

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 3, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update – Office of Homeless Solutions Initiatives**

The following memo is an update on the Office of Homeless Solutions' holistic strategy to address homelessness equitably as One Dallas through Temporary Inclement Weather Shelters (TIWS), Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing (DRTRR), and Panhandling Diversion. The details of progress made on each initiative are outlined below:

Temporary Inclement Weather Shelters

On November 11, 2020, the Dallas City Council approved an amendment to Chapter 51A and the creation of Chapter 45 of the Dallas City Code to allow for the operation of temporary inclement weather shelters (TIWS). Under Chapter 51A, a TIWS cannot be placed within a one half (.5) mile of the central business district.

We are pleased to report that the first application for a TIWS permit was approved by OHS on November 19, 2021. The permit was issued to Oak Lawn United Methodist Church located at 3014 Oak Lawn Avenue (Council District 14). In accordance with Chapter 45, all issued permits remain in effect for 2 years.

A collaborative team made up of City staff, MDHA representatives and homeless services providers are working together to promote the program to prospective partner organizations since congregate shelter was difficult to offer last winter due to the projected surge in COVID-19 cases. In addition, the team is prepared to mobilize and provide support to permit holders each time OHS activates the opening of temporary inclement weather shelters based on the weather conditions as outlined in Chapter 45. The Communications, Outreach and Marketing Department's recent [post](#) about the TIWS program generated media coverage from Fox4 and KERA, and additional permit applications are expected. Staff will provide updates as additional permits are issued.

Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing Program

The DRTRR initiative aims to rehouse over 2,700 individuals experiencing homelessness by October 2023. On October 30, 2021, the DRTRR achieved its first encampment decommissioning, resulting in the housing of several individuals who were experiencing chronic homelessness.

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Over the past several weeks, the DRTRR team of homeless service providers, co-led by OHS and MDHA, has been working with unsheltered residents in additional encampments over the past month to offer housing to all on site. Through these activities, we anticipate the decommissioning of four more encampments by December 31, 2021. The MDHA Dashboard reflecting real time progress goes live on December 10, 2021, the link for which will be shared through a separate memo.



Panhandling

On Monday, October 25, 2021, the City Council's Government

Performance and Financial Management Committee approved a pilot panhandling deflection program brought forth by OHS, CAO, R.I.G.H.T. Care, and the City Marshal. The program outlined a holistic approach to addressing panhandling across the City of Dallas through the: Identification and [mapping of available data](#) on locations and times of panhandling calls, preparing of additional enforcement authority ordinances for City Council consideration, and developing of public and stakeholder communications. The program is a six-month pilot which includes public messaging and signage. In key locations across the City, residents should continue to report panhandling via the City's OurDallas 311 service app or by calling 311. A progress report is expected to the Government Performance and Finance Management Committee in summer 2022.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Christine Crossley, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions.

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