

ANNOUNCER: You've tuned in to another edition of The Break Room, a

weekly conversation about how the City of St Augustine

works from those who do the work everyday. Hosted by the

City of St Augustine's Communications Director, Melissa

Wissel. The Break Room offers a closer look at the different

City departments and provides updates on current and upcoming

projects and events. And now your host, Melissa Wissel.

MELISSA: Welcome to The Break Room.

Thanks for tuning in. We are

back in studio this week with Barry Fox, the City's Code

Enforcement Manager. We are

continuing conversation we

started about the City's  
efforts to address

homelessness. Barry, let's jump  
right in. Welcome back. BARRY: Thank

you. MELISSA: It's a big topic. BARRY: It is a,  
it is a, there's a lot of

information, and we won't cover  
it in four, five, six episodes. So.

MELISSA: No. But we do have some  
news since the last time you

were here. We were kind of  
keeping a little bit of a

secret and we have an  
announcement to make. Honors to you. MELISSA: Drum

roll. BARRY: So, drum roll right. Drum  
roll. So, several months ago,

you know, through the town hall  
meetings, we were approached in

reference to a piece of  
property in a, in a, swap because

the, you know, the City asked  
that the the homeless efforts

be reenvisioned. You know,  
what's the next step. And you

know, working with some, you know,  
I had some ideas. But we met

an individual that was willing  
to trade some property that was

of equal value that had a  
very good zoning for us to take

the next step in our efforts.  
You know, our future efforts.

And you know, that closed  
last Friday, and so that that

property is now ours. And we can  
start working with our service

providers and Continuum of Care,  
and really start hammering out

that service model. What that

looks like going forward and

how we can foundationally

support the County's efforts as

a municipality on the homeless

efforts. MELISSA: Cuz there is a lot

already being done. We're

kind of joining the

efforts what's already out

there and really trying to be a

supporter, a facilitator. BARRY: Right

correct. So you know, the

service providers are in

kind of like in their own

locations, and the the vision is

to be able, for the City, to be

able to eventually, you know, in

the future, be able to supply an

area where we can bring some of

those service providers

together. MELISSA: down the road. BARRY: Down  
the road. Yeah. Have

current services that are being done  
in open-air venues around the

City. Be able to come there and  
set this site up for those

current efforts by service  
providers, not by us, but by

service providers, and give them  
a better platform to be able to

provide their service that  
they're currently doing in the

open-air environment, whether it  
be parking lots, or churches, or

whatever that's going on, and be  
able to support them better,

too. MELISSA: So, what's the, so can  
you tell us where

we building out? Where is this  
location? BARRY: So, the location is

at 90 and 92 South Dixie. It's the  
corner of 207 and South Dixie.

It's got two buildings on it  
that will need to be evaluated

for, you know, whether they're,  
you know, have to be demoed or

whether they can be... MELISSA: Their  
usefulness. BARRY: Yeah. Yeah. And

then eventually you know that  
that particular process will be

in the future. So the  
the property is very large.

It's got a, it's got a a very  
what's. MELISSA: It's got a tree canopy.

BARRY: It's got a beautiful tree  
canopy. MELISSA: It's behind Wind Dixie.

It is. You say the address.  
It's behind Wind Dixie. So, if

you're going down Old Dixie  
Highway, it's there behind Winn

Dixie. BARRY: And a lot of people  
that are new to the, or not near

to the area, but a lot of older  
individuals will, it's the San

Juan Trailer Park. The  
old San Juan Trailer Park.

But the property is zoned with  
advantages for these efforts.

So there there won't  
be any rezoning, the future,

future. Now looking way out, the  
future prospects that with this

property, we can envision.

MELISSA: There's a lot more

potential. BARRY: There's a lot of  
potential. As we move for,

yeah, there's a lot of

potential, absolutely. MELISSA: So, what

you're talking about are, so

let's talk immediate first

steps. Do we have things

budgeted that we can start

working on now? What can we, can

we see something coming about

in the next couple months? BARRY: So,

in the next couple of months,

you'll see a fence go up.

We're going to provide an area

where we can bring in those

service providers that are

already providing services and

areas that don't really, that

aren't really built for them,

give a little more dignity to

like Dining with Dignity and

things like that. Work with

some service providers that we  
know have self-contained type

showers, or washers and dryers,  
to bring them in occasionally.

If you know those service  
providers have those

self-contained units. I gotta  
check on that. I know

there's shower facilities on  
trailers, but I don't know that

they're self contained.

And I don't know that the

site's going to be set up for,  
you know, that transmission

distribution of wastewater and  
things like that. MELISSA: There's a, so,

even if you just started with  
something like Dining with

Dignity, and putting up a fence,  
you're providing a space, it's

shaded, it's a nice, it's a

great location. I mean,

you're getting started, it makes

it, that makes a difference. And

for our listeners, can you give

us a little bit.. I know we kind

of know, I know what Dining with

Dignity is, because there's a a

service on Thursdays, I think,

downtown behind City Hall.

For those who, you know, we have

a lot of new listeners, or maybe

some that aren't new listeners,

tell us about Dining with

Dignity. BARRY: So I'll tell you what

I do know, obviously I can't get

into the weeds on it. But Dining with

Dignity is a Home Again

St Johns program. They put

it together. They have an individual that does the scheduling. And the individuals that participate in Dining with Dignity are like churches and

volunteer groups. So they try to feed almost every night.

And I know you said Thursday, but it's actually almost every night. Down there. And then on the weekends, I think they move it down to Eddie Vickers Park.

MELISSA: Okay. They move around. BARRY: So you know, they're kind of moving around. I

think the City's first efforts, our first efforts are going to try to provide a proper foundational platform for them.

Possibly be able to,  
possibly provide some some

portilettes or toilets  
obviously that are needed. And

then we're going to

we're going to build out from

there. And then, of  
course, the City's outreach

efforts. You know, the area to  
wait on, you know, the Dining with

Dignity that evening, and be,  
we'll be able to, our outreach

officer will be able to punch  
into those individuals and

start making referrals and  
things, instead of chasing them

all around the City and things  
like that, yeah. MEISSA: If you're just

now tuning in, you are  
listening to The Break Room. I

have Barry Fox in studio. He is  
the City's Code Enforcement

Manager, spearheading the City's  
efforts to addressing the

unsheltered homeless. Barry,  
you were just starting to talk

about that community outreach.  
There's a, hopefully going to

be a presentation coming. Tell  
us a little bit, without

spoiling the details. You  
got over 930 something surveys

back. BARRY: We we did. I gotta admit, I never ever

thought that we would ever get.  
I didn't think we get

200 then. MELISSA: You were you're  
second in place behind part of

the parking survey. BARRY: Right.  
Well, that parking

conversation's been going on  
for over 100 years, right? So.

Yeah. I think Steve  
Frickey actually found a 1923

study one time. So, so yeah.  
It was a very successful

program and it was in  
conjunction with the Floating

Housing Coalition as the City  
is building its strategic plan,

and we want our strategic plan  
to dovetail into the Continuum

of Care Strategic Plan, because  
you know, my commitment has

been, let's not duplicate  
services. That it, let's

not, let's, we're.. MELISSA: Enhanced.  
MELISSA: Number one, the City is not in

the homeless business.

Service business, where we can

be in the outreach business, but  
being in the actual provider of

services, that's not what, what  
where our specialty is.

We're in the support, in the  
foundational kind of aspect of

those service providers. So  
you know, we're kind of, we're

kind of moving forward on that.

MELISSA: The survey was rather

revealing though when you talk  
about support. You needed to

get a sort of a temperature  
gauge of what the community thinks.

BARRY: Yeah, so there were some things,  
when you're on the inside and

out. You think everybody knows  
about us, and what the survey

revealed was that there are two  
or three that are just widely

known. Because we listed our  
specific by name service

providers. Now, we couldn't get  
them all, and because it was

just, there's just so many. MELISSA:  
But I, but to your defense, you

did have about 15 or 20 check boxes. BARRY: Maybe around

twenty-three. Yeah. MELISSA: Checkboxes  
of do you know any of these

providers. BARRY: So, you know, a  
couple stood out, just right out

at the page that people. And  
you know, when people

are speaking good, or speaking  
bad, there's always those 123

that you hear about and it's  
because it's those one two or

three that are well known  
within the community. But there

were some that we're very  
underwhelmingly recognized.

And that's good because,  
it's not good that they're...

It's good that we  
identified that because we can

let them know, hey the Continuum of Care  
and the other service providers

in our efforts, we can start to  
get the, hey, you know.

MELISSA: Exposure. BARRY: Here's, we can get  
their exposure up in reference

to, hey, here's another service  
provider that is very little

known within the community that  
the community can, if you

identify these things, call us,  
and we can start referring them

to this service provider for  
this particular issue. MELISSA: And

that's, and that's where  
Continuum of Care. Can you

explain a little bit about  
Continuum of Care, because.. We talk about these  
things like everybody should

know. I always try to make sure  
folks know what we're talking

about. BARRY: Right and it's, you know,  
it's kind of second, it's

kind of.. MELISSA: Second nature. BARRY: Second  
nature for us. So the

Continuum of Care, in a nutshell,  
is basically the umbrella

organization that doesn't  
manage the service providers,

but that all the money that's  
coming in from the County and

the Feds, they help disperse it  
appropriately, depending on the

service providers needs. And all  
the service providers are up

underneath that Continuum of  
Care to of work together

cohesively and and not fight  
for the money, because there's

no fighting for the money, but  
to kind of get the money

dispersed according to mission.

You know. MELISSA: In response to

demand. BARRY: In response to demand,  
yeah. MELISSA: Is it through Flagler

Hospital? BARRY: So, Flagler Hospital  
is the supporting agency. Kinda

like us. In  
reference the efforts. Flagler

Hospital is the supporting  
agency that comes. MELISSA: Flagler

Health Plus. Health. BARRY: Yeah.

Flagler Health Plus. Yeah.

Yeah. So, yeah. They take

that role on and they

do an excellent job. And so all  
of our town hall meetings,

people were like, you know, I'd  
like to know. So I did an

email blast letting them know  
that, hey here's a Zoom link to

the Continuum of Care meeting, and  
you know, some people actually

attended Zoom that had come to  
our town hall meetings in

reference to our strategic plan  
that did not know that they

could go and realize  
how many things. How many

moving parts, how many people

were actually involved. And

really still you don't get a  
true representation of the

boots on the ground.

Because not all the the boots

on the ground service providers  
are there. Usually, it's the

heads of the different service  
providers. So. But when

you look around that room, you  
go well, if each one of these is

ahead of a service provider, we  
must have at least 35-40 right?

MELISSA: So yeah. Well, it's a lot of,  
we're almost out of time.

What was the one thing that  
surprised you, if you can tell

me something out of that survey,  
or any nugget, any sneak

peek? I know the presentation  
we're hoping for is August 28th.

Anything that jumps out at you

that you were surprised by? Or

any responses you got?

Putting you on the spot. BARRY: Yeah I

know, and I'm trying to, and I

know I had this answer, you know,

because I kind of I. It. But it's

escaping me right now. But there

was, there was something that

was on it that was telling. And

I'm, it's just escaping me right

now and I apologize. MELISSA: That's

okay. BARRY: But it, all the results

will be in the packet. I think

Cindy has, is going to turn me

into a Survey Monkey junkie.

MELISSA: There you go. BARRY: And she's

teaching me about word cloud.

MELISSA: Word cloud. BARRY: Word cloud. Yeah.

And because there were a lot of

quantitative answers on our  
efforts. Which really can't

be put into that graph effort.

So you know, and she's taught

me how to do that. Now I'm  
getting dangerous. So now,

how to do all that. But the, it's pretty comprehensive

kind of a study. MELISSA: And  
we're working on the strategic

plan with Florida Housing  
Coalition. BARRY: Florida Housing

Coalition. Yep, that is in the  
process. So, our

presentation is meant to give  
our commissioners. It's now

time for our commissioners to  
say, okay, as the leaders of

our, of your City, this is what

we envision. In addition

to the information you've

gathered, we really kind of

want these key things to really

kind of be concentrated on, too.

These are our concerns and can

you work them into the

strategic plan, as you, as we

build it. So we'll be building

that now after the.. MELISSA: 28th OF August. BARRY: After 28th

meeting and we have that

information from the

commissioners. We're going to

take these surveys. We're

going to take the commissioners

comments, and we're going to go

out and work with the the

Florida Housing Coalition and

build our strategic plan. Make

sure it dovetails into the

Continuum of Care Strategic

Plan real nice. So. MELISSA: Well as

always, you're a busy man.

You're going to get to work on

the fence and getting that site

going. I'm excited to see that

come together. BARRY: The fence will

go up because we want to secure

the site, and then we will be

working on our phase one.

Which is a very, very,

very limited, you know. This

thing come together so fast. MELISSA: First step,

though. BARRY: Yeah, it's our first

step, so it came together so fast that it's really going to

be a very very very very low

level kind of first phase.

But you know, make some

improvements for

the individuals, the clients,

the service providers, and the

City, and then we're

going to go from there. Like I

said, it the the actual

ownership of the property opens

up so many doors to the

funding avenues for what we may

need to do, that you know, it's

just it's very exciting. I

think it's going to be.. MELISSA:

The best is yet to come. BARRY: Yeah I

think so. You know, like I said,

we're going to be meeting next

week with Continuum of Care

representatives to get that,

what does this service model

look like? So that we can

bring it back to the City to  
say, okay, you know, this is

kind of what it looks like. So  
in the future, as we move

forward, we're kind of building  
towards this kind of.. MELISSA: Vision.

BARRY: Look this vision. MELISSA: Yes. So. Keep  
us posted. We'll have you back.

Yeah and Ruben, Mr Franklin,  
will be, you know, handing it

step by step with me on that.

So yeah, there'll be two of us

to be able to talk about it  
when need be so. MELISSA: Excellent.

Well we're going to have to  
wrap it up there. If you missed

part of this broadcast and  
want to go back and listen the

beginning, you can find us on  
all of your podcasting favorite

apps. Check that out at [CityStAugRadio.com](http://CityStAugRadio.com). Until

next time. Thanks for tuning  
in. ANNOUNCER: You've been  
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Join us each week as the City's Communications

Director Melissa Wissel has  
in-depth conversations with the

people who make our town work  
to meet the needs of our

community. The Break Room is  
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Specialist for the City of St.  
Augustine, Cindy Walker. See you

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