

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 6, 2021**

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF  
COMMISSIONER DALE V.C.  
HOLNESS**



Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Honorable Dale V.C. Holness, Broward County Commissioner District 9  
 Broward County Governmental Center  
 115 S. Andrews Ave.  
 Room: 417  
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Commissioner Holness,

We are writing to you on behalf of BOLD Justice (Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice). BOLD Justice is a community organization here in Broward County. Currently, BOLD Justice’s membership consists of twenty-five diverse congregations from denominations located all across Broward County.

At this time, one of our organization’s main priorities is keeping homeless individuals suffering from mental health conditions out of jails and hospitals, off of the streets and, into permanent supportive housing. With the 2nd largest homeless population in the state of Florida- we have a crisis in our county. Broward has over 600 homeless individuals on our streets with a mental illness as well as 192 individuals currently on the county’s chronically homeless list that could be housed today if housing were available. At next week’s commission meeting on Tuesday, April 6th, there will be a motion to expand Permanent Supportive Housing by the initial 65 units in order to get to our goal of 200 units within the next three years. This motion will be brought forth as item #99 on the county commission meeting agenda.

At our Nehemiah Action early this month, we had over 1,780 individuals gathered in support of this expansion. Members from all of our congregations are in agreement with this expansion and have worked since 2019 to see this come to fruition. Many are constituents of your district who are anticipating your support on item #99 on Tuesday, April 6th :

15<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ  
 Bro Anthony Campbell  
 390 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Eliathah Seventh Day Adventist  
 Pastor Noel Rose  
 7550 N University Dr.  
 Tamarac, FL 33321

First Presbyterian  
 Rev. Kennedy McGowan  
 1530 Hollywood Boulevard  
 Hollywood, FL 33020

Grace Alone Lutheran  
 Rev. Bill Knott  
 1900 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Ave  
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Lauderhill Seventh Day Adventist  
 Pastor Lester Elliot  
 4100 NW 11th Court  
 Lauderhill, FL 33313

Little Flower Catholic Church  
 Fr. Javier Barreto  
 1805 Pierce Street  
 Hollywood, FL 33021

Merrell United Methodist Church  
 Dr. Rev. Bancroft Williams  
 3900 State Road 7  
 Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

Miramar United Methodist Church  
 Rev. David Range  
 2507 Utopia Drive  
 Miramar, FL 33023

Nativity Catholic Church  
 Fr. David Zirilli  
 5220 Johnson St  
 Hollywood, FL 333021

New Jerusalem Baptist Church  
 Rev. Michael Anderson  
 2326 Douglas St  
 Hollywood, FL 33020

Plantation Seventh- Day Adventist  
 Pastor Joseph Salajan  
 400 NW 118<sup>th</sup> Ave  
 Plantation, FL 33325

San Isidro Catholic Church  
 Fr. Wilfredo Contreras  
 2301 Hammondville Rd.  
 Pompano Beach, FL 33069

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church  
Fr. Ed Prendergast  
1301 SE 136<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Davie, FL 33325

St. Clement Catholic Church  
Fr. Robes Charles  
2795 N Andrews Ave  
Wilton Manors, FL 33311

St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Fr. Harry Loubriel  
3332 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Terr  
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

St. Helen Catholic Church  
Fr. Lucien Pierre  
3033 NW 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311

St. John United Methodist Church  
Rev. Pierre Exantus  
1520 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

St. Maurice Catholic Church  
Msgr. Jean Pierre  
2851 Stirling Road  
Dania Beach, FL 33312

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Rev. Scott Henze  
5800 Indian Trace  
Weston, FL 33326

St. Stephen Catholic Church  
Fr. Patrick Charles  
2000 S. State Road 7  
Miramar, FL 33023

Sunshine Cathedral  
Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins  
1408 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315

The Sanctuary  
Rev. Dwyane Black  
1400 N Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Rev. Keith Spencer  
7150 Pines Boulevard  
Pembroke Pines, FL

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Of Fort Lauderdale  
Rev. Susan Smith  
2970 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Oakland Park, FL 33309

Village United Methodist Church  
Pastor Elyse Milligan  
1001 SW 71<sup>st</sup> Ave  
North Lauderdale, FL 33068

Also, as we work towards expanding Permanent Supportive Housing by a total of 200 units or more, we support all cities and municipalities joining the county to fund this critical issue under the county's continuum of care.

We know that we have a real opportunity to get more people off the street and chip away at our homeless crisis. If you have questions or would like to clarify anything, please feel free to contact our office at 954-463-2322 or [boldjusticesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:boldjusticesecretary@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Rev. Kennedy McGowan, Co- President  
First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood

Pastor Noel Rose, Co- President  
Eliathah Seventh-Day Adventist, Tamarac

Vinessa Edwards  
Miramar United Methodist, Miramar

Janean Baumal  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Pembroke Pines

Rev. Dwayne Black  
The Sanctuary Church, Ft. Lauderdale

Marie Turner  
Unitarian Universalist Cong, Oakland Park

Donna Simms  
Miramar United Methodist, Miramar

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## COVID relief funding helps move 450 of Atlanta's homeless into their own apartments

LOCAL NEWS | March 16, 2021

By J.D. Capelouto, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Advertisement

A few months ago, armed with cash from the first coronavirus relief package, the city of Atlanta set out with an ambitious goal: Moving 800 people off the streets and into their own apartments.

The scope of the project was unlike any past efforts to curb homelessness in Atlanta. Case workers visited homeless encampments and moved hundreds of people into a hotel downtown, while making calls to landlords and applying for open apartments across metro Atlanta.

And the program is seeing results. **Partners for Home**, the nonprofit that heads up the city's homelessness strategy, said roughly 450 formerly homeless individuals have already moved into apartments, many with one-year leases.

Another 190 are still going through the process and are set to move in within the next few weeks.

"Once I got that apartment ... it felt like a load had been lifted from off my shoulders," said Efreem Belvin, who was recently given housing through the new program. "This is a really really big step for me."

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## **Explore** 800 of Atlanta's homeless may get apartments through new program

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Belvin moved to Atlanta about 15 years ago and has been homeless on and off for the last few years. He was doing OK before the pandemic hit, selling beer at sports games and other big events — "having the time of my life," he said — but that all dried up a year ago. Since then, he's spent a lot of nights under bridge overpasses, worried about finding food, shelter and clothes.

That changed in November when an outreach worker approached him under an I-20 overpass and told him about the program. He moved into the hotel and applied for an apartment two weeks later. He now lives in a one-bedroom unit in Stone Mountain.



“All the way through the end, I was saying, this cannot be happening to me,” said Belvin, 52. “Even down to the point when I signed that lease.”

The housing effort was launched in the fall using about \$18 million from federal coronavirus relief allocated to the city. Partners for Home added an additional \$6.5 million from private philanthropic contributions.

It aims to help people who are chronically homeless, on the verge of being chronically homeless or people facing homelessness who are between 18 and 24 years old.

The goal is to transition the chronically homeless into a permanent housing program over the next year or two. The younger people who are housed may develop a cost-sharing agreement over time and contribute to the rent as they get back on their feet.

Cathryn Marchman, the executive director of Partners for Home, said she has been pleasantly surprised by the number of apartments that have been secured. She said the city has been able to pay fees to landlords to hold some apartments before move-ins happen, which has been a big help.

**Once I got that apartment ... it felt like a load had been lifted from off my shoulders.**

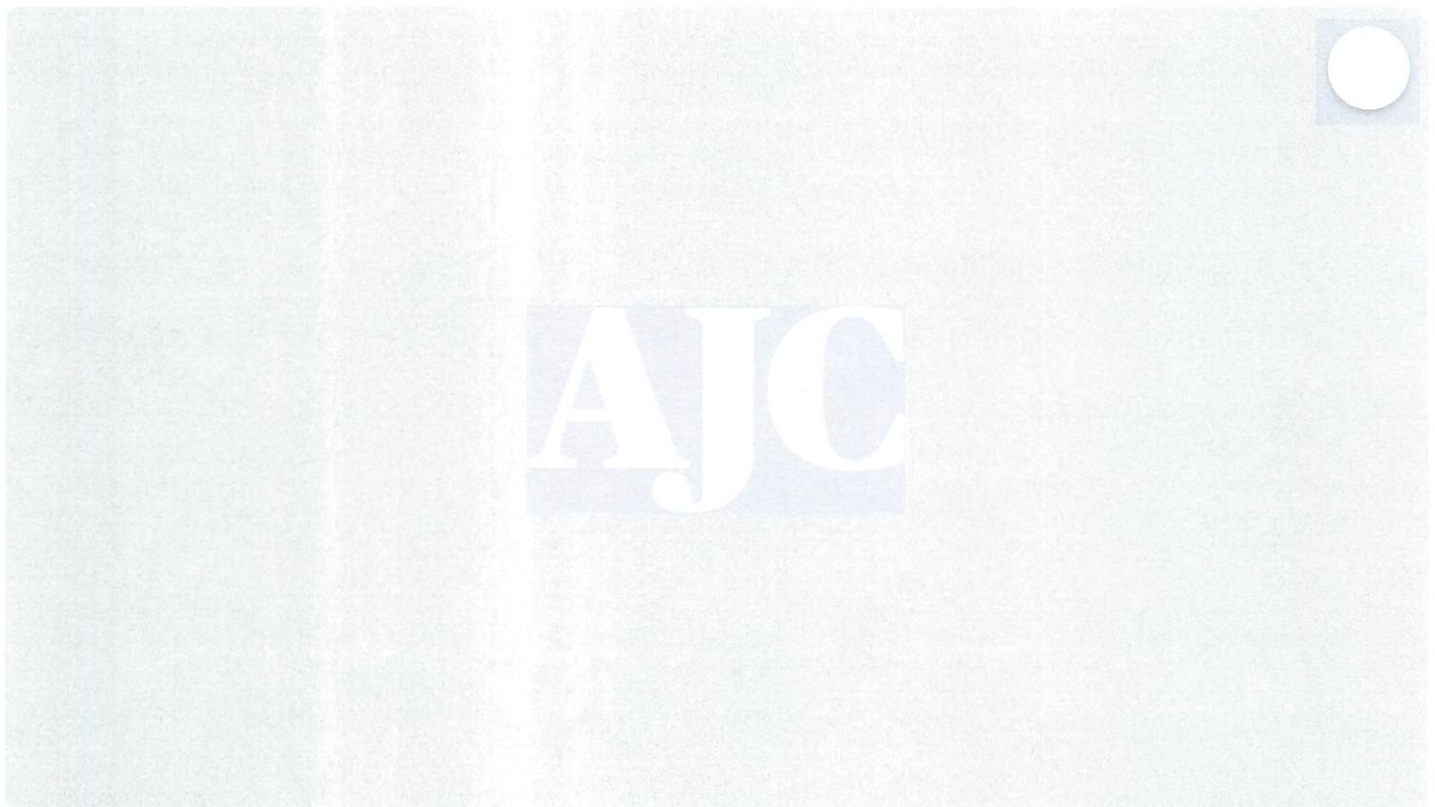
- Efrem Belvin, received housing through new program

Eventually, though, COVID relief funding will run out. Marchman and other leaders in homelessness prevention efforts said they hope state and local governments will continue to put dollars toward these rehousing efforts.

“The work that we’re doing right now is a huge undertaking,” Marchman said. “We’re creating a roadmap for how we can achieve large-scale housing placements and I think now the question is, ‘How do we sustain it?’”

As part of the program, outreach workers are going to homeless encampments around the city and offering housing to those who live there in order to close the camps down. Marchman said about 250 people from eight encampments were moved into the hotel and are in the pipeline for the housing program.

Of course, there have been hiccups along the way, the city still must find 200 more apartments to reach its goal. Some rental applications have been denied, and a few people have been hesitant to take part.



Credit: Jenni Girtman

But Brad Schweers, the executive director of Intown Collaborative Ministries, said that number has been minimal. He described one encampment where 34 people lived. His team visited and offered to move them into the hotel, and all but one accepted. The encampment was cleared out in November.

His organization has helped find apartments for 160 people since Dec. 1. Previously, the most people it has ever housed in a year was 120.



“We’ve never had such amazing housing resources available,” Schweers said.

For Belvin, living on his own is “totally scary,” he said, but he has a case worker who checks in with him to discuss how things are going. He plans to get back to work soon and is confident the newfound stability will help him get back on his feet.

“For a while, I can say that I started to lose hope, and I started to see that this is what it was going to be,” he said, describing his experience being unsheltered. “I don’t want to go back to that.”

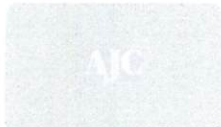
*Landlords in metro Atlanta who are interested in participating in the program can email [listings@opendoorsatl.org](mailto:listings@opendoorsatl.org) or call 470-222-3213 for more information.*

## In Other News



LOCAL NEWS | 1h ago

COVID-19 cases reported at metro Atlanta public schools



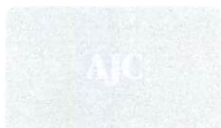
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