



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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Friends,

A few weeks ago I promised that we would survey people living in three downtown hot spots: Aviator/Logan Circle, 2 Penn Centre and Rittenhouse Square. These survey results are consistent with those of counts done in Kensington, so I believe that while not scientific, they can be generalized throughout the City.

Here are the highlights:

- 159 surveys conducted between 10/3-10/14/16; most people gave their names
- 52% have been homeless for over a year
- 86% are interested in housing
- 64% have been in shelter before; 42% said they would return to shelter
- 63% said they are not connected to any services
- 91% said they currently live on the street
- 26% said they wanted drug treatment or recovery housing
- 47% said a job would help them get where they want to be
- 27% said applying for benefits (like disability insurance, food stamps – there is no welfare for people without children) would help them get where they want to be
- 34% said they needed ID
- 19% said they wanted Mental Health Treatment
- 10% wanted medical treatment

We will use this information to plan our next steps. In the interim, allow me take this opportunity to provide some additional updates and please feel free to share this email with others.

- 1) Reached Functional Zero for Veteran Homelessness with 1,951 veterans housed in 2015**
- 2) “Prime Times In Hot Spots,”^[2] our re-engineered approach to homeless outreach, resulted in a 20% increase in unduplicated homeless people being engaged and 17% increase in placements from the street. 11,000 “Tips for Human Kindness” palm cards distributed.**
- 3) Launched the 100-Day Street Homelessness Challenge resulting in 108 permanent housing placements of mostly chronically homeless people from the street.**

^[2] This is a partnership with DBHIDS which funds all Homeless Outreach Services run through the Outreach Coordination Center at Project HOME

- 4) Added 60 Rapid Re-housing units (85% success rate) in first 60 days using existing resources resulting in 339 placements in FY16. In FY17 anticipated 27% increase to 430 move-ins.
- 5) Thanks to partnership with City Council, expanding Homeless Youth system by 12% this fall.
- 6) Launched www.PhillySharedStreets.org website and donation portal as an alternative to giving money to panhandlers.
- 7) Won 4th largest competitive HUD grant in the country beating out larger cities and adding 120 permanent homes using evidence-based model for singles (88%-91% success rate) and families (97% success rate).
- 8) DNC "Housed not Hidden" strategy drew national recognition.

9) 100+ meetings with civic, business and hospitality leadership.

Now working on developing a holistic, transparent, representative infrastructure for action on homelessness, panhandling and outdoor meal service to make our Shared Public Spaces safe and secure for all. In the meantime, as you have probably heard, the police are continuing to address marijuana use and sales, the smoking ban and loud music in parks. And we have been coordinating with Parks and Recreation to do clean up. No tents or air mattresses. The City is also working with outdoor meal providers on not blocking entryways or traffic, and cleaning up trash, not just dropping off food. .

10) 450 emergency and respite beds coming online starting December 1st for winter.

Each year the City works to ensure that no one dies from exposure in below freezing weather. Beginning December 1st we will begin to phase in 450 winter beds, 50 more than last year, many in churches. We will be adopting the respite model pioneered during the DNC to focus on housing plans and case management, as funding allows. The big question is: what happens when winter ends? We don't have enough permanent affordable apartments or shared housing for people to move into when spring returns. That is our challenge and we will work over the winter to explore new solutions.

PHILADELPHIA IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Population Unsheltered Homeless Count		
REGION	POPULATION (JULY 2015)	UNSHeltered COUNT (JANUARY 2016)
Houston	2.3 Million	1,050
Seattle/King County	2.1 Million	4,505
Philadelphia	1.6 Million	705
Sacramento City & County	1.5 Million	948
Tampa/Hillsborough County	1.3 Million	769
Minneapolis/Hennepin County	1.2 Million	170

I'd like to thank you for being such good partners who are willing to help address this problem and we will continue to provide updates on our progress.

Liz Hersh
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