

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2024-1268

DATE: November 19, 2024

**STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF DALLAS**

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 19th day of November 2024, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by , Commissioner of District , 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 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 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness in the United States; approximately 700,000 unaccompanied youth and young adults up to age 24 experience a homelessness episode; more than half are under the age of 18. Many of these young adults have experienced significant trauma before and during their experience of homelessness, making them especially 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

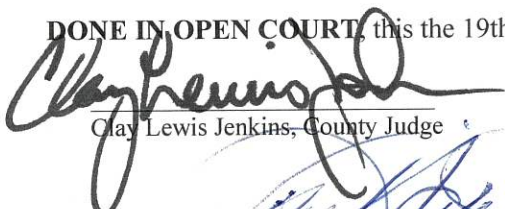
WHEREAS, The Housing Forward 2024 point-in-time count revealed 3,718 individuals experiencing homelessness, with 87.8% being in Dallas County and 20% being under 24. Community trends show that 29% were unsheltered, which is defined as staying in a place not meant for human habitation. The number of unaccompanied youth living in both emergency shelter and transitional housing decreased by 27% percent in 2024 from 2023, and

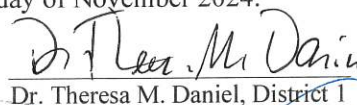
WHEREAS, When individuals and families seek assistance from the homeless response system, we must be equipped to offer immediate housing solutions. Family Gateway in 2023 identified 3,185 families as literally or imminently homeless; this is an estimated 7,962 children in a single year. Lack of affordable 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 Department, along with 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 2024 as **Youth Homelessness Awareness Month** and November 17-23, 2024, as **National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week**. We urge all residents to take proactive steps and understand that every person experiencing homelessness deserves access to affordable housing, education, health care, employment, income, and other essential services. The follow-up question is what we can do to allow them to live with dignity.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 19th day of November 2024.


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