

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2019-1156

DATE: November 5, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 5th day of November 2019, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

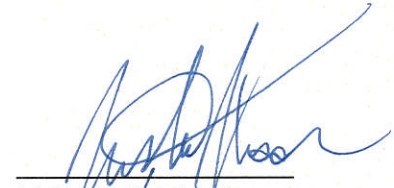
- WHEREAS**, Two and a half million, or 1 out of every 30 children under the age of 18, experiences homelessness in the United States, many of whom live on the street or in emergency shelters. The majority are runaways, have been asked to leave their homes or have fallen victim to the nation's high poverty rate, lack of affordable housing, the challenges of single parenting, racial, gender identity and sexual orientation disparities, or traumatic experiences, such as domestic violence; and
- WHEREAS**, A study by The National Center on Family Homelessness shows children who experience homelessness suffer physical and mental health issues as they are unable to secure even basic needs, let alone adequate medical or mental healthcare. Due to a lack of necessary resources, 13 homeless youth die each day in the United States from physical assault, illness, or suicide; and
- WHEREAS**, Homeless youth often develop more slowly than their peers, struggling in school, missing days, repeating grades or dropping out altogether. For the 2014-2015 school year, the Texas Education Agency reported that a total of 111,881 students were identified by schools as homeless, with 15,608 identified as unaccompanied and homeless; and
- WHEREAS**, Nearly 9,000 of the state's 111,881 homeless youth reside in Dallas County. Approximately 88,400 of those identified as homeless were living doubled up (with friends or family), 12,300 were living in shelters, 7,800 were living in hotels or motels, and 3,300 were in unsheltered situations; and
- WHEREAS**, The 2019 Dallas and Collin County Point-in-Time count showed a 9% increase in homelessness, overall. While there was 2% decrease in the number of homeless families and a 5% decrease in the number of unaccompanied youth, ages 18-24, there is much room for improvement. Homelessness is a multi-faceted problem, so a "one size fits all" solution does not exist; and
- WHEREAS**, Family Gateway, CitySquare, Catholic Charities, Outlast Youth, Promise House, After8ToEducate and many other private and charitable organizations, in partnership with Dallas County, are among organizations committed to sheltering and providing supportive services to people experiencing homelessness; and
- WHEREAS**, It is incumbent upon Dallas County to provide the necessary resources and avail itself of local businesses, law enforcement agencies, schools, and community and faith-based organizations to prioritize ending homelessness, especially youth homelessness, in our cities, our county, our state and our country.

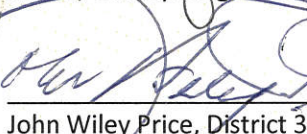
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim November 2019 as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month which seeks to increase, not only awareness but understanding that the challenges facing these children, our children, require support from our community as a whole.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 5th day of November, 2019.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


J.J. Koch, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4