

INTRODUCED: 05/11/2015

REFERRED TO: Rules and Public Policy Committee

SPONSOR: Councillor Robinson

DIGEST: amends the Code by adding a new article regarding the Reuben Engagement Center

SOURCE:

Initiated by: Councillor Robinson

Drafted by: Fred Biesecker, General Counsel

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION:

Subject to approval or veto by Mayor

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Adoption and approvals

GENERAL COUNSEL APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: May 7, 2015

CITY-COUNTY GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 251 of the Revised Code by adding a new Article VIII regarding the Reuben Engagement Center.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. Chapter 251 of the "Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County," is hereby amended by the addition of a new Article VIII, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII – REUBEN ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Division I - Organization

Sec. 251-811 – Reuben Engagement Center - Organization.

(a) The director of the department of public safety shall appoint an administrator who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the engagement center.

(b) The director of the department of public safety may also appoint or employ such other persons as the director deems necessary or desirable.

(c) Contracts for such services as may be necessary or desirable in the operation of the engagement center shall be entered into by the city or the public safety board on behalf of the engagement center.

Division II – Facility and Purpose

Sec. 251-821 - Facility.

The "Reuben Engagement Center" is hereby established, to be located at 742 East Market Street in Indianapolis.

Sec. 251-822 – Purpose.

(a) The engagement center will provide a safe location for persons experiencing homelessness over the age of eighteen (18) who are unable to gain access to emergency shelter options due to active substance abuse, including both drug and alcohol, and mental health diagnosis. The engagement center

will provide a place to recover from temporary intoxication and an opportunity to engage in resource referral.

(b) Persons are not required to have involvement or interaction with law enforcement prior to using the services of the engagement center.

(c) Eligible arrestees may use the services of the engagement center if the Marion County Sheriff's Office and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office determine that the arrestee meets appropriate protocols.

(d) The initial capacity of the engagement center will be thirty (30) beds.

#### Division III – Reuben Engagement Center Board

##### Sec. 251-831 – Establishment.

The Reuben Engagement Center board is hereby established to help identify the barriers and gaps in serving those experiencing homelessness in the city and struggling with mental health, homelessness, and chronic substance abuse that includes both drug and alcohol. The Reuben Engagement Center board will use evidence-based research to suggest alternatives and recommend solutions to the identified gaps and barriers, and to educate the Reuben Engagement Center staff and policy makers regarding research findings and recommendations.

##### Sec. 251-832 – Board membership.

(a) The engagement center board shall be composed of thirteen (13) voting members who are residents of the city, are actively working with those experiencing homelessness, and have an interest in and knowledge of the barriers and needs of those experiencing homelessness in the city, and who are chosen as follows:

- 1) A representative from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, to be appointed by the Sheriff;
- 2) A representative from the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, to be appointed by the Prosecutor;
- 3) A representative from the Marion Superior Court, to be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Court;
- 4) A military veteran, to be appointed by the mayor;
- 5) A representative from the faith-based community, to be appointed by the mayor;
- 6) A representative from the Estate of Albert and Sara Reuben Trust, to be appointed by the president of the City-County Council.
- 7) Two (2) professional service providers, one (1) of whom to be appointed by the mayor, and one (1) of whom to be appointed by the president of the City-County Council;
- 8) A mental health professional, representing the Midtown Mental Health Center, to be appointed by the mayor;
- 9) A substance abuse/addiction professional, to be appointed by the president of the City-County Council;
- 10) A representative from the Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services Division, to be appointed by the mayor;
- 11) A medical health professional, to be appointed by the president of the City-County Council; and
- 12) A person who is experiencing or has recently experienced homelessness, to be appointed by a majority vote of the other twelve (12) board members.

In addition to the thirteen (13) voting members, the administrator of the engagement center shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board; provided, however, that the administrator may vote if the administrator's vote is necessary to break a tie.

(b) Each engagement center board member shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority for a term ending December 31 following appointment and until a successor is appointed. A member may be reappointed for successive terms.

(c) If any engagement center board member dies, resigns, vacates office or is removed from office, a new member shall be appointed to fill the vacancy in the same manner as the member in respect to whom the vacancy occurs was appointed.

(d) Any engagement center board member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the engagement center board shall be treated as if he or she had resigned, unless sufficient written justification is submitted to and approved by the appointing authority. The administrator shall inform the appointing authority in writing of such board member's failure to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings.

#### Sec. 251-833. Officers, quorum, meetings.

(a) The voting members of the engagement center board shall select a chair and a vice-chair. A recording secretary who shall keep the official minutes of the meetings, reserve meeting room space, handle all of the communications, including but not limited to meeting notices, will be supplied by the department of public safety. All official action of the engagement center board shall be in writing and be executed by the engagement center board upon being authorized by motion passed by the engagement center board by simple majority of its members present.

(b) A quorum of the engagement center board for official action in session shall be seven (7) of the thirteen (13) voting members. Official minutes of meetings shall be kept by the secretary.

(c) The engagement center board shall meet at least every month, or on special call of the chair, or upon written request of any seven (7) members.

#### Sec. 251-836. Powers and duties of the board.

The engagement center board shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) To draft and adopt the mission statement for the engagement center;
- 2) To adopt policies and procedures to ensure that the goals identified in the engagement center mission statement are fulfilled.
- 3) To receive and review monthly reports from the administrator concerning the number of individuals served; the length of stay in the engagement center; the services offered and received; the reasons why the persons came to the engagement center; the status of programs designed to implement the engagement center's mission statement, fiscal operation and budgetary needs; and such other information as the board may from time to time request;
- 4) To make recommendations to the director and the council concerning how the services and programs offered by the engagement center should be modified; and
- 5) To submit to the council, the mayor and the director annual reports of its activities and operations.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its passage by the Council and compliance with Ind. Code § 36-3-4-14.

The foregoing was passed by the City-County Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maggie A. Lewis  
President, City-County Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
NaTrina DeBow  
Clerk, City-County Council

Presented by me to the Mayor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NaTrina DeBow  
Clerk, City-County Council

Approved and signed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor