

COUNCIL WORKSHOP:

House Bill 1365 & Homelessness

December 17, 2024



STATE OF HOMELESSNESS – BREVARD COUNTY

- The Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA **rank #6** in Florida for homelessness, **with 779 unsheltered** (^17%)
- The Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA **rank #5** in Florida for **chronic** homelessness, **increasing 72%**
 - 356 (2024) vs. 207 (2023)
- PITC (1/25/24) - 1,116 homeless in Brevard County (^6%)
- Decline in available emergency, temporary/transitional, and permanent affordable housing
- 69% of arrests linked to survival (trespassing, petty theft/food)

SUMMARY: House Bill (HB) 1365

- Prohibits unauthorized public camping or sleeping on public property unless specifically designated by local governments.
- Counties and municipalities may designate public property for camping, but the designation must be approved by a majority vote and certified by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) based on specific safety, sanitation, and service provisions.
- Designated properties must provide access to clean facilities and behavioral health services and enforce prohibitions on substance and alcohol use.
- The law also creates a civil cause of action, allowing residents or business owners to seek injunctive relief if local governments do not comply with the law, and establishes certain exemptions during declared emergencies.

OVERVIEW: House Bill (HB) 1365



October 1, 2024

Ban on unauthorized public
camping/sleeping on public property



January 1, 2025

Civil action provisions for non-
compliance by local governments

Law Enforcement Procedures

INCREASED PATROL:

More oversight in areas known for public camping.

SERVICE GUIDANCE:

Officers to connect individuals with local shelters and services.

ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION:

Focus on civil enforcement, not criminal penalties.

DATA TRACKING:

Documentation recommended to support potential civil actions.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Documentation/reporting to prepare for potential civil suits.

Law Enforcement Response

CURRENT PROCEDURES

- **Identification & Relocation:**
Officers suggest relocation and cite park hours, for example
- **Trespass Warnings:**
- Issued when individuals remain on property
- **Private Property Protocol:**
Warnings issued upon property owner request, with specific processes for residential vs. commercial sites

COORDINATING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Referral to 2-1-1 Brevard for homelessness support
- Yellow Card Resources flyer
- Attempts to identify and refer homeless veterans to the American Legion and Veterans Affairs (VA).

City-funded Public Services (ARPA)

Catholic Charities (\$368,560)

- Assistance with rental, mortgage, utilities and deposits for at-risk of homelessness
- Providing long-term housing security services for 92 unhoused persons
- **Helps Community Initiatives (\$15,000)**
- Three-year funding for a cold night shelter for Palm Bay homeless population
- Provided shelter for 98 individuals in the first two years (ongoing)

City-funded Public Services (CDBG – CV1 & CV3)

Catholic Charities (\$104,841)

- Rental, mortgage, utilities assistance for at-risk of homelessness
- Served 22 participants

Helps Community Initiatives (\$34,899)

- Payment of temporary housing costs (hotel/motel room nights)
- Served 99 individuals

Family Promise of Brevard (\$39,300)

- Intake for homeless transitional services and case management
- Served 60 households

St. Vincent de Paul - Our Lady of Grace (\$30,000) Utility assistance for at-risk of homelessness

- Served 50 households

Community Housing Initiative (\$58,895.67)

Rent, mortgage and utility assistance for at-risk of homelessness

- Served 10 households

South Brevard Sharing Center (\$71,995.76) Cold night shelter (hotel/motel nights), permanent homelessness relocation (move-in costs, security deposit), and case management

- Served 71 households

St. Joseph Church – St. Vincent de Paul (\$20,000)

- Utility assistance persons at-risk of homelessness
- Served 99 households

City-funded Public Services (CRF)

2020 Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) allocated to the City of Palm Bay in the amount of \$434,693.64 under the CARES Act.

City of Pam Bay provided direct assistance to eligible households with rental, mortgage, and utilities assistance, to include deposits for such.

CDBG Program Year 2024

Catholic Charities (\$33,250)

- Rental and utilities assistance for individuals and families at risk of homelessness
- Served 17 households

Space Coast Area Transit Bus Voucher Program (\$6,300)

- Transportation assistance for individuals and families at risk of homelessness
- Served 25 persons

CDBG Program Year 2023 & 2022

CDBG Program Year 2023:

Space Coast Area Transit Bus Voucher Program (\$9,093)

- Transportation assistance for individuals and families at risk of homelessness
- Served 155 persons

South Brevard Women's Center (\$38,500)

- Transitional housing for victims of violence for its Transitional Safe Housing Program, who may otherwise be homeless
- Served 10 persons

CDBG Program Year 2022:

South Brevard Women's Center (\$38,500)

- Transitional Safe Housing Program - transitional housing for victims of domestic violence at-risk of homelessness
- Served 7 persons

I AM MINISTRIES dba The Source (\$50,000)

- Provide safe sleep arrangements on the Dignity Bus for homeless individuals
- Served 65 persons
- Only \$11,592 expended; contract terminated by the agency

City-Sponsored Affordable Housing Projects

City Council awarded funding for new affordable housing + wrap around services:

ARPA (\$3,686,041)

- Volunteers of America of Florida (\$975,000) – Space Coast Commons, 30 affordable rental housing units targeting homeless and at-risk of homelessness (Projected Completion Date: June 2025)
- Community of Hope (\$1,749,921) – Acquisition of Baytree Apartments, providing 14 transitional housing units for homeless and at-risk of homelessness with wrap around services (completed 2023)
- Habitat for Humanity (\$961,120) – Five (5) permanent affordable single-family homes for first-time homebuyers

SHIP (\$270,802.00)

- South Brevard Women's Center – rehabilitation of four (4) affordable rental housing units

Affordable Housing Surplus:

- On August 13, 2024, Council donated six lots on Northview Street and allocated \$370,000 in HOME funds to construct affordable rental housing units, to remain affordable in perpetuity. Anticipated construction in early 2025.

Encouraging Affordable Housing Projects

Live Local Act

- Sections 125.01055(7) and 166.04151(7), Florida Statutes
- Palm Bay Apartments (48 affordable rental housing units)

Voluntary Inclusionary Housing

- 169.009(I), Palm Bay Code of Ordinances
- City to bring forth textual amendment in 2025 to further induce/incentivize affordable housing projects
- Collaboration with BHC and HOME Consortium
- Complement the Live Local Act

Other City Resources

Veteran Services Officer (VSO)

- City-sponsored VSO located at Palm Bay City Hall, renewed for a second year
- Conducts intakes to identify best resources, to include housing, with partnerships include HUD Veteran Affairs Support Housing (HUD VASH) program, Brevard County Community Action Team, and assistance to Veterans with obtaining records
- Since January 1, 2024, the VSO has assisted 20 veterans with transitional housing through Volunteers of America
- Assisted eight (8) homeless veterans with locating permanent housing
- Assisted with domiciliary movements

Opioid Settlement Proceeds FY 2023 & 2024

- Council awarded a total of \$224,608 to agencies providing treatment and prevention; and authorized the balance of \$37,230.39 to be resolicited to agencies assisting homeless individuals with Opioid Use Disorder.

Brevard Homeless Coalition

Brief overview to be provided by Executive Director, Amber Carroll

THANK YOU!

