

MEMORANDUM

Office of City Council



TO: The Honorable Bill Foster, Chair, and Members of City Council
FROM: Virginia Littrell, Council Member, District 4
SUBJECT: Meeting with County Regarding Planning to Address Homelessness
DATE: August 4, 2004

You may recall that discussion at Council's final meeting of the Homeless Initiative focused on the need to develop a HUD required ten-year plan to address homelessness. Further, the City is committed and prepared to move forward on the development of such a plan.

Additional discussion by Council and staff concluded that a Countywide ten-year plan would be the most effective and comprehensive way to address the homeless issue. In follow-up discussions with Mayor Baker he has indicated his agreement with a Countywide planning effort in accord with Council's preference. In order to determine the County's readiness and commitment to a homeless planning effort, Council requested a meeting with representatives of the County.

The initial meeting was held with representatives from Pinellas County and was a very positive beginning dialogue. Several points were discussed and are detailed in the following bullets:

- The attendees agreed that a Countywide ten-year plan would be the most effective way to address homelessness.
- The attendees recognized that participation by elected officials from the County and the municipalities would be necessary to the success of the planning process and the acceptance of recommendations resulting from the planning process.
- The County has hired a facilitator to conduct a ten month research process regarding the delivery of Social Services within the County which includes, but is not limited to, homelessness. Several social service areas necessarily overlap with homeless services.
- The result of the ten month research process will identify deficiencies in the delivery of homeless services, best practices, create a model for the lead agency through which federal dollars will be disbursed, and identify funding sources.

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- Creation of the HUD required ten year plan will incorporate the outcomes and recommendations of

the ten month research process and define implementation strategies.

It is my recommendation that we join the County in the ten month research process, and following that, the creation and implementation of a Countywide ten-year plan as required by HUD. Unless I hear from any Council Member that more discussion is needed, I will request that Council Chair Foster and Mayor Baker move forward with a Letter of Intent to the County regarding our commitment and participation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

VL/jt

c: The Honorable Rick Baker, Mayor
 Tish Elston, Deputy Mayor/City Administrator
 Mike Dove, Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood Services
 Virginia Rowell, Manager, Social Services, Intergovernmental Relations

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 Gay Lancaster, Assistant County Administrator
 Cliff Smith, County Human Services
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