

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PUBLISH A WEEKLY LETTER TO COMMISSION (“LTC”) SETTING FORTH VARIOUS METRICS AND DATA REGARDING THE HOMELESS POPULATION INHABITING THE CITY, TO INCLUDE: THE NUMBER OF SHELTER BEDS AND RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OR ITS PROVIDERS AT EACH SHELTER AND RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM; THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE TO THE CITY; THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING THE CITY’S CAMPING ORDINANCE; AND OTHER METRICS PERTAINING TO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO HOMELESS PERSONS IN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City has approximately 80,000 residents and fifteen (15) square miles within its territorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the City's beautiful beaches, world-class shopping and dining, and popularity as a resort and tourist destination, entices people from all over the world to come to the City; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the millions of tourists who visit each year, the most recent point-in-time homeless census (conducted by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust in January 2024) shows that the City is also inhabited by a fluctuating homeless population of approximately 154 people; and

WHEREAS, protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the City's residents and visitors is the most fundamental function performed by the City; and

WHEREAS, addressing homelessness is a challenging and cyclical issue that requires a multitude of approaches to address and curb its impact; and

WHEREAS, the City staffs a Homeless Outreach Services Team, which operates a walk-in-center and manages 86 Shelter Beds and 3 Residential Treatment Level II beds that are funded fully by the City at an annual cost of approximately \$1,134,927.50; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the City can offer placements appropriate to the circumstances of each homeless person seeking assistance, these beds are located at the following shelters / residential programs: Camillus House, Miami Rescue Mission, Lotus House, The Salvation Army, Riverside House and New Hope; and

WHEREAS, the City also provides additional homeless services including, but not limited to, in-house employment services, application assistance for disability and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) benefits, identification document (birth certificate, driver’s license, work permit, government ID) replacement assistance, family reunification/relocation services, mental health screening and services, and rental assistance and referral supportive services; and

WHEREAS, despite the City’s humanitarian and enforcement efforts, nuisance behavior and illegal acts perpetrated by homeless individuals continue to result in a significant number of calls for service and complaints from residents, visitors and businesses, and generate a significant number of arrests; and

WHEREAS, while the homeless population has created an additional challenge to preventing criminal activity and protecting the quality of life, the City continues to endeavor to assist homeless persons and find treatment for the most chronic individuals while addressing the crimes committed by this segment of the population; and

WHEREAS, the City remains steadfastly committed to reducing crime and repeat offenses, and bringing social services to those in need that may otherwise find it difficult to obtain such services; and

WHEREAS, various metrics concerning homeless persons, in conjunction with statistical arrest data, can be utilized as an effective tool to acquire a detailed understanding, and provide insight, into how the City can provide further assistance to the homeless, while simultaneously upholding the law and protecting the public health, safety and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, hereby directing the City Administration to publish a weekly Letter to Commission ("LTC") setting forth various metrics and data regarding the homeless population inhabiting the City, to include: the number of shelter beds and residential placements provided by the City or its providers at each shelter and residential program; the total number of shelter beds available to the City; the number of homeless persons arrested for violating the City's camping ordinance; and other metrics pertaining to the provision of services to homeless persons in the City.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez
and co-sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

5/8/2024

Date

MAF