



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-188

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: October 1, 2025
SUBJECT: **City of Fort Lauderdale Agreement with TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide an update on the City's engagement with TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness.

In June 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale entered into an agreement for street outreach and housing navigation with TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness (TaskForce). The six (6)-month agreement was valued at \$109,065 and provided two (2) Housing Navigators and one (1) Housing Locator.

Housing Navigators were tasked with engaging those experiencing homelessness, making an assessment, and referring people to a shelter or services related to locating and obtaining housing. The Housing Locator coordinated with landlords, Housing Navigators and Broward County Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry staff to house homeless people.

In December 2022, the City entered a one (1)-year agreement with TaskForce that included two (2) Housing Navigators for \$157,630. In 2023, the City and TaskForce agreed to an amendment to the December 2022 agreement. The amendment added an additional two (2) Housing Navigators, one (1) Housing Locator and increased the agreement's value to \$315,000. The services provided were for street outreach with the expected outcome of the outreach resulting in homeless individuals being placed in emergency shelter, supportive housing, or permanent housing.

Prior to the City's direct agreement with TaskForce, the City was party to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TaskForce, the Salvation Army, United Way of Broward, Inc. and a participation agreement with Broward Partnership for Homelessness, Inc. The MOU and participation agreement was to fund the Chronic Homeless Housing Collaborative Grant Program. It is our understanding that TaskForce has agreements with Broward County and United Way of Broward County, to provide various services, many of which are similar to the services provided to the City.

The City's agreement with TaskForce is invoiced at a fixed rate for each engagement that TaskForce provides as directed/referred by the City. An engagement is when a Housing Navigator conducts an assessment of an individual or updates an existing assessment. TaskForce may engage an individual multiple times and each successive engagement has an associated rate.

In 2022, when the City first entered into an agreement with TaskForce, the City had limited internal resources dedicated to street outreach and had not substantially funded emergency shelter beds and housing opportunities for those experiencing homelessness. In the last year and a half, the City has:

- Increased the City's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) from four (4) officers to six (6);
- Added three (3) administrative staff positions to manage homeless initiative programs and funding;
- Secured twenty (20) emergency shelter beds for males, females, and families at the Caring Place and
- Used grant funds and General Fund resources to secure twenty (20) mental health beds and up to twenty (20) substance abuse treatment beds.

Upcoming in Fiscal Year 2026, the City is adding (via position reclassification) an additional three (3) non-sworn law enforcement positions to the HOT as well as (2) case manager positions to the Community Services Department to assist with housing navigation. It is expected that by internalizing these functions and services that the City will have greater control of the program's outcomes as well as accountability to the community. The addition (reclassification) of these positions and services has and will make the City more equipped and effective in providing street outreach.

Fiscal Year 2024 Data

In Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024), City staff including HOT achieved the following:

- Thirty (30) individuals reunited with a family member or caretaker
- Twenty-nine (29) individuals provided emergency shelter at the Caring Place *

*Program began in July 2024

In Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024), TaskForce achieved the following:

- One hundred eighty-eight (188) individuals referred by the City to TaskForce
- Twenty-six (26) denied accepting services from TaskForce
- Thirty-four (34) were housed or reunified with a family member or caretaker

Fiscal Year 2025 Data

In Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025), City staff including HOT achieved the following:

- Thirty-four (34) individuals reunited with a family member or caretaker
- Seventy-nine (79) individuals provided emergency shelter at the Caring Place
- Forty-one (41) individuals placed at HomesUnited for mental health housing *
- Forty-six (46) individuals referred to Fellowship substance abuse recovery housing *

*Program began in March 2025

For Fiscal Year 2025 Year to Date (October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), TaskForce achieved the following:

- One hundred seventy-three (173) individuals referred by the City to TaskForce
- Forty-two (42) denied accepting services from TaskForce
- Twenty-nine (29) were housed (three (3) of the twenty-nine (29) were reunified with a family member or caretaker)

*Fourth Quarter data is not yet available

City staff engaged with TaskForce leadership on terms for a new contract well in advance of the September 30, 2025 expiration date. TaskForce has requested to switch from a fee for engagement model to an hourly rate. Based on performance and accountability expectations, staff is reluctant to transition to the proffered payment structure. Through an evaluation of the existing and proposed agreement structure and outcomes, staff has determined that the loss of TaskForce's services will not significantly impact the City's response to homelessness, especially as we have realigned internal resources and services for this purpose.

Without a direct agreement with TaskForce, the City will retain access to programs offered through other agencies and service providers including the Broward County Continuum of Care and the Coordinated Entry Program used for identifying housing opportunities. Additionally, TaskForce will continue to be present at Community Court through its contract with Broward County. City staff is committed to ensuring that those who are currently being engaged by TaskForce will transition smoothly beginning on October 1, 2025.

I plan to discuss this matter at the October 7, 2025 City Commission Conference Meeting as part of the City Manager's Report. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

C: D'Wayne Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors