

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY BARTLESVILLE DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE RISE IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES IN THE CITY OF BARTLESVILLE.

WHEREAS, there has been a notable increase in unsheltered, homeless persons in Bartlesville; and

WHEREAS, there has been a corresponding increase in vandalism and public safety concerns, leading to increased public space maintenance costs and decreased utilization by the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to address the issue of homelessness, particularly the most severe form of homelessness, unsheltered homelessness, in a responsible and proactive manner; and

WHEREAS, the challenge of homelessness is multifaceted and requires unique strategies specific to each community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that a diverse, cross disciplinary task force is best suited to devise solutions to address the challenges of homelessness.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BARTLESVILLE, THAT:

1. The City Manager shall draft a plan to develop a task force to devise strategies to address the issues related to the increasing population of the unsheltered homeless.
 - a. This task force shall be an official time-limited committee of the City Council and shall be subject to all laws and rules relating to Open Meetings and Open Records.
 - b. This task force shall be comprised of health and mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, nonprofit experts, local business owners and citizens adversely affected by unsheltered homelessness, public school representative, and any other relevant stakeholders.

- c. This task force shall be in effect for 6 months, reporting bi-monthly (every two months) to the City Council.
- d. The task force should seek to identify strategies and funding sources to accomplish the following goals.
 - i. **Primary Goal:** Reduction in the unsheltered homeless population in Bartlesville.
 - ii. **Secondary Goals:**
 - 1. Reduce vandalism, littering, and other illegal acts associated with the unsheltered homeless population.
 - 2. Increase confidence in public safety of and increase utilization of public spaces by addressing concerns linked to homelessness.
 - 3. Address public health concerns while improving conditions for unsheltered individuals.
 - iii. **Tertiary Goal:** Determine the value of an ongoing committee once the task force accomplishes its purpose and make an appropriate recommendation.
- e. The task force should aim to devise solutions through collaboration with local agencies that are balanced, compassionate, evidence-based, and fiscally responsible, with a focus on improving outcomes for both the unsheltered population and the broader community. Solutions should focus primarily on these desired outcomes:
 - i. Reduction in unsheltered homeless population in Bartlesville.
 - ii. Increased public trust in the safety of and increased utilization of our public spaces.
 - iii. Reduction in vandalism, litter, unlawful camping, and public health issues related to our unsheltered population.
 - iv. Improved conditions for unsheltered individuals including rehabilitation, health, housing, and employment.

- f. Metrics shall be devised to measure success, including reductions in unsheltered population, public perception, and enhanced public space usage.
- 2. This plan shall be provided to the Councilmembers individually prior to our regularly scheduled November meeting, so that the Council can act to officially form the task force at the November meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, held the 7th day of October 2024.

City of Bartlesville

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk