



Community Services
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Beverly Hills Completes 2019 Homeless Count

Collaboration and Coordination between City Staff, Innovative Programming, and a Dedicated Community are Making a Difference.

Beverly Hills, CA – On Wednesday, January 23, 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 16 homeless individuals, one RV and one car were counted by volunteers. This was a very similar number compared to last year's count of 15 individuals, one van, and one makeshift shelter.

While homeless count numbers have continued to rise throughout LA County each year, Beverly Hills homeless count numbers have continued to decrease; this year remaining steady with the 2018 count. "We attribute this to 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 homeless outreach team focuses on intensive case management. The City's 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 Latta.

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 166 deployment sites and over 8,600 volunteers. Count numbers are reported to 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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