



CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE

# Homelessness Initiatives Priority

March 18, 2025

# HB 1365 and City Ordinance Sec. 16-32

- HB 1365 created Sec. 125.0231, Florida Statute
  - Compelled municipalities and counties to prohibit overnight camping on public property
  - Provided jurisdictions up to five days to take reasonable action to address a violation
  - Provided a path for the public to hold jurisdictions accountable for non-compliance
- City ordinance Sec. 16-32 was adopted on Oct. 1 to comply with State Statute
  - Prohibits camping on public property 24/7
  - Camping is defined as having a tent, hut, lean-to, shack or temporary shelter of any kind which provides a cover from the elements for the purpose of sleeping, resting or conducting activities of daily living. Includes laying down of bedding
  - Provides enforcement methods
  - City ordinance Sec. 16-33 was subsequently adopted to provide for a reporting method

# HB 1365 and City Ordinance Sec. 16-32



## FY 2025 Homeless Initiatives Fixit FTL Statistics Snap Shot February 1—February 28

**234** Total Homeless Requests

**26hrs** Average time to Close

Homeless Concern 84

Homeless Outreach Inquiry 1

HB 1365 Public Sleeping 149

The month of February saw a decrease of 69 requests compared to the previous month of January.



**22% Decrease**

### Request Dispositions

**109** Gone on Arrival

**54** Pack up and Move

**0** NTA

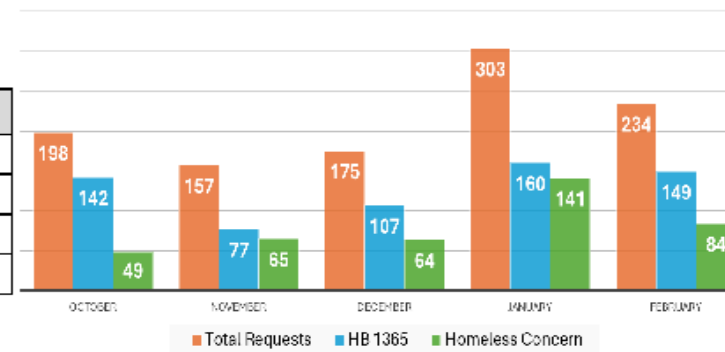
**3** NTA's non-Fixit related

**17** On Private Property

**29** No Violation

Homeless Initiatives Monthly Overall Requests - Fixit FTL

District Breakdown	Total
District 1	29
District 2	90
District 3	10
District 4	105



# Homeless Outreach Team – October 2024 – March 2025

- Fort Lauderdale Police Officers tasked with engagement of homeless and the enforcement of Sec. 16-32.
- Two officers were added to the HOT in anticipation of HB 1365 to total six officers assigned to the team.
- Able to take actions such as: shelter placement, purchase bus tickets for reunification, and referral to services.



# Community Court

- Continues to operate each Wednesday at 18 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue
  - Lease agreement in lieu of purchasing the building
  - Exploring opportunities for a new location
  - Working closely with adjacent property owners to mitigate adverse impact to their property
- Since October 1, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals that walk-in for services
- February 2025 Statistics
  - 366 walk-in visitors
  - 18 Notice to Appear respondents
  - 2 program graduates
    - Individuals that received a Notice to Appear and a judgement from the Community Court Judge.
    - Judgement includes a program that may consist of community service, treatment, counseling, or a combination of items.
    - Individual graduates by completing their assigned program which also resolves their infraction.

# New and Upcoming Programs

- Implementation of DCF grants for mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment
  - \$250,000 total funding for one-year term
  - March 4, 2025, the City Commission approved agreements with HomesUnited for mental health treatment (10 beds) and Fellowship Recovery Community Organization, Inc (daily rate paid per client) for substance abuse treatment.
- Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) Community Project Funding
  - Total of \$850,000 over two years
  - Agreement will require Commission approval – anticipated by June 1, 2025
  - Focused on impacted intersections and hotspots
  - Funding for:
    - Additional HOT and police patrol
    - Fire Rescue response
    - Parks and Recreation and a cleaning contractor for debris removal and site cleaning
    - Signage – addresses City Commission request for signage regarding panhandling (mobile and stationary signs)
- Finalist for the Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellowship program
  - Graduate of a Harvard master's or professional degree program
  - Two-year fellowship at no cost to the City
  - Final decision in May/June 2025

# Outreach and Engagement

- February 5 – Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association
- February 7 – Met with a group of concerned neighbors that reside near Riverwalk
- February 19 – Commission District 2 Presidents Roundtable
- February 19 – Poinsettia Heights Civic Association
- February 25 – Symphony Condominium Town Hall
- March 12 – Poinciana Park Civic Association
- January 27 – Toured the Central Homeless Assistance Center and discussed plans to reopen areas closed due to capital project and the possibility of additional shelter space.
- February 5 – Met with the Salvation Army to receive a proposal to expand their shelter space.
- February 21 – Follow up to February 5 meeting with the Salvation Army that included Broward County.
- March 11 – Received safe parking proposals from Hope South Florida and LifeNet4Families. Meeting included staff with the City, Broward County, and the United Way.



# Have an issue?

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