C O M M U N I T Y M E M O

 DATE: July 9, 2014

FROM: E. Al Kalashnikov, Social Activist for
Homeless & Economically Oppressed Groups,
H. McCARTY Council for Judicial Accountability

 TO: The Anti-Hunger Action Committee
 ATTN. Community Relations, M. Wiliams

**For immediate publication**

 Economically disadvantaged Americans are often times victims of unfortunate circumstances by no faults of their own usually; but in other cases, inadequate education combined with low wage jobs and a lack of skills means becoming part of this socioeconomic classification. With substance abuse, mental illness and crime factored in, succeeding against the odds become more and more unlikely to be achieved.

 Living at or below the poverty line means that homelessness usually isn’t far away. According to one website, in Utah, from 2009-2011, homelessness was down -18% from the previous two years, with unemployment hovering at 4%. On the other hand, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, reported that the state’s figures fell by only 8 percent due to then new housing programs at that time.

 The current administration in Washington back then, launched an initiative to ‘end chronic homelessness in America.’ Three years later, Utah’s chronic homelessness went down another point to 9 percent, according to a report in May 2012. However, according to state figures, this dip reflected a total percent of homeless Utahns was still nearly 60% of the overall population, all while undergoing an action plan to end this social epidemic in the Beehive State.

 Utah’s first State Homeless Coordinating Committee (SHCC) created by law in 1988, was chaired by Lieutenant Governor Olene Walker during ***2004,*** when its 3rd draft was implemented to take effect**. July 13 (ten years ago)**. The ambitious initiative at the five year mark was chaired by Lieutenant Gov. Greg Bell for a proposal called, “Ten-Year Strategic Action Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.”

 As we approach the ten year mark, nearly to the day it was first implemented, today’s Committee Chairman, Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox will have to report that the ten-year’s action plan has failed miserably at his next meeting scheduled for September 10, 2014 in the Capitol Board Room (240).

*Despite some progresses made in reducing the disproportionately high percentage of chronic homeless figures in Utah, getting to the root causes to prevent poverty must be the goal of future initiatives funded by taxpayers.*

END

Dissenters For Justice

Debuts Summer 2014 at the Utah Poverty Partnership BBQ in Liberty Park

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