

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 8, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **City Activating Temporary Inclement Weather Shelter**

As staff continues to develop an official inclement weather policy and plan, I've requested the mobilization of a temporary inclement weather shelter in anticipation of below freezing temperatures for the upcoming week. The City will activate a temporary inclement weather shelter at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center on Monday, November 11, 2019 through Tuesday, November 12, 2019, with the possibility of extending through November 14, 2019 should the temperature remain below 36 degrees. The activation will be subject to capacity at current shelter service providers and is intended to serve as overflow space.

During emergency conditions, the City has previously accommodated individuals and families overnight at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. As the temperatures are anticipated to drop below freezing next week, the Convention Center will accommodate the unsheltered as an accessory temporary inclement weather shelter. The City will ensure that all life/ safety protocols are followed.

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) is reaching out to its partners and service providers to request assistance with securing experienced volunteers to aid in the operation of the temporary inclement weather shelter. The Office of Homeless Solutions will lead this effort with the support of the Office of Emergency Management, Dallas Fire-Rescue, Dallas Police Department, Convention and Event Services, Office of Public Affairs and Outreach, and Office of Community Care.

Public safety is our priority and this effort will help ensure the safety of our most vulnerable population during inclement weather. Staff understands that this approach is not financially sustainable for the City by itself, nor should it be deployed as a reoccurring solution to address inclement weather sheltering.

That said, staff has been working to establish a 2019 Winter Plan to address inclement weather needs until the comprehensive long-term plan is approved by full City Council. OHS staff have been collaborating with the Citizen Homelessness Commission (CHC) subcommittee and will brief the full CHC on this proposed plan November 14, 2019, prior to briefing Housing & Homelessness Solutions Committee on December 10, 2019. The long-term solution of creating an accessory inclement weather shelter use as well as a new chapter in City Code has been in process since May 2019 per City Council direction. Staff's recommendation on creation of the zoning use was approved by the Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee (ZOAC) on September 19, 2019 and was forwarded to the City Planning Commission (CPC). The CPC will be briefed on November 21, 2019 and will hear this item on their December 12, 2019 agenda. After CPC approval, both

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zoning and inclement weather shelter program chapters will need to be briefed to the Housing & Homelessness Solutions Committee prior to full City Council approval. It is anticipated that these steps, along with necessary public engagement will be completed by Spring 2020.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Monica Hardman, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions or Rocky Vaz, Director of Office of Emergency Management.



T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager  
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors