



LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE



Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

April 2022

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING, AND HOPE

Partnering with Community-Based Organizations

In 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale maintained partnerships with numerous community-based organizations that share the City's goal of reducing homelessness and assisting those in need. These entities include Broward County, the TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness, Inc., the Multi-Agency Homeless Taskforce (MAHT), Ameritas Mutual Holding Company, Noble A. McArtor Senior Day Center, Sunshine Cathedral, Care Resource, and Broward Partnership. Through these partnerships, the City can explore opportunities to maximize available resources.



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In addition, the City's Community Court program currently partners with organizations such as First Call for Help, Inc., Backpack Barber Foundation, Broward Addiction Recovery Center, Broward County Sheriff's Office, Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Gang Alternative, Inc., Henderson Behavioral Health, Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida, Showering Love, Inc., SunServe, The Source Treatment Center, and Women in Distress of Broward, Inc. to offer goods and services to those experiencing homelessness. Services offered include showers, haircuts, food, clothing, personal protective equipment, and other essential items. Social service and treatment providers engage those requiring treatment for substance abuse, mental health concerns, and medical needs each Wednesday during Community Court. Resources are available onsite that offer job skill training, employment and community service opportunities, domestic violence prevention, and immediate shelter. The Community Court also utilizes referrals to several off-site agencies to refer those in need of additional resources. The Community Court program is exploring additional opportunities to expand partnerships to successfully assist clients experiencing homelessness. As the Community Court program continues to build partnerships to address the root causes of homelessness, the objective aims to eliminate barriers for obtaining housing and maintaining placement. These partnerships are critical to further support the City's homeless neighbors and maximize successful outcomes.

At The "Forefront" of Helping People Who are Homeless

The City of Fort Lauderdale, with support from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Homeless Outreach Unit, is working with the TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness, Inc. to provide street outreach services to unsheltered homeless individuals in the City. The outreach team was originally formed in 1999 and included a formerly homeless individual who wanted to help others. This individual, along with a Fort Lauderdale Police officer, met with other homeless individuals and provided information about where to obtain shelter, meals, medical services, and other necessities. Since then, the TaskForce has grown into a nonprofit agency that continues to provide street outreach services and has successfully helped thousands of unsheltered individuals throughout Broward County.

Their guiding principle is to meet with individuals where they are (geographically, emotionally, and philosophically), and guide them with compassion, fairness, and purpose. They believe that, in the end, everyone deserves help in obtaining a home.

Currently, the Neighbor Support Division coordinates monthly operational meetings with the TaskForce and/or the City's Police Department to discuss homelessness mitigation strategies. Between January and April 2022, there have been several Police ride along visits to various TaskForce coverage areas to determine how to best improve outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness. The City aims to expand outreach services soon by partnering further with TaskForce for additional mobile housing navigator assistance.

To learn more about the TaskForce, please visit their website at www.taskforceoutreach.org.

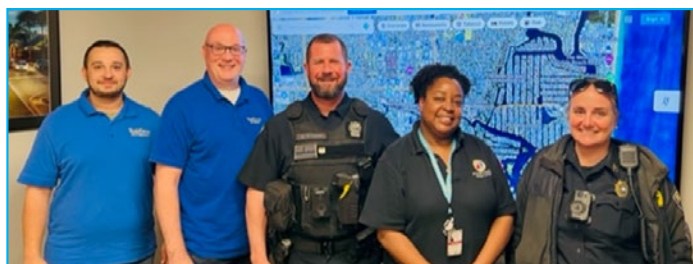


Photo from left to right:
Jacob Torner - Director of Programs from Taskforce Fore Ending Homelessness
Carl Falconer - CEO of Taskforce Fore Ending Homelessness
Officer Bryan Blount - FLPD
Angela Blaine - City of Fort Lauderdale, Neighbor Support Division
Sergeant Monica Ferrer - FLPD