



LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

November/December 2021

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

Supporting Our Homeless Neighbors

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) continues to support the City's homeless neighbors through a variety of efforts. The FLPD Homeless Outreach Unit supports the Community Court's weekly efforts to offer individuals experiencing homelessness a chance to engage in treatment and social services. In addition, the Unit's Reunification Program assisted a total of 29 individuals and three families to return to their relatives outside the City. As of November, the Unit has contacted 1,112 homeless neighbors this year. In conjunction with the Task Force for Ending Homelessness, the FLPD Homeless Outreach Officers made a total of 9,056 contacts which resulted in an additional 1,333 placements in 2021.

The Unit is also developing an officer training program to increase support for the homeless. Partnering with the City's Neighbor Support (NS) Division, this program is an innovative approach to handling certain low-level misdemeanor crimes and violations of municipal ordinances. The design process involves a collaborative effort of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, Broward County, the Clerk of Courts, the Office of the Public Defender, the State Attorney's Office, and several service and treatment providers, including Henderson Behavioral Health. It is intended to engage the community, help offenders, and assist individuals in need of services and resources. The goal is to provide officers with the knowledge and background of Crisis Communication and Intervention with homeless neighbors. This includes learning about patience as a tactical strategy, active listening, the de-escalation process and different approaches based on various mental statuses. Implementation is expected to begin in January 2022. Furthermore, the officers will continue to provide homeless individuals with information about the Broward County Homeless Helpline at 954-563-4357, and other addiction and mental health support services.

City of Fort Lauderdale Non-Congregate Shelter Program

In March 2021, a Non-Congregate Shelter Program (NCSP) was established with the support from the Florida Department of Health and Broward County to assist the City's unsheltered homeless neighbors in complying with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. NCSP consisted of hotel rooms with 24-hour armed guard security based at the hotel. Recipients received three meals a day from the Salvation Army and 5100 Restaurant. Regular COVID-19 testing, and health checks were conducted by Broward Partnership's COVID Collaborative. Neighbor Support made referrals for vaccines and case management collaborated with Broward County to identify needs and associated referrals for continued support and transition of the unsheltered homeless to various housing assistance programs (subject to eligibility).

FLPD's Homeless Outreach Unit Reunification Program assisted

 **29 Individuals**
3 Families

Return to their relatives outside the City.

Homeless Outreach Officers made a total of

 **9,056 Contacts**
1,333 Placements

*As of November 2021

 **151 RECIPIENTS**
Benefited from the Program

 **32,978 MEALS** Were Received

 **1,415 CASE** Management Meetings

 **8,605** Total Number of Room Nights

 **51%** Achieved either permanent, temporary, institutional housing and/or reunifications.

The program was extended in June 2021 with Broward County Subaward Agreement COVID-19 funding. This agreement reimbursed the City for the hotel room costs until shelter beds and/or various housing programs became available (subject to eligibility) until October 30, 2021. A total of 151 recipients benefited from NCSP and received 32,978 meals; 1,415 case management meetings; as well as COVID-19 tests of which 478 results were negative; and health checks conducted while residing at the hotel. NCSP concluded with a total number of 8,605 room nights with the length of stay averaging at 66 days. Based on the total recipients, 51% achieved either permanent, temporary, institutional housing and/or reunifications.

The City's Housing Assistance Programs

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) provide states and localities with resources and incentives to devise long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and families of such persons. As the largest municipality in Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale administers the HOPWA Program Countywide.



Based on the opportunities by HOPWA, the City increases housing stability and reduces homelessness. Through the HOPWA Housing Programs and the HOPWA CARES ACT, qualified residents received a variety of support from temporary emergency hotel vouchers to short term rental, mortgage, or utilities assistance, to permanent housing placement. During the period of October 2020 to September 2021, over 760 residents received these benefits. The residents may also receive housing case management and legal aid if qualified.

The City's Progress in Carrying Out Affordable Housing Objectives

Throughout 2021, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) carried forth the City Commission's directive to craft amendments to the City's Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR). The amendments incentivize the development



Rendering of Sailboat Bend II



Rendering of Poinciana Crossing

of affordable and workforce housing within the Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and commercial corridors. The majority of the effort during 2021 was performing public outreach to community stakeholders, including the Downtown Development Authority, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, Broward Workshop-Downtown Chamber of Commerce, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, Rio Vista Civic Association, and Tarpon River Civic Association. Follow-up presentations were made to the City Commission on April 6, 2021, and to the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) on May 19, 2021. On November 17, 2021, the PZB voted in favor of amendments to the ULDR to revise and adopt new affordable housing incentives including height bonuses, density bonuses and revised review process. The PZB recommendation will be presented to the City Commission for approval in early 2022.

Development Name	Address	Applicant	City Program / Incentive	Total Units	Affordable Units	Project Status
Sailboat Bend II	437 SW 4th Avenue	City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority	Funding	110	110	Under construction
Village View	640 N Andrews Avenue	FV Development LLC / Housing Trust Group		100	100	Under construction
Poinciana Crossing	1801 SW 1st Avenue	City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority	2.3 acres of land and Low Income Housing Tax Credits	113	105	Under Construction
The Adderley	501 NW 7th Avenue	West Village LLC	Height bonus	455	46	Approved
Seven on Seventh	920 NW 7th Avenue	Broward Partnership for the Homeless	Height bonus	72	8	Permit review
Gallery at Fat Village	600 N Andrews Avenue	Broward County	County owned property	195	195	Approved

The mission of the City of Fort Lauderdale is "We Build Community." The City takes great strides to improve the quality of life by continuing to assist our homeless neighbors and seek new opportunities to support affordable housing.