

Memorandum



Date: May 9, 2016

To: Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council

Subject: Formation of the Dallas Commission on Homelessness

Over the past several months, the City of Dallas, in coordination with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), Dallas police, CitySquare and other area shelters and organizations worked to successfully close “Tent City.” We knew that the Tent City closure was only one small piece of our work to address homelessness in our city. We must now turn our focus to long-term strategies to address this scourge that so many American cities are battling.

That’s why I have asked MDHA Board Chair Britton Banowsky to lead the Dallas Commission on Homelessness to focus on such long-term strategies. The overarching objective of the Commission is to position Dallas among the best performing and progressive communities in addressing these highly challenging and complex issues.

Under Mr. Banowsky’s direction, the charge of the Commission will be to: 1) analyze our community’s current system of addressing homelessness; 2) compare it to the best practices of similar communities; and 3) deliver a focused set of strategies and recommendations for the City and County to consider going forward. A major piece of this will be working on a plan to add more affordable and supportive housing inventory for homeless citizens throughout the area.

It is important that the Commission include diverse representation from across the City and County and that appointees have relevant experience on these issues. I am asking that each City Council member appoint one member. Please send appointee names to Mr. Banowsky at bbb@makechangeconsulting.com soon, as the meetings are expected to start immediately.

Mr. Banowsky and I will be joined by Council member Scott Griggs, Chair of the Housing Committee, at a news conference at 11:30 a.m. today in the Flag Room to speak further about this.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Rawlings
Mayor, City of Dallas

c: A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Chris Bowers, Interim City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer