For Immediate Release
January 24, 2020
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Beverly Hills Completes 2020 Homeless Count
Collaboration and Coordination between City Staff, Innovative Programming, and a Dedicated Community are making a Difference.

Beverly Hills, CA – On Wednesday, January 22, a group of over 60 local volunteers, City staff, Beverly Hills police officers and the Beverly Hills Homeless Outreach Team, and Beverly Hills Ambassadors participated in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority’s (LAHSA) Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The annual homeless count is part of a three night, County-wide effort to understand and address the complexities of homelessness.

Count participants gathered in City Hall and were trained on count procedures, learned about homeless services in Beverly Hills and were deployed out to several census tracts covering the entire City. This year, a total of 17 homeless individuals and 1 recreational vehicle were counted by volunteers. This is very similar compared to last year’s count of 16 individuals, 1 recreational vehicle and 1 car.

Every day, about 130 individuals come out of homelessness, while another 150 fall into homelessness. The 2019 Homeless Count found a 12% increase in homelessness in Los Angeles County from 52,765 to 58,966 individuals, and a 19% increase from 4,401 to 5,223 individuals experiencing homelessness on the Westside of Los Angeles. While homeless count numbers have continued to rise throughout LA County each year, Beverly Hills homeless count numbers have continued to remain steady. “We attribute this to innovative collaborations and partnerships,” said Rachel Evans, Human Services Clinical Program Coordinator. “The City’s Human Services Division works with the Chronic Homeless Assistance Team (CHAT), comprised of the City’s Police and Fire departments and the City Prosecutor, to coordinate services and concentrate resources on the most severely ill homeless individuals who suffer from mental health, physical health and/or substance abuse. In addition, the City’s homeless outreach team focuses on intensive case management. The City holds monthly Homeless Collaboration meetings with community stakeholders including faith-based organizations in the City, the Beverly Hills Homeless Outreach Team, Beverly Hills Public Library staff, City parking staff, Park Rangers, the Beverly Hills Ambassadors Team, and other community organizations to coordinate homeless service efforts,” says Evans.

In addition to the annual count, Human Services, CLASP, the Police Department, Park Rangers and the Ambassadors provide regular reports on homeless individuals in the City’s parks, parking structures, resident areas and business district to keep a pulse on homelessness throughout the year.

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The City of Beverly Hills began participating in the LAHSA’s official count since 2009, when 42 homeless individuals were recorded. LAHSA’s three-night, street-counting effort consisted of 168 deployment sites and over 8,000 volunteers. Count numbers are reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and directly influence federal funding directed to Los Angeles County.

To learn more about homeless services in Beverly Hills, and about services supporting The City’s most vulnerable community members, contact Jim Latta with the Human Services Division, 310-285-1006 or jlatta@beverlyhills.org.

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