

Resolution



ORDER NO:2020- 1124

DATE: November 10, 2020

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 10th day of November 2020, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, November is Youth Homelessness Awareness Month and National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is the week before Thanksgiving each year. This is a time for us all to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and work toward a world where no one has to experience hunger or homelessness; and

WHEREAS, The solutions to homelessness are bigger than any of us and we must resolve to work together. As the holidays approach, many choose to donate some of their time, attention, and resources to others. As temperatures are dropping, there is no better time than now to think about the impact of providing food and shelter for those in need; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 Dallas County point-in-time count revealed 4,471 adults and in the 2019 count 250 youth who don't have a stable place to live. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Dallas has seen homeless encampments spread to parks and trails, bringing attention to the chronic homelessness problem as well as the need for more housing solutions; and

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, Criminalizing homelessness is ineffective, and costs more money than solving the problem by ensuring access to housing. Dallas County is making strides in diversion from jail and in healthcare to make sure those who need shelter are not in jail because of that need; and

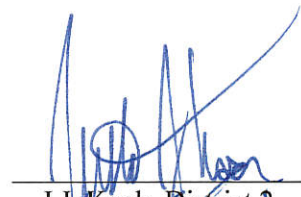
WHEREAS, There has been recent progress on these issues including; Catholic Charities' new St. Jude project at Central Expressway that will add 180 transitional housing rooms for all adult age ranges and is hoping to open in December. We also are celebrating the second anniversary of the St. Jude Center at Forest that provides housing and case management services for chronically homeless seniors. Earlier this year, the NTBHA opened a "Living Room" in southern Dallas to help people with mental illness smoothly transition from institutionalization to the community. In addition, Dallas County supports the new deflection center efforts at Homeward Bound spearheaded by District Attorney John Creuzot that will help people experiencing a mental health issue to "deflect" from jail and into treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim November 2020 as **Youth Homelessness Awareness Month** and November 15-22, 2020 as **National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week**. We encourage all residents to take action and recognize that all persons experiencing homelessness should have access to affordable housing, education, health care, employment, income, and other opportunities and services that allow all to live with dignity.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 10th day of November 2020.


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