



Community Services
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Beverly Hills Completes Biennial Count of Homeless Population

Beverly Hills, CA- The City of Beverly Hills assembled a team of volunteers, City staff, and police officers 44 strong to conduct a one-night count of the homeless population in Beverly Hills as part of a county-wide effort to understand and address the complexities of homelessness. From 8 p.m. on January 28th to 1 a.m. on January 29th, the Beverly Hills team canvassed the City's parking lots, streets, parks, and alleyways, and documented 29 homeless individuals- one car, one camper and three make-shift shelters within the City's six census tracts.

"Knowing the number of people experiencing homelessness in Beverly Hills is the best way for the City to understand the challenges we face in housing these individuals," said Jim Latta, Human Services Administrator for the City of Beverly Hills. "Since Beverly Hills joined the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count in 2009, we have seen a steady reduction in our local homeless population. These findings aid us in shaping the City's programs to address the complexities of homelessness."

City Hall served as the 2015 Homeless Count deployment center for volunteers, including: Beverly Hills residents, Human Relations Commissioners, students from local universities, employees of local businesses, and a multidisciplinary team from Step Up on Second Hollywood. Similar homeless count events are occurring throughout Los Angeles County, findings from which the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reports to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as required every two years. In 2013, the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count documented over 57,000 people without housing across Los Angeles County.

Data reported from Beverly Hills' homeless counts since 2009 demonstrate a steady reduction in the number of individuals lacking housing. The 2009 count found 42 homeless individuals, 37 individuals in 2011, and 30 individuals in 2013. In addition to the biennial count, Human Services staff, the City's homeless outreach team "Changing Lives and Sharing Places" and the Police Department keep an ongoing tally of the local homeless population using day-to-day knowledge of individuals in Beverly Hills.

Through the City's social service safety net, nine individuals, previously living on the streets of Beverly Hills, now successfully live in permanent supportive housing. The City's social service partners, organized through the Community Assistance Grant Fund, provide a continuum of services to help individuals transition from homeless to housed. Additionally, the Human Services Division follows the Los Angeles region's newly adopted coordination strategies to match homeless individuals with housing and mental health services appropriate to their needs.

For more information, visit www.beverlyhills.org/homeless or contact Jim Latta, Human Services Division Administrator, at (310) 285-1006.

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