

Dallas Commission on Homelessness

Charge

The charge of the Commission will be to: 1) analyze our community's current system of addressing homelessness; 2) compare it to the best practices of similar communities; and 3) deliver a focused set of strategies and recommendations for the City and county to consider going forward.

A major piece of this will be working with Mr. Griggs and the Housing Committee on a plan to add more affordable and supportive housing inventory throughout the area. Studies clearly show that when cities add more supportive housing, there is a reduction in the unsheltered homeless population over time.

Objective

The overarching objective is to position Dallas among the highest performing and progressive communities in addressing these challenging and complex issues. Other communities that have been able to make real progress include Denver, Salt Lake City, Austin and Houston. We should be able to do the same.

Timeline

The Commission will work as long as it takes to fulfill its charge and deliver a final report. However, it is expected that an interim report and a preliminary set of recommendations will be delivered in August 2016, as some items may need to be considered relative to future budgets.

Composition and Reporting

The Commission will include approximately 30 civic leaders from throughout the community, but it will be part of the City and county processes, reporting to the Mayor, City Council and County Judge. It will operate with the highest levels of transparency.

Staff Support

The work of the Commission will be supported by staff from the Mayor's office, the City Manager's office, the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance and potentially other organizations.