

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 8, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **2021 Point-In-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness**

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), the lead agency for the homeless response system in Dallas and Collin Counties, recently informed the City of Dallas of changes being made to the 2021 Point-In-Time (PIT) count of persons experiencing homelessness. As you know, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that the count be completed in January of each year. MDHA, as the lead agency of the Continuum of Care (COC), is responsible for planning and organizing the event and reporting the results to HUD.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD asked COCs to develop a plan to conduct the count while also reducing face-to-face interaction between individuals and decreasing the number of individuals working in close physical contact with persons experiencing homelessness. After conferring with the Dallas and Collin County Health Departments, MDHA decided to proceed with the count as follows:

- Conduct the count over a two-week period beginning February 18 and ending on March 3, 2021
- Utilize existing trained street outreach teams, not volunteers
- Partner with the County health departments to provide PPE and rapid COVID-19 tests to ensure street outreach workers remain safe and healthy, should vaccines not be available to them prior to count
- Work closely with the MDHA Street Outreach Committee to ensure full coverage in both counties
- Partner with departments across Dallas and Collin Counties and utilize encampment tracking data sets (such as the City of Dallas 3-1-1 system) to help MDHA identify locations where unsheltered individuals are residing
- Partner with corporate, faith, and community partners to obtain PPE and welcome kits

In the past, City Council members, city staff and residents have volunteered for the annual count. Due to the focus of this year's count being on trained street outreach staff, the Office of Homeless Solutions has identified opportunities for the City Council and the community to support this event. Street Outreach team members, including the Office of Homeless Solutions, will be counting across the City over the two-week period and would appreciate and use support with lunch, snacks, and beverages. In addition, items are needed for the welcome kits being distributed to our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

DATE January 8, 2021
SUBJECT **2021 Point-In-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness**

If you would like to help sponsor this event through the donation of items to MDHA, please contact Gloria Sandoval (gloria.sandoval@dallascityhall.com). Results of the 2021 count will be shared by MDHA on a date yet to be determined.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Kevin Oden, Interim Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions



Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert
Chief of Staff

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors