact information from EMCC, identify existing resources, and review for gaps
 Timeline: January 2023 – March 2023
 Committee: ARPA Workshop Session

Homelessness

- Work with communities and agencies to develop a balanced approach to encampments

Staff Resources: City Manager’s Office, Public Health
 Areas of Overlap: HUD TA, Potentially 131st Legislative Session
 Next Steps: Use the HUD TA team to assist in developing an appropriate strategy for all stakeholders
 Timeline: January 2023 – March 2023
 Committee: Government Operations Committee

- Warming Center Capacity

Staff Resources: City Manager’s Office, Public Health
 Areas of Overlap: HUD TA, Potentially 131st Legislative Session, ARPA
 Next Steps: Capacity remains within the three existing night-time warming centers. Identified gap is for a day-time option, staff has reached out to a third party to review options.
 Timeline: January 2023 – March 2023
 Committee: N/A – awaiting feedback on outreach

- Homelessness Position

Staff Resources: City Manager’s Office, Public Health
 Areas of Overlap: HUD TA, ARPA, Potentially 131st Legislative Session
 Next Steps: Staff has reached out to Portland as a starting point. In early conversations with HUD TA as it appears this work may impact the final job description.
 Timeline: February 2023 – March 2023
 Committee: ARPA Workshop Session

Housing

- Develop fund options and promote opportunities to support additional housing units

Staff Resources: City Manager's Office, Economic Development
Areas of Overlap: ARPA
Completed: ARPA funding to Penquis – Infrastructure for LITC Housing
Next Steps: Finalize an ARPA process to allocate funding to housing by leveraging housing partnership opportunities

Timeline: January 2023 – March 2023
Committee: ARPA Workshop Sessions

- Research ability to escalate actions for vacant/placarded properties

Staff Resources: Legal, Economic Development
Areas of Overlap: None known
Next Steps: Develop background information, alternatives for Committee discussion

Timeline: February 2023
Committee: Government Operations

- Rental Registry

Staff Resources: Legal, Economic Development
Areas of Overlap: Potentially 131st Maine Legislative Session
Next Steps: Develop background information, alternatives, for Committee discussion

Timeline: March 2023
Committee: Business and Economic Development

Ongoing Staff Commitments of Significance

City Council was made aware of the ongoing staff commitments of significance: 131st Maine Legislative Session, Comprehensive Plan Update, Implementation of Economic Development Strategy, Implications and Implementation of LD2003, Climate Action Plan, City workforce development and retention, capital projects, housing inventory, document management system, website update, and update to Economic Development Strategy.

Since our initial meeting, City staff have also become involved in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Technical Assistance (TA) process. The TA process is an emergency management type approach that is wholly focused on identifying the barriers and identifying solutions to rapidly house individuals. This work requires a significant time commitment not only from the City but from the various agencies who support our unhoused individuals through March of 2023.

Lastly, a number of City staff will be committed to the training and rollout of the new Community Action Teach (BCAT) and outreach worker during the month of January. As means to track our progress throughout the year, a table was created that identifies the priorities and commitments that will be incorporated into our existing work over the next quarter as the associated staff resources. By focusing on the first quarter of the year, this will allow us to reassess priorities and assess progress at regular intervals.

Table of Priorities and Commitments Timelines and Associated Staff Resources

Priority	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23
ARPA	CMO, PH	CMO, PH	CMO, PH
Bangor Mall	2 nd Qtr ED	2 nd Qtr ED	2 nd Qtr ED
Encampments	CMO, PH	CMO, PH	CMO, PH
Warming Center	CMO, PH		
Homelessness position		CMO, PH	CMO, PH
Housing	CMO, ED	CMO, ED	CMO, ED
Vacant/Placard Properties		LEG, ED	
Rental Registry			LEG, ED
Other Commitments			
HUD Tech Assistance	CMO, PH	CMO, PH	CMO, PH
BCAT/Outreach	PH	PH	
131 st Legislative Session	ALL	ALL	ALL
Comprehensive Plan Update	ED	ED	
Implement ED Strategy	ED	ED	ED
Update ED Strategy	ED		
Impacts of LD 2003	ED	ED	ED
Climate Action Plan	CMO, ED	CMO, ED	CMO, ED
City Workforce Dev/Retent	CMO	CMO	
Housing Inventory		ENG	
Tech – Doc Mgmt, Website	CMO, FIN	COM, FIN	CMO, FIN

CMO City Manager’s Office

PH Public Health & Community Services

LEG Legal

ED Economic/Community Development

ALL All Departments

ENG Engineering

FIN Finance