

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

CONTENTS

Legal and Policy — Pages 1-2
 Administrative — Page 3
 Business Community — Pages 3-4
 Services and Support — Pages 4-8
 Housing and Shelter — Pages 8-9
 Education and Outreach — Pages 9-10
 Data and Research — Pages 10-11

LEGAL AND POLICY

	Category	Recommendation	What does it look like when done well?
1	LEGAL AND POLICY	Coordinate with City Attorney, Fairfax Police, Community Response Team, Human Services Department, nonprofit partners and City Council to develop guidance and expectations on levels of intervention with people experiencing homelessness.	There will be a consistent approach to intervention with people experiencing homelessness.
2	LEGAL AND POLICY	Coordinate with the City Attorney to conduct a review of legal parameters for issues such as encampments, sleeping in parks, sleeping in cars, sleeping in bus shelters, sleeping on sidewalks, shared housing and single room occupancy (SRO), <i>etc.</i> A report of existing City laws and policies should be given to City Council for review.	There will be a uniform approach to the myriad of issues that are encountered by various residents and businesses and City staff.
3	LEGAL AND POLICY	Support City Attorney’s development of language to Mayor and City Council for trespassing and behaviors that negatively impact the rights and safety of	Residents and businesses will know expected actions that may occur when there are reported issues.

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

		everyone and are consistently enforceable without regard to housing status.	
4	LEGAL AND POLICY	Evaluate and consider amending the City Zoning Ordinances to allow more opportunities for diverse housing types including but not limited to detached accessory dwelling units, tiny homes, and duplexes to be built.	More affordable housing options are available for City residents.
5	LEGAL AND POLICY	Explore the feasibility and opportunities for establishing a Homeless docket in conjunction with area court systems. To counter the effect of criminal cases pushing unhoused defendants further outside society, homeless courts across the country combine a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing structure, assurance of “no custody,” and proof of program activities to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses.	A successful Homeless Court should achieve the following outcomes for participants: reduction in re-arrests; increase in employment; increase in permanent housing.
6	LEGAL AND POLICY	Review best practices and evaluate current processes dealing with temporary encampments and Safe-Parking areas in the City and the region and review areas that can potentially be designated as encampment and safe parking areas and defined enforcement procedures.	Establishing policies and procedures for interim safe-sleeping locations that are clear to the community. People experiencing homelessness have safe places to sleep when shelter beds are unavailable. Complaints on encampments reduced.

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

ADMINISTRATIVE

7	ADMINISTRATIVE	City Council should establish a permanent Housing and Homelessness Advisory Commission/Board	The Commission/Board will report to the City Council no less than yearly and will make recommendations on housing needs and actions needed to continue to prevent, reduce and end homelessness in the City.
8	ADMINISTRATIVE	Assess the implementation of affordable housing strategies, human services programs, and homelessness prevention initiatives in the City and where additional staffing or other resources may be needed.	Dedicated City staff will be able to pursue funding and additional resources and collaborate with residents, City officials and people experiencing homelessness daily as an assigned job. Thus, there will be a higher level of resident and business satisfaction as the City is addressing the issue of homelessness.
9	ADMINISTRATIVE	Explore all funding opportunities from federal, state, local, and foundation sources to address housing and homelessness issues.	Homelessness services will be increased with minimal impact on the City budget. Unmet needs are addressed.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

10	BUSINESS COMMUNITY	The City will develop affordable housing preservation strategies in conjunction with property owners, corporate partners, and local businesses to evaluate and or prevent no net loss of affordable housing units.	Increased retention of current affordable housing as appropriate and balanced with the needs of the City.
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**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

			Additional affordable housing units may be a result of a successful partnership.
11	BUSINESS COMMUNITY	Learn more about business needs for zoning special exceptions (e.g. fences in certain places, the removal of shrubbery, etc.) to reduce the impact of misdemeanor crime on City businesses.	Reduced criminal charges/incidences and behaviors to be reflected in a reduction of crimes reported.
12	BUSINESS COMMUNITY	Police, Fire and Rescue responses to public intoxication reports are tracked, timely, and provide referral for treatment providers where appropriate.	Safety of the involved individuals and public is enhanced and the City of Fairfax have a mechanism for tracking.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

13	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	<p>Establish a strategic approach for the Fairfax Circle area that increases resources based on service demand for that area. These may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the feasibility of extending the Lamb Center hours or identifying additional safe spaces for extended services between 3-6 p.m. including evening meal distribution. • Implement a litter control plan for the entire area with frequent cleanups. • Add additional police staffing and assign permanent officers to work in the Fairfax Circle area. • Increase innovative law enforcement programs, such as bike patrols, foot patrols, Segways, etc. 	<p>People and businesses will have a better sense of safety in that area.</p> <p>Crime will be reduced through a proactive response for the community.</p> <p>Businesses will have a reduced concern about homelessness and a better rapport with the City and law enforcement.</p> <p>Homelessness services improved.</p>
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**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advanced training for law enforcement officers in dealing with homelessness related issues. • Increase the interaction between police officers and the businesses in the area. • Consider increasing the capacity of the Community Response Team (CRT) in the area. • Develop proactive approaches to address changes that occur because of the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan implementation. 	
14	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Invite the faith community to engage with the City to harness the power of the faith community to address the complexities of homelessness, increase affordable housing opportunities, and explore other ways that the faith community may be willing and able to provide additional services for individuals experiencing homelessness.	<p>Faith Community is engaged in developing solutions and implementing accepted solutions.</p> <p>Homeless services are increased, and the Faith Community is a critical partner in proactive efforts.</p>
15	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Develop implementation strategies for the Prevention of Homelessness through best practices in partnerships, programs, and development of additional resources specific to the City.	<p>The number of unhoused people is decreased.</p> <p>Homelessness in the City is brief, rare, and non-recurring.</p>
16	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Invite the Continuum of Care, its members and other providers to explore expansion and/or enhancement of existing rapid re-housing programs to better meet current needs and market conditions.	The continuum of services is strengthened. Those who do not require permanent supportive housing are quickly placed in housing and

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

			subsidized for a time sufficient to stabilize.
17	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Encourage the Lamb Center, FACETS, the City of Fairfax Human Services Department, and other service providers to coordinate with the Community Services Board (CSB) to ensure eligible individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness City residents gain access to 300 newly available certificates for permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness.	Eligible City residents have access to the 300 additional certificates for permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness available through the CSB.
18	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Explore possibilities of establishing a Financial Empowerment Center in the City in concert with such partners as the Continuum of Care and other providers to increase financial, medical, social security, and educational services for individuals at-risk of homelessness.	Medical, financial, and educational services for individuals and families at-risk of homelessness are increased.
19	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Develop programming to connect unhoused residents with family, friends, and other informal supports who can house them and provide coordination and travel funding as necessary.	When possible and appropriate, unhoused residents are supported to gain stable housing through connection with family, friends, and other informal supports.
20	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Explore expanded services to address food insecurity for individuals at-risk or experiencing homelessness such as a mobile food truck and a community garden farmed by community volunteers along with homeless individuals.	Services, programs, and systems for homeless persons and individuals at-risk of homelessness are expanded.

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

21	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Assess the need for expanded mobile and other outreach services to engage individuals and families who are unhoused or at-risk of homelessness in available services and supports linking outreach services to the Community Response Team and public safety agencies. Assess the process for outreach staff to respond to resident and business reports.	More individuals, families, and vulnerable individuals at-risk of homelessness are quickly engaged in services to ensure timely stable housing and services as Social Security and other benefits.
22	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Support and encourage systems that expand and coordinate case management services for vulnerable individuals and families.	More vulnerable individuals and families are engaged in all appropriate services to ensure safety and support to gain and maintain stable housing.
23	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Continue to monitor and address solutions, in collaboration with community partners, for the notable population of unhoused senior-citizens, their lack of enrollment in state and/or federal benefits such as Social Security, and extreme vulnerability to weather and safety.	Unhoused seniors receive focused attention to address housing and other needs that place them at high of adverse outcomes.
24	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Establish a dialogue with providers such as INOVA, universities, and local health care providers to explore funding and resource opportunities for preventative care and management of chronic healthcare issues that impact unhoused residents in the City. Collaborate with Fairfax County as appropriate.	Additional funding and resources are available at minimal cost to the City to enhance and increase identified services.
25	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Coordinate the use of space in the future with City-based partners that might include Willard Sherwood, Lamb Center, GMU, and other locations within the City	Health services for people experiencing homelessness have increased beyond their current levels.

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

		that increases access to health services in close proximity of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.	
26	SERVICES AND SUPPORT	Evaluate the current availability of mental health and substance abuse services for the unhoused and at-risk individuals and determine if a gap exists between demand and capacity and consider a plan to eliminate the gap.	Unhoused and at-risk individuals who seek mental health and substance abuse services receive them at an appropriate and timely level.

SHELTER AND HOUSING

27	SHELTER AND HOUSING	Evaluate the establishment of shelters in the central Fairfax area.	People experiencing homelessness will have a safe place to sleep. Increased safety and feelings of security of both City housed and unhoused residents where encampments are currently located.
28	SHELTER AND HOUSING	Assess whether the current system of rotating hypothermia shelter sites impedes the ability of participating unhoused individuals to engage in services and achieve permanent housing. If assessment indicates, in conjunction with Fairfax County and FACETS, consider a permanent Hypothermia Shelter in Central Fairfax.	The potential of a set location for Hypothermia Centers in Central Fairfax will provide stability and consistency for those that use the centers.

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

29	SHELTER AND HOUSING	Further develop, refine, and fund programs to actively engage landlords to support programs to retain, find, or construct affordable housing at different levels throughout the City. Explore nonprofit partners that can promote and establish a City specific emergency eviction-prevention program.	Appropriate housing stock and public/private resources are used to reduce the number of unhoused people.
30	SHELTER AND HOUSING	Evaluate the potential of a establishing a City of Fairfax Housing Trust Fund to encourage cost-share partnerships, stimulate affordable housing, and maximize public properties.	Funding systems are in place to stimulate public/private partnerships to support affordable housing construction and reconstruction and programs.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

31	EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	Continue providing public updates about homelessness and affordable housing programs, policies, and systems through City Scene, Monthly E-Newsletter, Engage page. Include a newly developed FAQ page.	Community is provided a space to stay informed, voice concerns, and provide constructive input.
32	EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	Inform first responders, City Council, and front-line representatives on access to resources for unhoused persons, such as <i>Coordinated Services Planning</i> and the <i>Human Services Resource Guide</i> . Access should	Knowledge of and access to services is increased.

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE MAY 6**

		include QR scan codes in public places such as buses and possible printed pocket guide to services.	
33	EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	Explore working with the Fairfax City Library and other community partners, to investigate offering educational programs to unhoused individuals. Some examples: Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Technology, Literacy and GED prep.	Educational services are available in a safe and trusted setting.
34	EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	Encourage City Council members and other local policy makers to tour the shelters and interact with unhoused individuals and families staying in local shelters and to encourage shared understanding of homelessness.	All participants have the opportunity to share, learn, and express needs.

DATA AND RESEARCH

35	DATA AND RESEARCH	Establish a process to semi-annually assess the number of people experiencing homelessness and accessing services in the City of Fairfax to determine seasonal variations, increase or decrease in the population, and to assist in ongoing need assessments. This may include number of meals served, number of daily visits to the Lamb Center, number of transports to hypothermia centers, direct counts and other available data points that may be available.	A realistic demographic profile of homelessness in the City is gained. Data will be shared with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to provide a higher level of service in the central Fairfax area based on actual needs throughout the year.
36	DATA AND RESEARCH	Seek data specific to unhoused family units in multiple ways including conducting and/or accessing surveys	Community needs are better understood and solutions identified

**City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Recommendations- DRAFT
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		and/or focus groups to identify systems to help prevent families with children from becoming unhoused support them in re-gaining permanent housing; and, meet their needs while unhoused working directly with homeless families. Involve school systems, nonprofit service providers, and Fairfax County partners as appropriate.	
37	DATA AND RESEARCH	With partners, explore approaches to quantify health and morbidity occurrences among unhoused peoples.	Gaps in medical and system services are identified and solutions enabled.
38	DATA AND RESEARCH	Conduct an analysis of crime against and by people experiencing homelessness. If data shows trends or patterns, then develop and implement programs to assist in the prevention of crime and provide safety information to people experiencing homelessness, residences and businesses.	Crime in high homelessness areas will be reduced and residents will feel safer.