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**DATE:** Monday, May 1, 2023  
**TIME:** 7:00 pm  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council Committee of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00pm.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Chaundra Bishop\*, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry\*

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Jaya Kolisetty,

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bourema Ouedraogo, Darcy Sandefur, Kimberly Smith, Vivian Krishnan, Lily Wilcock, Dave Wesner, Carol Mitten, Andrea Ruedi, Stephany McMahon, Bridget Broihahn, Scott Tess,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

**Chair:** *Maryalice Wu, Ward 1*

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

With a quorum present, Chair Wu called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

March 20, 2023

Motion to approve minutes by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Evans.

Voice vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

CM Hursey motioned to add a Historic Preservation proclamation after the listed presentations and seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None

**4. Public Input and Presentations**

**a. Introduction of New Arts Program Specialist and Contract with 40 North 88 East - Stepheny McMahon**

Presented by Economic Development Coordinator Stephany McMahon. McMahon introduced Vivian Krishnan the new Arts and Culture Program Specialist and explained the contract with 40 North 88 East for event coordination.

**b. Examine Urbana Arts & Culture Chapter - Lily Wilcock**

Presented by Planner Lily Wilcock and Andrea Ruedi. This chapter of *Examine Urbana* examines the public arts and the history of the Arts and Culture program in Urbana. Wilcock explained the intention was to show how residents engage with local art and the future considerations for the program.

**c. Mayoral Proclamation for Historic Preservation**

Mayor Marlin read a proclamation designating May as Historic Preservation Month. Marlin shared the importance of historic preservation efforts.

**d. Public Input**

*Jen Straub* spoke in support of the resolution providing protections against source of income discrimination. Shared information about housing needs within this community. *Danielle Chynoweth* spoke in support of the resolution providing protections against source of income discrimination. Shared information about cases the Township has encountered involving vouchers and the difficulties associated with obtaining stable housing. *Anna How* spoke in support of the resolution providing protections against source of income discrimination. *Esther Patt* spoke in support of the resolution providing protections against source of income discrimination. Shared a history of the issue and the legal cases creating precedent. *Marina Menetti* spoke in support of the resolution providing protections against source of income discrimination, expressed urgency in addressing homelessness. *Written input from Esther Patt and Myra Ryan (see attached).*

**5. Staff Report**

*Mayor Marlin* reminded the community about the moderated town hall on May 4<sup>th</sup> to meet the finalist for Police Chief. Announced the groundbreaking for the Urbana Park District Health and Wellness Center and also the Urbana School District Mayoral Recognition ceremony. Marlin shared that she swore in 4 new Urbana Police Officers and thanked the Human Resources Department for their recruitment efforts. Thanked all who provided support to make the marathon weekend a success.

**6. New Business**

**a. Ordinance No. 2023-05-012: An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Estate (1811 E. Florida Avenue and 1106 N. Wright Street) - PW**

Presented by Scott Tess. Item authorizes the sale of City property at 1811 E. Florida Avenue and 1106 N. Wright Street. Neither property is large enough for the construction of a home or a business. The parcel on Florida is being sold to the School District and the parcel on Wright is being reunited with the adjacent residential property. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Evans.  
Voice vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None

**b. Ordinance No. 2023-05-013: An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Estate (903 N. Division, 1605 Wiley, and 1107 N. Gregory) - CD**

Presented by Kimberly Smith the Community Development Director. Item authorizes the sale of two City owned houses to the Housing Authority of Champaign County to be utilized for transitional supportive housing. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to keep in committee by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None

**c. Resolution No. 2023-05-033R: Resolution in Support of Fair Housing for All Regardless of Source of Income – Council**

Presented by CM Evans City Attorney Dave Wesner. Item ensures that source of income becomes a protected class and protects against discrimination.

Motion to amend to remove “appellate court interpretations” language and to add in “remaining of” statement by CM Wilken and seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice vote:

**AYE:** Hursey, Evans, Wilken, Bishop

**NAY:** None

Motion to approve to the regular agenda as amended by CM Evans and seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None

**7. Council Input and Communications**

*CM Evans* thanked public for participating on the issue of housing vouchers and source of income discrimination. Encouraged the public to come to the Police Chief finalist town hall.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wu adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

**Minutes approved: 07-24-2023**

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 01, 2023 12:06 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT - May 1, 2023 Resolution 2023-05-033R

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members:

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of the Resolution in Support of Fair Housing for All Regardless of Source of Income. In considering this Resolution, I urge you to focus not on the authority you do not have because you are the legislative and not the executive branch of city government; but instead, focus on the power you do have.

As an individual, each of you has the power of your voice to speak up for human rights and fair housing for all. As a city council member, the power of your voice is amplified. When four or more of you speak in one voice, the strength of your collective voice has more power than you may realize. History has proven that.

The most vulnerable people in our community -- children, people with disabilities and senior citizens need you to raise your voice for them.

The Resolution on the agenda is a statement of commitment to fair housing for low-income people who use rent vouchers. The Resolution is not even subject to veto because it does not provide for any expenditure or appropriation of city money or require any specific action. It is a declaration of your conviction that every class of people deserves equal access to housing.

For that reason, I suggest you reject the suggestion that you change the language of the Resolution to "account for the possibility of a future court case reversing or modifying" the 19 year-old case precedent supporting the interpretation of "source of income" as including housing vouchers.

There is no justification for the City of Urbana to treat this law -- unlike any other law -- as something transitory. The purpose of the resolution is for you to declare to all that the law is the law and protects voucher holders. If the law ever changes in the future, the city council can pass another resolution.

People who use vouchers and all of the social service providers who are working daily to resolve and prevent homelessness need you to speak up to them. The property owners who offer rental housing to the general public need to hear the collective voice of the Urbana City Council stating that use of a voucher is not grounds for disparate treatment or denial of housing.

Modifying your statement of support for the law by indicating an expectation it will be overturned will be construed as the desire of the City of Urbana to see the law reversed or modified. If that is not your intent, please don't dilute the strength of your message.

Esther Patt

**Sandefur, Darcy**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 5:45 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT May 1, 2023

\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\*

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City Council Resolution in Support of Fair Housing for All Regardless of Source of Income. Passage of the resolution confirms the city's commitment to uphold its own ordinances and supports fair housing practices, which are foundational to a healthy community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Marya Ryan  
Urbana, IL