

Hotel Indigo

Mark Development (MD) and the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) have come to a preliminary agreement and are preparing to talk with the city about using the hotel for transitional housing/temporary shelter for families. The plan is to use 64 of the 192 hotel rooms.

Who: The 64 families would come from within Massachusetts – see link below on what qualifies a family for Emergency Shelter. Details on how the families would be vetted have yet to be worked out. It's expected that half of the families would have a vehicle and the other half would rely on public transportation. The anticipated average family size would be 3.3. As of now, there are no projections on how many school-aged children there would be.

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-emergency-family-shelter>

When: In the event the project moves forward, MD would be targeting to have the space operational by the end of summer.

How: An outside operator would administer the program and provide educational services to the families. MD will be submitting a proposal to the city in the next couple of weeks. As of now, there is limited work contemplated to the exterior of the property. The majority of the work will be to the interior of the building (e.g., patch walls, get new furniture, repair the existing commercial kitchen) and MD has a budget for that work. MD has yet to tour the hotel with the Building Department to determine any further work that might be needed for a Certificate of Occupancy. The Liaison Committee chairs have contacted the city's legal department regarding the process that would be required for permitting the project and an answer is expected soon.

How long: It's expected that the lease would last for at least year but not more than two years, consistent with the long term development plans for the site.

Highway Improvements

MD is moving ahead and expects to submit the 25% design for review by MassDOT at the beginning of April.

Next scheduled meeting: April 25 at 8:30 a.m. on zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81532671558?pwd=Tk4wSytETnRRWDhDOG5FUzBITVAydz09>

We will keep you informed as we learn additional information.

— The Riverside Liaison Committee

