

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 11, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Inclement Weather Shelters**

The Office of Homeless Solutions activated the opening of temporary inclement weather shelters (TWIS) February 2 – 8, 2022 in the City of Dallas based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric forecast, in accordance with Chapter 45 of the City Code. The City was thrilled to open a central sheltering space at the Automobile Building in Fair Park with support from Fair Park First/Spectra and later to open the Tower Building to accommodate even more guests seeking shelter.

This cold weather event saw a massive partnership effort including City Councilmembers, OHS, OEM, DPD, DFR, Public Works, City Security, Parks, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), Downtown Dallas Inc (DDI), OurCalling, Stewpot, Austin Street, Salvation Army, Union Gospel Mission, Oak Lawn UMC, The Bridge, Endeavors, and many others come together to shelter a total of 1090 people over 6 days.

All guests were tested for COVID-19 with 11 positive guests sent to a secondary quarantine location. After testing, intakes were done through a volunteer core managed by MDHA, ensuring guest data was captured for our larger homeless provider system and that unsheltered residents who had not previously interacted with that system were identified for future resource needs. This also included a push on Monday, February 7, 2022 to enter all interested guests into the Coordinated Access System, which feeds into the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing (DRTRR) Initiative and resulted in several on-the-spot shelter program placements. After the intake process, guests were shown to their sleeping quarters and any animals brought in had a designated crate and food. OurCalling led the operations of the shelter, staffing the facility and acting as the on-site point of contact in partnership with the OHS leads, on-site staff, and Endeavors staff with OHS troubleshooting all City needs or issues.

Coordination for all guest meals with volunteer vendors made it possible to provide three meals per day to all guests and City Councilmembers generously donated their time and efforts to ensure that all on site staff had everything from doughnuts in the morning to a warm lunch and dinner every night. Many guests left the shelter Sunday and Monday as the weather warmed up, with the remaining guests leaving Tuesday morning. All were provided with a bus pass and bag of hygiene products and snacks, over half of which were also provided by City Councilmembers. The Dallas Connector offered free transport to several facilities and wheelchair access transport was offered for those needing it. The facilities were closed and returned to Fair Park First/Spectra Tuesday, February 10, 2022.

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A more in depth briefing of this shelter period will be included in the briefing requested by Mayor Johnson which has been scheduled for the March 2, 2022 City Council Briefing agenda.

Prior to this, for 2022 YTD, OHS has implemented inclement weather shelter operations on January 1-2,6,15, 19-22, 2022.

The total number of shelter stays for this cumulative time period were as follows:

- Oak Lawn UMC: **515**
- OurCalling: **1289**
- Union Gospel Mission: **80**
- City Overflow Shelter:
 - **193** Covid negative
 - **189** Covid positive

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Christine Crossley, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions. Thank you for your support.



Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert
Deputy City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Robert Perez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Interim Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors