

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 14, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on Activation of Temporary Inclement Weather Shelters by the Office of Homeless Solutions**

## **Current and Upcoming Action:**

The Office of Homeless Solutions has been monitoring the weather forecast and based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric forecast, has activated the opening of temporary inclement weather shelters (TWIS) in the City of Dallas for Saturday, January 15, 2022, and will continue to monitor the weather on Sunday night, January 16, 2022. An additional activation notice will be released no later than 12pm on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> should Sunday evening's trigger it, in accordance with Chapter 45 of the City Code, the notice of the activation is attached.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are encouraged to seek shelter at any one of the City's existing, overnight shelter provider locations. If those shelters are at capacity, guests can seek shelter at one of two, temporary inclement weather shelters – Oak Lawn United Methodist Church (UMC) and OurCalling.

Oak Lawn UMC is located at 3014 Oak Lawn Avenue (Council District 14) and OurCalling is located at 1702 S. Cesar Chavez Blvd. (Council District 2). Intake hours at both locations are 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission to Oak Lawn UMC closes at 9:00 p.m. Any guests who present at Oak Lawn UMC after shelter intake hours will be directed to OurCalling which will remain open overnight.

Onsite rapid response COVID-19 testing will be available at both locations. Individuals who test positive will be isolated and transported to a third shelter. For the safety and security of staff and guests, the location is not being disclosed at this time. Additional information will be provided once the shelters close at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 17, 2022. The COVID-19 quarantine shelter will remain open indefinitely, guests are encouraged to remain in isolation until the time allotted for quarantine expires.

In partnership with Dallas County, OHS has established a quarantine shelter for homeless individuals who are Covid positive, admitted by referral through the local shelter providers and hospitals. We are extremely grateful for this partnership, which also includes North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA), Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), and Parkland Hospital. Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and the vulnerability of the unsheltered population, access to this

"Our Product is Service"

Empathy | Ethics | Excellence | Equity

shelter is limited to OHS and partnering staff.

**Previous Action:**

The Office of Homeless Solutions activated the opening of temporary inclement weather shelters (TWIS) in the City of Dallas on Thursday, January 6, 2022, based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric forecast, in accordance with Chapter 45 of the City Code.

The total number of shelter stays for the night of January 6, 2022 is as follows:

- Oak Lawn UMC: **43**
- OurCalling: **158**
- Bachman Lake Recreation Center:
  - **39** Covid-Negative
  - **2** Covid-Positive in overflow isolation

After the closure of inclement weather shelter, Covid positive guests were transferred to hotels under the management of Catholic Charities with assistance from OHS staff as needed. These guests will remain in hotel for the duration of their quarantine period.

Through a tremendous amount of preparation and planning, this well-organized operation provided shelter for our unsheltered neighbors last week and is prepared to do so again this weekend. Through a tremendous amount of preparation and planning, this well-organized operation has provided shelter for our unsheltered neighbors last week and is prepared to do so again. This work would not have been possible without support from the Office of Emergency Management, the Parks Department, Dallas Fire Rescue, Oak Lawn UMC, OurCalling, Stewpot, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), Downtown Dallas Inc., Catholic Charities, Austin Street Center, Kessler Park UMC, CitySquare, and all of the area homeless services providers. Collectively, they provided medical services, meals, and transportation throughout this period.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Christine Crossley, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions. Thank you for your support.



Kimberly Bizer Tolbert  
Chief of Staff

[Attachment]

c:	T.C. Broadnax, City Manager	Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
	Chris Caso, City Attorney	Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
	Mark Swann, City Auditor	Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
	Biliera Johnson, City Secretary	M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
	Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge	M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
	Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager	Directors and Assistant Directors

“Our Product is Service”

Empathy | Ethics | Excellence | Equity

**CITY OF DALLAS OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS**  
**ACTIVATION OF THE OPENING OF TEMPORARY INCLEMENT WEATHER SHELTERS**

In accordance with Chapter 45 of the City of Dallas Code, the Office of Homeless Solutions is authorizing the opening of temporary inclement weather shelters on the following dates, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending on the following day at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.  
NOAA forecast low temperature: 27 degrees

*Christine Crossley*

[Christine Crossley \(Jan 14, 2022 09:49 CST\)](#)

---

Christine Crossley, Director  
City of Dallas  
Office of Homeless Solutions

Jan 14, 2022

---

Date