

- J. Reynolds, Chair
- W. Baxter, Vice-Chair
- D. Wu
- C. Ellinger
- T. Morton
- S. Lynch
- T. Eblen
- L. Higgins-Hord
- J. Hale
- A. Beasley



Social Services and Public Safety (SSPS) Committee
 Tuesday, May 5, 2026
 1:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I.	Approval of April 14, 2026 Committee Summary	[Reynolds]	(1-2)
II.	Family Services Update	[Reynolds/Horton-Holt]	(3-17)
III.	Periodic Code Enforcement Update	[Reynolds/Steele]	(18-26)
IV.	Eviction Diversion and Right to Counsel	[Wu/Lanter]	(27-34)
V.	Items Referred to Committee	[Reynolds]	(35)

[sponsor/presenter]

2026 Meeting Schedule

January 13	May 5
February 17	June 9
March 17	August 11
April 14	October 20

"Social Services and Public Safety Committee, to which shall be referred matters relating to the department of social services and its divisions, the department of public safety and its divisions, any related partner agencies, and matters relating to capital improvement projects."- Council Rules & Procedures of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, Section 4.102 (1)



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

April 14, 2026

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Tom Eblen, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, and Whitney Elliott Baxter were in attendance as voting members. Council Members James Brown, Emma Curtis, Dave Sevigny, and Hil Boone were present as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Motion by Ellinger for approval of the March 17, 2026 Committee Meeting Summary. Seconded by Hale. Motion passed without dissent.

II. AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS UPDATE

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Affordable Housing Fund is the community's primary tool for producing and preserving affordable housing for households earning at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). The fund leverages local dollars with federal, state, and private financing to reduce development costs, enabling lower rents and more affordable homeownership opportunities.

Since Fiscal Year 2015, the Fund has committed approximately \$59 million to support 3,826 housing units, while leveraging over \$474 million in outside investment—a significant return on local funding. On average, LFUCG investment equates to approximately \$15,474 per unit, demonstrating strong financial leverage. A substantial portion of resources has been directed toward deeper affordability, with 84.2% of funded units serving households at or below 60% AMI.

Recent developments include senior housing, supportive housing, and mixed-income projects across Lexington, reflecting a diversified approach to meeting housing demand. To maintain long-term affordability amid rising rents, the Affordable Housing Board has adopted policies that ensure funded units remain affordable to households at or below 60% AMI, even as market pressures increase. Despite strong performance, the program faces ongoing challenges, including rising interest rates, escalating construction and property management costs, and limited availability of affordable land.

Looking ahead, Fiscal Year 2027 priorities include expanding permanent supportive housing, increasing units for households at or below 30% AMI, and advancing targeted developments such as the Transylvania project. The Fund will also continue aligning investments with identified community housing needs. Overall, the Affordable Housing Fund represents a high-impact, leveraged investment strategy that delivers measurable housing outcomes, supports vulnerable populations, and remains central to Lexington's broader efforts to address housing affordability and supply.

III. LEXINGTON MOBILE MARKET

Ciara Coleman, Opportunity Officer in the Mayor's Office, provided an update on the Lexington Mobile Market. The market is a public-private partnership advancing health equity by delivering affordable groceries directly to underserved neighborhoods with limited food access and transportation barriers. The program was developed in response to the 2020 Commission for Racial Justice & Equality, which identified improved food access as a priority recommendation.

Launched through a phased process (2020–2022) and now fully operational, the model leverages coordinated roles across LFUCG (ownership and oversight), God’s Pantry Food Bank (operations and logistics), and Kroger (inventory and sales systems). Service is targeted using data-driven site selection, with a concentration in high-need areas such as Districts 1, 2, and 11, and a focus on low-income households and seniors with mobility challenges.

The program has demonstrated strong and growing utilization. In 2025, the Mobile Market generated 9,259 transactions and \$163,542 in sales, up from 2024, with EBT usage increasing to over 35%, indicating a deeper reach into low-income populations. Average sales per stop have nearly doubled, reflecting improved efficiency and demand. High-performing locations are concentrated in senior- and dense-residential communities.

Primary opportunities moving forward include expanding performance metrics (customer demographics and outcomes), assessing service coverage gaps, and evaluating scalability through additional routes or capacity. The Lexington Mobile Market is emerging as a replicable regional model, with interest from nearby communities. Continued refinement and targeted investment could further strengthen its role as a core component of Lexington’s health equity and food access strategy.

IV. DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

Stephanie Theakston, Program Coordinator, explained that the Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition (DSVPC) serves as Lexington’s coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. The Coalition brings together a broad network of stakeholders, including law enforcement, courts, schools, healthcare providers, nonprofit service agencies, and LFUCG divisions, to ensure a comprehensive, victim-centered approach to prevention, intervention, and system coordination. The Coalition’s mission is to foster a culture of safety and empowerment through advocacy, education, collaboration, and service alignment. Its core work focuses on improving system responsiveness to survivors, promoting best practices across agencies, and strengthening public understanding of interpersonal violence and available resources.

In the past year, DSVPC has significantly expanded its prevention and training efforts, particularly through its bystander intervention program, which has delivered multiple trainings and developed a growing network of trained community members equipped to intervene safely before violence occurs. The Coalition has also prioritized youth and child-focused initiatives, including training on the impacts of domestic violence on children, teen dating violence education, and the development of public awareness materials such as videos and PSAs.

Looking forward, DSVPC is focused on strengthening evaluation of program outcomes, expanding housing-related support for survivors, and continuing to build partnerships that address emerging needs—particularly those affecting children and vulnerable populations. Overall, the Coalition represents a critical infrastructure for coordinated violence prevention and response in Lexington, delivering both direct community impact and long-term system improvements through sustained collaboration and targeted prevention strategies.

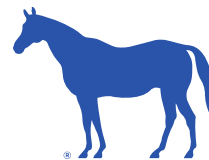
V. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES

Director Shelia Horton-Holt, Family Services
Social Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting
May 5, 2026



LEXINGTON

Our Mission Statement

To Partner With And Empower Families With Young Children To Achieve
Greater Stability And Resilience



Our History



The Family Care Center was established in 1989 to provide a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of teen mothers for education, career preparation, parenting support, health care, and childcare.

The program was designed to utilize and leverage resources of:

- ❖ Lexington Fayette County Urban Government
- ❖ Fayette County Public Schools
- ❖ Bluegrass Regional Comprehensive Care
- ❖ University of Kentucky

and others to provide comprehensive education, health care, childcare and employment-focused services to young mothers and their children.

Our Core Programs

The Family Care Center uses a strength-based approach to assist parents in their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. This is accomplished through an array of services provided on-site, in the home, and in the community. The Family Care Center currently serves an average of 210 clients weekly. Services are delivered through four core programs:

- ❖ **The Early Childcare Education Program (ECE)** provides early childhood care and education for children 6 weeks to 5 years old.
- ❖ **The Family Service Coordination Program (FSC)** delivers intensive case management to families desiring greater independence and stability.
- ❖ **The Health Access Nurturing Developing Services (HANDS) Program** provides evidence-based home visitation to new and expectant parents.
- ❖ **The Parent Education Program** provides high school education and parent support services to young parents.

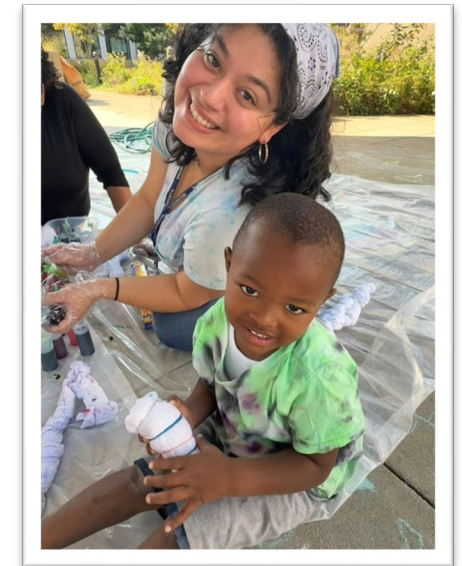
Early Childcare Education Program

The Early Childcare Program serves to provide a healthy, safe, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive environment for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.

The Early Child Care Program has a 5 STAR Quality rating under the Kentucky ALL STARS and is COA accredited.

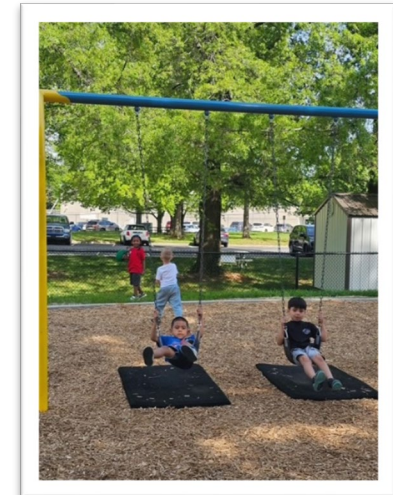
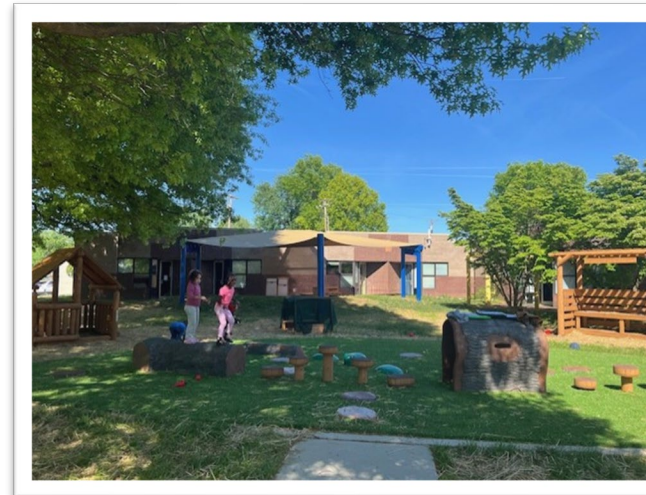
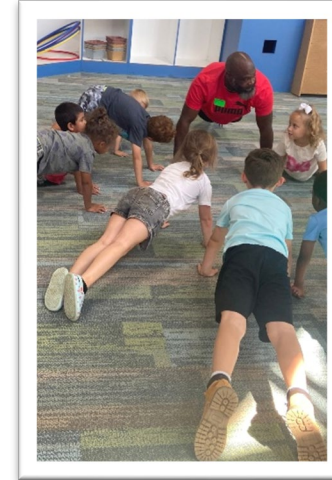
To support our philosophy, the Early Childcare Program partners with:

- ❖ **Fayette County Public Preschool** by offering an onsite Preschool Program
- ❖ **Community Action Council Early Head Start** to offer extended services to infant-toddler aged children



Early Child Education Program Highlights

- ❖ **Kids on the Move:** Coach D, a professional personal trainer, visits twice a week to lead fun, engaging fitness sessions with preschool classes, helping build strength, coordination, and healthy habits early on.
- ❖ **Playground Renovations Phase I:** With newly received funding, all of our playgrounds were renovated to create safer, more engaging, and updated outdoor play spaces for children.
- ❖ **Nature-Based Playground:** Through funding from the PNC Grow Up Great Grant, we developed a nature-based playground that encourages outdoor exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning in a natural environment.





Family Service Coordination Program

The Family Service Coordination Program provides professional case management services to families with young children.

The program uses a strength-based approach to assist parents in their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

The program also houses a Volunteer Coordination Program which handles volunteer placement, donation/distribution, special events, and outreach.



Family Service Coordination Highlights

Case Management Families Served

- ❖ Total Families Served: 32
- ❖ Total Household Members: 87

FSC Participants Referrals & Deliveries

- ❖ Provided 320 referrals to FSC participants
- ❖ Made 106 deliveries (essential supplies, clothing, food) to FSC participants

Community Referrals & Families Served

- ❖ Provided 492 referrals to non FSC participants
- ❖ Served 319 families from the community (essential supplies, clothing, food)

Community Partner Donations

- ❖ Glean of KY – 999 lbs. of food
- ❖ God's Pantry – 41 holiday dinner baskets
- ❖ Bluegrass Families First – large donation of diapers & baby/adult toiletries
- ❖ Rhea Lanas of Lexington & Not Alone Pregnancy Center – diaper drives



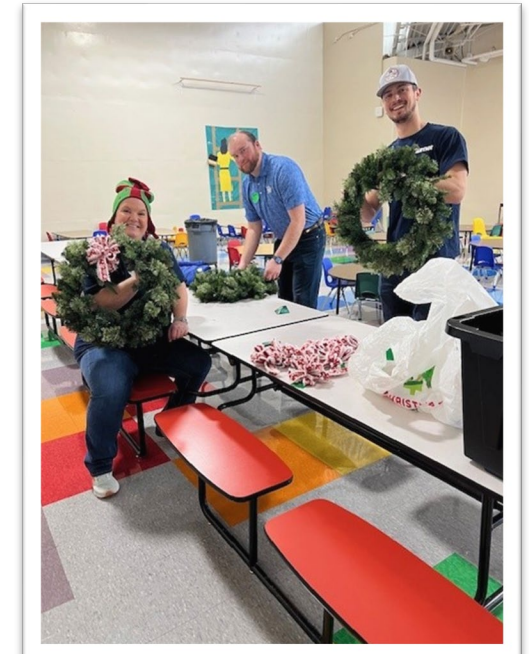


Volunteer Coordination Program

Volunteers at the Family Care Center are a tremendous asset to our team.

They provide essential support, time, expertise, and skills that allow us to serve our mission to the community.

During FY25, 145 volunteers volunteered 1,671 hours at the Family Care Center.



Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS)

HANDS supports families throughout pregnancy and the first two years of a baby's life. From pregnancy to the terrific twos, HANDS is here to answer all your questions during the different stages of baby's growth. Families meet with a HANDS Family Support Worker who can answer their questions and address their concerns about pregnancy or baby's first years. All families receive information and learn about resources available in the community for new parents.

FY25 Data

Home Visits Completed: 2202

Number of Families: 100

Referral to Program: 66 (Total New Enrollments)



HANDS Success Story

Allbree Jones enrolled in HANDS right before her daughter, Amarrah, was born. Receiving support from her father and older sister, Allbree learned from her home visitor Emari how to bond with her baby using attachment and self-regulation skills. Allbree told Emari during one home visit, “I feel like I know my daughter really well and I understand what her different sounds mean.” Allbree successfully balanced school and motherhood and was able to graduate high school in May of 2025.





Parent Education Program

The Family Care Center's Parent Education Program partners with Fayette County Public Schools to help pregnant and parenting youth reach their educational and parenting goals.

Our program provides classes on job readiness, transitioning into parenthood, relationships, independent living skills, cooking, budgeting, and so much more.

Transportation and on-site childcare are available.





Parent Education Program Highlights

FY25 Program Outcomes

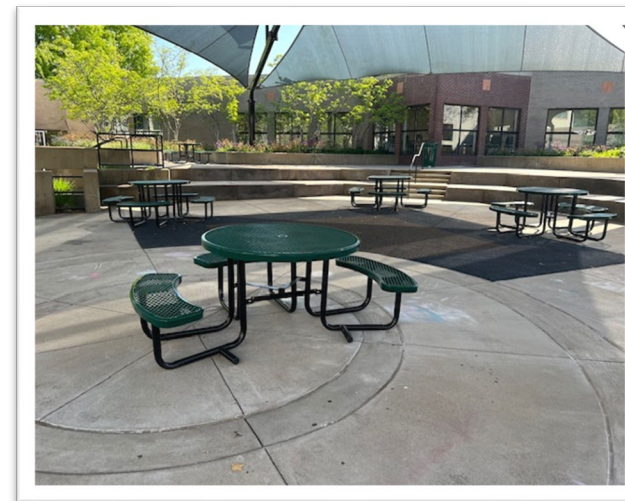
- ❖ 16 clients successfully graduated from the program
- ❖ 88% of clients successfully achieved their educational goal
- ❖ 93% of clients successfully achieved their parenting goal
- ❖ 85% of clients successfully achieved or revised their mental health goal
- ❖ 88% of clients were retained in high school education
- ❖ 96% of clients agree attending school at Family Care Center has been helpful





Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) Projects

- ❖ The front entrance was updated with features that improve security, including reduced visibility through the windows
- ❖ The FCC Courtyard now includes an ADA-accessible picnic table to support inclusive use
- ❖ An ADA-compliant walkway was installed to ensure safe, accessible entry to the preschool playground area
- ❖ Two additional speed bumps were installed between FCC and Safety City to help reduce vehicle speeds and enhance pedestrian safety



Questions?



LEXINGTON

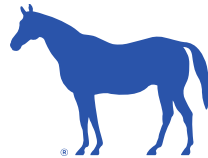
DIVISION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

2026 ANNUAL UPDATE

Oliver Lee Steele, Director of Code Enforcement

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

May 5, 2026



LEXINGTON

Certification

Maintained Accredited status by the International Accreditation Service.

Implemented internal programs to help staff achieve full State certification on all residential inspectors.

All Field Staff are enrolled in the Kentucky State Housing Building Construction (KYHBC) certified building inspector program and the Code Administrators Association of Kentucky (CAAK). Annual CEUs are required.

All Field staff are enrolled with the International Code Council (ICC).

Training

Maintained the formal staff exam preparation and training program for all new employees.

Enhanced on-site training through a partnership with the College for Technical Education (CTE).

Continued our cross-training efforts with LexCall and Code Enforcement staff.

Code Enforcement Programs

- Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP)
 - FY25: Provided \$198,000 in assistance to 42 owner-occupied recipients
 - FY26 through April 17th, 2026: Provided \$141,000 in assistance to 29 owner-occupied recipients.
- Sidewalk Cost Share Program
 - Assisted 1,252 owner-occupied households, providing \$245,000 in matching fund assistance.
 - 32 owner-occupied households assisted with \$42,000 of 100% assistance.
 - January 2025 implementation of the sidewalk abatement program has abated 75 sidewalk cases at a cost of \$61,000.

Community Outreach

Participated in all HOA and Neighborhood Association speaking requests.

Panel member at Community and Resident Services Tenant Rights Workshops.

New homeowner classes with Lexington Habitat for Humanity.

Regular exhibitor at the Lexington Minority Business Expo.

Housing Fair at the Lexington Senior Center.

Ongoing Efforts

Coordination and joint inspections with the Lexington Fire Marshal on multi-family buildings.

Worked with Coastal Cloud on needed enhancements to Salesforce.

Started an internal review committee of the division's standard operating procedures.

Code Enforcement by the Numbers

Cases opened 6,884.

Cases closed 6,903.

Code is responding to 83% of initial complaints within 3 days and achieving a 78% re-inspection rate within 5 days.

1547 citations issued, with a principal amount of \$575,000.

1228 liens filed for a principal amount of \$487,000.

Goals for 2026

- Increase our Housing inspectors' certifications beyond the State Residential Building Inspector level.
- Increase promotional opportunities within the Division of Code Enforcement aimed at employee retention.
- Data-Driven Enforcement
 - Implement or improve tracking dashboards for complaints, response times, and outcomes
 - Use data to identify hotspots and proactively inspect, rather than only reacting.

Questions?



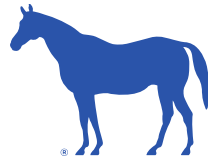
LEXINGTON

HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES

Commissioner Charlier Lanter, Housing Advocacy & Community Development

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

May 5, 2026



LEXINGTON

Housing Stability Services Program

- Grant to Legal Aid of the Bluegrass to provide eviction prevention and diversion; assistance and representation in eviction court; and mediation for Lexington Housing Authority tenants facing eviction.
- Serves Fayette County households at risk of housing instability (facing eviction or threat of eviction).
- Mediation can provide small, target financial assistance – typically under \$2,000 per household – to prevent eviction, utility shutoffs, and homelessness at a cost comparable to or less than one month of emergency shelter.

Project Partners

- **Legal Aid of the Bluegrass** – Program administration and intake, staffing and attorneys.
- **Center for Conflict Resolution & Leadership** – Mediation between the Lexington Housing Authority and tenants facing eviction.
- **Lexington Housing Authority** – Collaborates on mediation.
- **Fayette District Court** – Supports program interaction with participants.
- **Landlords** – Participate in mediation and negotiation (optional)

Program History

- Begin in 2023 utilizing funds from the original federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Shifted in 2024 to general fund once federal grant funds were exhausted; fund balance allocation of \$500,000 (CM Lynch).
- An additional \$150,000 allocated in December 2025 to keep the program funded through August 2026 (CM Brown).
- Current funds expected to run out in the coming months with \$400,000 in the FY27 Mayor's Proposed Budget to continue programming.

Results – Every Household is Unique

Metric	Value	What It Shows
Households Assisted (Annual)	150–300	Focus on keeping people housed
Average Assistance per Household	\$800 – \$2,000	Small, targeted interventions
Approximate individuals served	7,225	Significant reach for modest program
Estimated % Preventing Displacement	Majority (typically 70–90%)	High success rate in stabilization
Cost per Household vs. Shelter	Comparable to $\leq$ 1 month of shelter	Strong cost efficiency



Reaching New Clients

- In 2025, Legal Aid launched a series of Lextran bus and local billboard advertisements to raise awareness about the program, which has garnered an increase in clients and calls to the help desk.



Considerations for Future

- Stabilize funding.
 - Align with appropriate grants or other funding streams to ensure consistency.
- Align program with broader homelessness prevention efforts.
 - Connect program referrals with OHPI efforts to prioritize those most at risk of homelessness.
- Enhance data tracking and reporting consistency.
 - Need better data on who is served and tracking of long-term outcomes.
- Consider integration with existing rental assistance and support services both inside and outside of LFUCG.

Questions?



LEXINGTON

2026 SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY (SSPS) COMMITTEE REFERRAL LIST

ITEMS REFERRED	SPONSOR(S)	REFERRED	LAST HEARD	AGENDA DATE	FILE ID
1) Public Safety Technology	W. Baxter	September 21, 2021	May 2, 2023		1065-22
2) Eviction Diversion & Right to Counsel	D. Wu	January 24, 2023	July 2, 2024	May 5, 2026	0702-24
3) Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement	S. Lynch	June 29, 2023	August 26, 2025		0204-25
4) Coordinated Victim Response Plan	L. Sheehan	May 2, 2023			
5) A Caring Place (Villages Model Initiatives for Lexington)	S. Lynch	August 20, 2024	October 14, 2025	October 20, 2026	1008-24
6) Youth Council	A. Beasley	August 20, 2024		October 20, 2026	
7) Homeless Encampment Response and Street Outreach Services for OHPI	J. Reynolds	September 17, 2024	January 13, 2026		0203-25
8) Mobile Market Update	J. Reynolds	March 4, 2025	April 14, 2026		0298-26
9) Strategic Growth Plan for Lexington Fire Department	J. Hale/T. Morton	March 18, 2025	August 26, 2025		0811-25
10) Emergency Winter Shelter Program	T. Morton	June 3, 2025			
11) Audrey Grevious Center Update	J. Reynolds	June 26, 2025	January 13, 2026		0035-26
12) Animal Care and Control Ordinance Update	E. Curtis	October 23, 2025		June 9, 2026	
13) STREET Task Force: Bike Lane Ordinance	D. Seigny	December 4, 2025		June 9, 2026	
14) Cardiac Crusade	T. Morton	February 12, 2026			
15) Division of Youth Services Update	J. Reynolds	March 10, 2026			
16) STREET Task Force: Drag Racing Ordinance	W. Baxter	March 24, 2026		August 11, 2026	
ANNUAL/PERIODIC ITEMS	SPONSOR(S)	REFERRED	LAST HEARD	AGENDA DATE	FILE ID
17) Review of Recovery Residences (Sober Living Homes) Ordinance	T. Morton	February 11, 2025	October 14, 2025		0350-25
18) Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition	T. Morton	March 4, 2025	April 14, 2026		0239-24
19) Substance Use Disorder Intervention (SUDI) Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 12, 2022	June 3, 2025	June 9, 2026	0532-24
20) Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (OHPI) Update	J. Reynolds	June 7, 2022	October 14, 2025	October 20, 2026	0901-22
21) National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Update	E. Curtis	February 20, 2018	September 17, 2024	February 17, 2026	0360-22
22) Office of Affordable Housing Initiatives and Projects Update	J. Reynolds	August 10, 2021	April 14, 2026		1026-21
23) Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Public Safety Update	J. Reynolds/ W. Baxter	September 22, 2020	July 3, 2025	August 11, 2026	0450-21
24) Community Paramedicine Program Update	J. Reynolds	July 6, 2021	January 28, 2025		0300-23
25) Periodic Code Enforcement Update	J. Reynolds	October 8, 2019	June 13, 2023	May 5, 2026	0814-22
26) Lexington Global Engagement Center (Global Lex) Update	J. Reynolds		January 16, 2024	June 9, 2026	0058-24
27) ONE Lexington Programs Update	J. Reynolds	September 25, 2020	March 17, 2026		0080-23
28) Family Services Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 16, 2025	January 28, 2025	May 5, 2026	0109-25
29) Partners for Youth Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 16, 2025	March 17, 2026		0110-25
Updated 03.24.26					