

URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY

September 22, 2009

The Planning Committee was convened at 1:02 PM. All committee members were present except Beard and James. Martin and Lane attended as non voting members.

I. Student Housing Task Force - Lawless

Mike Meuser, Chair of the Student Housing Task Force gave a brief overview of the mission and scope of the task force which was to examine the issue of student housing rentals, including single family homes in certain geographical areas within residential neighborhoods in Lexington, KY. He covered highlights of the task force report (which was also included in the committee packet). He went over list of special recommendations to the University of Kentucky and stakeholders in student housing issues, which were, 8 enforcement options for immediate action and 7 expanded policy options.

Chair Gorton the opened the floor to public comment.

More than 80 citizens signed up to speak on this issue.

David Burton, member of the Task Force, wanted to go on record stating 90-95% of citizens at today's meeting were again the recommendations proposed in the Task Force report.

Several speakers felt the real issue was handling impact of things like trash, noise and parking, which there are already ordinances on the books to address many of the problems raised in the report, urging the committee not to implement new measures but enforce existing laws and work together with students and the community.

Many referred to the goal of keeping young professionals in Lexington, saying this plan does not encourage that. Others said it's discriminatory to segregate students to specific neighborhoods and flies in the face of a college town philosophy.

Several landlords and representatives of apartment facilities spoke on rental licensing saying oversight and enforcement would be difficult. Pointing out how many rental units this would effect in Fayette County. Referring to the house buy back program saying considering the current state of the economy it does not make sense and were concerned about oversight of the program.

Due to interest in this issue, and number of citizens wishing to speak a special Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, October, 5, 2009 at 1:00 pm in Council Chambers.

2. Items Referred to Committee

There was not adequate time to review this item at today's committee meeting.

. Meeting convened at 3:00 pm