



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 24-040**

**Date:** May 29, 2024

**To:** Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

**From:** Susan Grant, Acting City Manager *Susan Grant*

**Re:** **Homeless Assistance Response**

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In alignment with the City Commission's Top Priority of *Homelessness and Housing Accessibility*, staff continues to coordinate services to assist neighbors experiencing homelessness and improve the feeling of safety for our neighbors. Outlined below are immediate, mid-term, and long-term actions City Management will be implementing.

### Immediate Action:

- The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) in collaboration with the Fire Department's Mobile Organizer's Orienting Resources (for) Empowerment (MOORE) team, the Community Enhancement and Compliance Team (Code), and Park Rangers will be monitoring various hotspots throughout the City. Once a hotspot is identified, City staff reporting it will utilize FixIt FTL through an internal reporting structure that will ensure the appropriate response is initiated quickly and efficiently. This will allow for a coordinated, multi-departmental, effort to allow more eyes on the issue in anticipation of being more proactive with City responses.
- Daily inspection and reporting of areas currently identified through neighbor outreach as well as staff observations to the City Manager's office have shown a positive impact on homeless activity in these areas.

### Mid-Term Action:

- Staff will be proposing allocation of funds to reserve emergency beds with a local nonprofit that are dedicated to the City of Fort Lauderdale. This will consist of 20 beds at an annual cost of \$330k. This is a resource the City has not had in the past due to lack of available beds and will be another tool for the FLPD Homeless Outreach Team and Neighbor Support to utilize when encountering homeless individuals who are open to readily available shelter beds.
- Staff are reaching out to various municipalities and having ongoing discussions with Broward County on the implementation and enforcement of Florida House Bill 1365 related to public camping and public sleeping. As more information is

available, the City may need to modify its responses to remain in compliance as needed and as recommended by the City Attorney Office.

Long-Term Action:

- Staff would like to consider redesigning the current Police Department site plan to facilitate keeping the existing jail facility. Currently, this facility is used as storage for the Police Department, however, in the past it was used to address violations by individuals of local municipal ordinance. The current court system and lack of capacity at the County jail does not allow FLPD to adequately address individuals that violate our municipal code in a manner that results in a significant impact on behavior. Further, FLPD believes the facility can be utilized in various ways that would help address homelessness by allowing for medical clearances to take place in a timely manner (the current process can keep an officer occupied for an entire shift), along with additional options not currently available to FLPD (i.e. additional shelter beds and wraparound services to serve the homeless). In order to facilitate this, AECOM will have to be engaged to revise the site plan and a modification to the demolition plan will have to be implemented for the facility to remain. Since it is a separate structure, it will not impact the demolition of the old Police Department building, however there will be a fiscal impact to the overall project budget.
- Staff will be evaluating the cost of restarting the Downtown Ambassador program, a third-party agency managing downtown's safety, cleaning, and pressure washing services with a team of ambassadors. There have been requests in the past to reinstate this program and it is felt that more presence will help in addressing homeless activity in the downtown areas.

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
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