

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 4, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on Activation of Temporary Inclement Weather Shelters and COVID-19 Quarantine by the Office of Homeless Solutions**

Temporary Inclement Weather Shelter

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) activated the opening of temporary inclement weather shelters (TIWS) in the City of Dallas based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric forecast, in accordance with Chapter 45 of the City Code on multiple dates, many of which were consecutive.

The total number of TIWS shelter stays for this cumulative period are as follows:

- Oak Lawn UMC: **776**
- OurCalling: **2,117**
- Union Gospel Mission: **202**
- City Overflow Shelter:
 - **667** Covid-19 negative
 - **191** Covid-19 positive
- Fair Park/ Spectra
 - **1,090** Covid-19 Negative
 - **11** Covid-19 Positive
- West Dallas Multipurpose Center Quarantine Site
 - **131** Covid-19 Positive

Throughout the activation of TIWS, unsheltered individuals were encouraged to seek shelter at any one of the City's existing, overnight shelter provider locations, the TIWS locations – Oak Lawn United Methodist Church (UMC) and OurCalling, and overflow shelters run by OHS.

Through a tremendous amount of preparation and planning, this operation provided respite from the elements for our unsheltered neighbors across a total of 19 days. This work would not have been possible without support from the following partners and vendors: The Bridge, Austin Street Shelter, The Salvation Army, Stewpot, OurCalling, Oak Lawn UMC, Union Gospel Mission, Dallas Connector, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, Endeavors, Dallas Fire and Rescue, City Security, Allied Security, the Office of Emergency Management, North Texas Behavioral Authority (NTBHA), the Parkland Foundation, the transportation vendor: Transportation Unlimited, the laundry vendor: Feather Laundry, and the food vendors: Omni Hotel, Cracker Barrel, Jason's Deli, and Baller Moms Meals.

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COVID-19 Quarantine

Onsite, rapid response Covid-19 testing was done at all locations and individuals who tested positive were isolated and transported to a quarantine site. In partnership with Dallas County, OHS established this quarantine location at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center (WDMC), 2828 Fish Trap Road, for homeless individuals who were Covid-19 positive; admitted by referral through the local shelter providers and hospitals.

For the safety and security of staff and guests, the location was not disclosed during active operations. The site operated from January 10, 2022 – March 4, 2022 and sheltered 131 Covid-19 positive guests. The use of this site during the Omicron surge helped to prevent potential super spreader events and control the spread of Covid-19 among our unsheltered neighbors. The WDMC quarantine site provided a safe place for guests to recover with strict protocols in place to ensure that no staff were ever placed at risk of infection. Because of the layout of the facility and since the facility was only operating at a limited capacity due to Covid-19 closures, the WDMC building was able to host this quarantine site and maintain full separation between the shelter guests, building operators, and other daily business operations. The site has been returned to the Office of Community Care since the Covid-19 rate of infection is down to pre-surge levels as determined by County Health guidelines and the current level of need for the site was too small to continue operations. This is also in line with the City Manager's final Return to Work Phase 4, that went into effect on March 4, 2022.

We are extremely grateful to: the Office of Community Care for the use of this space, to Dallas County for providing day-to-day management of the site, to NTBHA for providing and staffing the intake referral system and providing care coordination for guests with behavioral health issues, to Parkland Hospital for their support of the site, to our City Partners – Dallas Fire and Rescue and City Security, and to the security vendors: Endeavors and Allied Security for maintaining a 24/7 presence for the duration of operations. We are also grateful for the following West Dallas community partners, for providing additional donations of food, fresh produce, and snacks, including: Brother Bill's Helping Hands, The Oak Cliff Veggie Project, City Square's Food Recovery program, and the Parkland Food Services Department.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Mayor and City Council for your unwavering support of our efforts, the donation of your time volunteering at sites, and resources you have each brought to bear during this time of need. Collectively, every organization, vendor, and person mentioned above have worked to provide over 5,000 TIWS shelter and Covid-19 quarantine stays to our most vulnerable residents.

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

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Kimberly Bizer 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