



Community Services
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Beverly Hills Completes City's Annual Homeless Count

*Decrease in Homelessness Attributed to Services Provided and Coordinated Effort
between City Staff and Community Members*

Beverly Hills, CA – On Wednesday, January 24, a group of over 60 local volunteers, City staff, Beverly Hills police officers 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 county-wide effort to understand and address the complexities of homelessness.

On January 24, the Beverly Hills team gathered in the "deployment center" at City Hall and were dispersed to mapped-out territories throughout the City. From 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., the Beverly Hills team counted 15 homeless individuals, one make shift shelter and one van. This is a decrease from last year's homeless count of 22.

"We attribute the homeless count decrease to the City's innovative collaborations and partnerships," said James Latta, Human Services Administrator. "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 Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP) homeless outreach team focuses on intensive case management. Also, the Human Services Division holds a monthly Homeless Collaboration meeting with faith-based organizations in the City, City Librarians, City parking staff, Park Rangers, Ambassadors and other community organizations to coordinate homeless service efforts," says Latta.

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

The City of Beverly Hills began participating in the LAHSA's official count since 2009, when we reported 42 homeless individuals. LAHSA's three-night street counting effort consisted of 166 deployment sites and over 8,600 volunteers. Count numbers are reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and influences federal funding directed to Los Angeles County.

You can be part of the solution to end homelessness by supporting the City's Community Partners that provide the social service safety net for Beverly Hills' most vulnerable community members. For more information, contact Jim Latta with the Human Services Division, 310-285-2535 or jlatta@beverlyhills.org.

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