

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 22, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on New York City Relocation Program for Persons Experiencing Homelessness**

In response to an article detailing New York City's plans to transport persons experiencing homelessness to various cities across the country, including Dallas, staff reached out to the New York City Human Resources Administration to inquire about the City's efforts and how they could possibly affect the City of Dallas. Specifically, staff learned about the Special One Time Assistance (SOTA) program.

The SOTA program provides one year's full rent up front for eligible clients to move within New York City, to other New York State counties, or to another state, Puerto Rico, or Washington D.C.

Families with children are eligible for SOTA if they have been in shelter for at least 90 days. Single adults and adult families are eligible if sheltered for 90 days out of the last 365 days. The household must be working and/or have enough income to make future rent payments based on their rent not exceeding 50% of household income. This income can include government assistance programs such as SSI.

Over 5,000 families have been relocated through the SOTA program since its establishment in August 2017. The SOTA program has expended approximately \$89 million in rental assistance to program participants. Of the 5,000 families, there has been one household that has opted to move to Dallas/ Fort Worth region. Staff intends to engage in further conversations with the New York City Human Services Administration on opportunities to partner on legislative items related to affordable housing, homelessness, and mental health as well as additional best practices research efforts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nadia Chandler Hardy', written over a white background.

Nadia Chandler Hardy
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
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
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