



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: June 2, 2015

TITLE: Resolution Supporting a Community Center that Provides Access
to Services and Crisis Housing Options for Persons Experiencing
Homelessness in Fort Lauderdale

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution declaring support for using the Broward Sheriff's Office Stockade located at 5400 Powerline Road, Fort Lauderdale, as a Community Center that provides access to services and crisis housing options for persons experiencing homelessness in Fort Lauderdale.

Background

In October 2014, agencies from the social services sector, private sector, non-profit sector and local governments were brought together to examine the A Way Home: Broward County, Florida's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and discuss strategic advancements toward solving homelessness. The goal of the workshop was to create a shared vision for the next steps in the City of Fort Lauderdale's journey to provide services and a better quality of life for the homeless focusing on Veterans and families.

One action item the workgroup collectively recommended was to identify and develop locations that could immediately address the need to take people that are currently on the streets to an appropriate housing solution as homeless Veterans, families, and individuals have been consistently turned away from shelters due to a lack of bed space.

The workgroup determined there was a need for the creation of a one-stop Community Center that would provide access to a network of service providers working at the facility to ensure the best delivery and service integration of community

resources. The group further recommended the possibility of securing part of the space at the stockade located on Powerline Road, North of Commercial Boulevard, in Fort Lauderdale as a viable option for a Community Center. The 712 bed stockade facility is currently operated by the Broward County Sheriff's Office as a day reporting center, a set location for TV and film, and preserved as a jail overflow option.

Due to the underutilization of the facility, the group felt that the space could not only provide short time emergency housing and services, but serve as a teaching center that can possibly end the cycle of homelessness through education and training.

Resource Impact

There will be no financial impact to the City.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Commission Annual Action Plan* priority, included within the Policy Agenda, advancing the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy.

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Places Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 3:** Be a community that finds opportunities and leverages partnerships to create unique, inviting and connected gathering places that highlight our beaches, waterways, urban areas, and parks.

- **Objective 5:** Work with partners to reduce homelessness by promoting independence and self-worth through advocacy, housing, and comprehensive services.

- **Initiative 2:** Implement a comprehensive short and long-term strategy with community partners to address Homelessness

This item also furthers the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are Community.*

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Jeri Pryor, Homeless Interventions Administrator
Department Director: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager