



# LAUDERTRAC

## HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

November/December 2022

### BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

#### The City's Homeless Initiatives

The City has three different homeless initiatives in action:

- 1) Community Court, 2) the Housing Navigation Program, and 3) the Police Homeless Outreach Team.

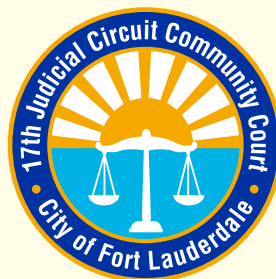
The goal of Community Court is to address the underlying causes of homelessness rather than continue the cycle from the streets, to jail, and then back to the streets. The program is a collaborative effort of local, county, and service providers. The partnership helps individuals experiencing homelessness navigate through their housing, employment, food, mental health care, substance abuse counseling, and medical care needs. Through this initiative, over 280 hearings were held, 55 Notices To Appear were issued, and 170 community service hours were completed. This year, 16 participants successfully graduated from Community Court and 776 walk-ins were served.

Through the generosity of local nonprofits and neighbors, over 1,300 showers, 440 haircuts, and 1,540 meals were provided. In addition, through a partnership with Broward Health, 61 individuals received medical attention within six visits from the medical mobile unit. Currently, 20 community-based organizations and partners contribute to the Community Court program.

This year, the City also successfully launched the Housing Navigation Program established as a pilot program through a partnership between the Taskforce Fore Ending Homelessness, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, and the Neighbor Support Division. The program's goal is to provide street outreach, complete intake assessments, and connect a core group of chronically homeless neighbors with housing services. Since the program was launched, 60% of the participants have been linked into housing services including shelter and referrals for temporary housing, permanent housing, reunification, and drug and mental health treatment.

#### Fort Lauderdale Police Department Supports Homelessness

Since January 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) Reunification Program helped 37 individuals reunite with their families outside the City. The FLPD Homeless Outreach Unit made more than 5,000 contacts with our homeless population this year. Often times, it takes continuous and repetitive engagement with an individual to build rapport. The team's efforts resulted in multiple referrals to temporary shelter and/or various social services.



#### Since it started

**280** hearings were held  
**55** Notices To Appear (NTAs) were issued  
**170** community service hours were completed

#### This year

**16** participants graduated from Community Court  
**776** walk-ins were served



**61**

individuals received medical attention within six visits from the medical mobile unit.



**1,300**  
SHOWERS



**440**  
HAIRCUTS



**1,540**  
MEALS

#### HOUSING NAVIGATION PROGRAM



(12 clients) have been linked into housing services



#### REUNIFICATION PROGRAM ASSISTED 37

individuals to return to their relatives outside the City

Homeless Outreach Unit  
**CONNECTED 5,000 TIMES**  
with our homeless population this year

Currently, 97% (485) of the Department's officers are trained to have a broader understanding of mental illness and possess the skills necessary to actively listen, effectively communicate, and successfully de-escalate emotionally charged situations involving individuals in crisis. Furthermore, the officers continue to inform homeless individuals about the Broward County Homeless Helpline at (954) 563-4357, and other addiction and mental health support services.

To further the efforts of FLPD, a third officer was added to the Homeless Outreach Unit for increased coverage and support. Additionally, the Police Chief will attend the next Broward County Chiefs of Police Association meeting in January 2023, with Police Chiefs from other Broward County municipalities, to discuss opportunities on how to better serve and support the homeless population more effectively throughout the County.

## Increasing Awareness for Homeless Support Resources around the City

This year, the City's Strategic Communications Division launched an awareness campaign to connect the homeless population with helpful resources. The campaign includes advertisements for resources available to those experiencing homelessness; information is available at [www.fortlauderdale.gov/helpnow](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/helpnow) and through electronic outreach flyers. Printed outreach flyers are also available at City Hall and posted prominently on 14 bus stops throughout around the City. Those in need may also call Broward County's Homeless Helpline at 954-563-HELP (4357) to receive information about connecting with needed resources such as housing, mental health, and substance abuse services.

In addition, City staff contacted property owners and local rental associations to provide information on the Broward County's RentalNet Program, now called Project Home Again, to increase local landlords' awareness and encourage participation. The program lists local properties into a database where caseworkers may place their homeless clients while landlords are guaranteed to receive rent through the program. If you are a landlord or know a landlord interested in participating in the program, you can find more information at [RentalNet.broward.org](http://RentalNet.broward.org).

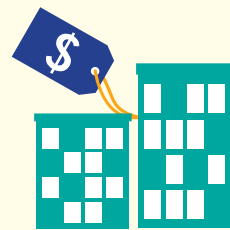
## Affordable and Workforce Housing Programs in Fort Lauderdale

Since the Affordable Housing Policy was adopted, the Development Services Department (DSD) has implemented a Citywide affordable workforce housing regulation. Through this regulation, the City incentivizes private sector developers to include additional affordable housing units in their construction projects with approval for residential density and/or height, along with required annual reporting to ensure units designated as workforce housing continue to be offered as such. Currently, 51 affordable housing units are expected to be available upon completion of the City's two approved height bonus incentive development projects in the Northwest Regional Activity Center (RAC). This new policy will continue to provide opportunities for safe, decent, well designed, and essential affordable housing.

Lastly, the Department's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division is the sole administrator of Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program for Broward County. During the period of October 2021 to September 2022, a total of 577 qualified residents received rental assistance to prevent homelessness. HCD also administers U.S Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding and awarded one eligible first-time homebuyer down payment assistance to purchase a home using program incentives. Furthermore, 16 qualified units in the City received home rehabilitation assistance to ensure housing safety and affordability.



**HOMELESS AWARENESS TRAINING**  
**97% OFFICERS**  
 Have completed the training



**51** affordable housing units

are expected to be available upon completion of the City's two approved height bonus incentive development projects



From October 2021 to September 2022

**577**

qualified residents received rental assistance to prevent homelessness



**16**

qualified units in the City received home rehabilitation assistance