

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2023-1243

DATE: November 7, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 7th day of November 2023, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, November is Youth Homelessness Awareness Month, and National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is the week before Thanksgiving. As the holidays approach, many choose to donate some of their time, attention, and resources to others. As temperatures are dropping, there is no better time than now to think about the impact of providing food and shelter for those in need and work toward a goal of making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring; and

WHEREAS, The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that over the course of a year, approximately 550,000 unaccompanied youth and young adults up to age 24 experience a homelessness episode; more than half are under the age of 18. Many homeless youth and young adults have experienced significant trauma before and after becoming homeless and are particularly vulnerable, including victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation. Children under 5 make up the largest group by age of those whose households have had an eviction filed against them, bringing instability during a crucial developmental time. Youth who identify as LGBTQ; pregnant and parenting youth; youth with special needs or disabilities, and youth of color, particularly African-American and Native American youth, are also more likely to become homeless; and

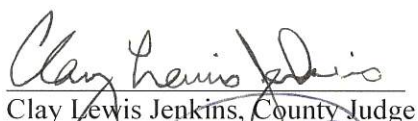
WHEREAS, The Housing Forward 2023 point-in-time count revealed 4,244 individuals experiencing homelessness with 87.8% of those individuals being in Dallas County and 20% being under the age of 24. Community trends show that since 2022 there has been a 32% decrease in chronic homelessness, but there was an 18% increase in youth homelessness and family homelessness increased by 15%; and

WHEREAS, When individuals and families seek assistance from the homeless response system, we must be equipped to offer immediate housing solutions. Family Gateway identified 1,765 families with children who were literally or imminently homeless; this is an estimated 4,400 children in a single year. Lack of affordable housing is a primary cause of homelessness in families; often one or both parents are working, but not making a livable wage. Additionally, events such as illness, unemployment, accidents and violence limit the ability to secure stable and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Dallas County has worked to alleviate these burdens through our Dallas County Housing Agency and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Emergency Housing Assistance Program, Housing Choice Voucher Program, construction and renovation of affordable housing and funding homeless services programs throughout the County.

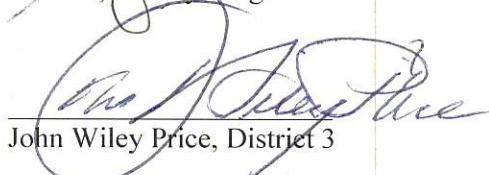
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim November 2023 as **Youth Homelessness Awareness Month** and November 11-18, 2023 as **National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week**. We encourage all residents to take action and recognize that all persons experiencing homelessness should have access to affordable housing, education, health care, employment, income, and other opportunities and services that allow all to live with dignity.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 7th day of November 2023.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Andrew Sommerman, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4