2019 CIT International Annual Conference

August 26, 2019
3:30 – 5:00 pm


Presented by:

Kevin Stiff & Joe Polzak
Our Background

Some *bona fides*.
Kevin Stiff

Kevin Stiff is currently the Coordinator of Homelessness Response for the City of Sarasota and is a certified Crisis Intervention Training Coordinator. Captain Stiff is a 37-year veteran law enforcement officer, having served with 3 different agencies, including the U.S. Army Military Police. He retired in 2017 as Captain of the Sarasota Police Department Patrol Division, having served as past Commander of the Explosive Materials and Special Weapons units. Kevin Stiff has presented law enforcement best practices to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Florida Institute on Homelessness & Supportive Housing, CIT International, Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Florida Housing Coalition, and the National Social Services Conference. Mr. Stiff was selected to receive the Sarasota NAACP President’s Award.
Joe Polzak

Joe Polzak is currently an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Sarasota and Police Legal Advisor for the Sarasota Police Department. He has also served as legal counsel to several Florida Sheriff’s Offices, felony prosecutor for the State of Florida as an Assistant State Attorney, and received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army Reserves after being directly commissioned in the Army JAG Corps. Mr. Polzak is an active member of the International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the IACP Legal Officers Section, the Florida Association of Police Attorneys (FAPA) and state and federal courts. He has presented law enforcement best practices to the IACP, Florida Institute on Homelessness & Supportive Housing, CIT International, Florida Coalition for the Homeless, the Florida Housing Coalition and a U.S. BJA NTTAC Leadership Focus Group. Mr. Polzak was selected to receive the Sarasota NAACP President’s Award.
Program Background

From our story to yours.
SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Sarasota, which recently imposed a no-camping ban, is the meanest city in the nation toward the homeless, according to a national advocacy organization. Sarasota bans sleeping outside overnight without permission on public or private property.

Sarasota, dubbed the ‘Meanest City in America’ by advocates a decade ago for its ordinances, has been the scene of one of the fiercest and most anguished battles over homelessness.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/homeless-say-booming-cities-have-outlawed-their-right-to-sleep-beg-and-even-sit/2016/06/02/7dde62ea-21e3-11e6-aa84-42391ba52c91_story.html?utm_term=.4fa8f79ab6d2
“All day, all night, fights, drugs nonstop,” complains a city resident, who purchased and restored a property in the city.

“This year, seemingly overnight, people were living across the street,” another city resident complains. “It’s ridiculous; they have furniture. I’ve seen people having sex under blankets.”

“Sarasota County has more than twice the national average of homeless for a population of our size. The percentage of homeless people in the City of Sarasota is estimated to be as high as six times the national average.”

https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2014/12/31/41465
In 2011, the **national media** reported on the city’s decision to **remove** the benches from a downtown park rather than allow the homeless to sit on them. In 2012, the story of a **homeless man’s arrest** for “theft of utilities” for charging his cell phone in Gillespie Park went viral.

[https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2014/12/31/41465](https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2014/12/31/41465)
Not long after, police emails surfaced suggesting a law enforcement culture of “bum hunting,” followed by a video of an officer slamming a homeless man into a railing. (Sarasota) was stung by lawsuits brought by the ACLU and relentlessly hounded by the downtown merchants to get the homeless off their stoops.

https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2014/12/31/41465
City to stop panhandling enforcement

“As the result of a legal challenge brought on behalf of two homeless men by the Sarasota Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida, the City of Sarasota agreed Wednesday, Feb. 13, to a judicial order stopping Sarasota police from “interfering with the exercise of First Amendment Rights” in dealing with the homeless, according to a press release from the ACLU.”

http://www.yourobswer.com/article/city-agrees-stop-panhandling-enforcement
Florida cop on leave after video of him tossing peanuts to prisoner
But the shelter issue—the consultant’s main strategy for addressing the highly visible street homeless—quickly went from contentious to toxic. Four final sites were proposed, all near downtown Sarasota.

Consultant recommends a 250 bed shelter at an annual cost of $1.2 million; and would be operated by law enforcement.

“I refer to it as ‘that thing we were talking about’ because the shelter pisses everybody off.”

Consultant hired by Sarasota County and City of Sarasota recommends building a 24/7 homeless shelter in the City, that would be the main intake location for homeless individuals in the county.
Homelessness Jumps in Sarasota, Manatee Counties.

http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/homelessness-jumps-sarasota-manatee-counties#stream/0

The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness coordinates and compiles data on the homeless in Manatee and Sarasota Counties through an annual Point-In-Time Census, most recently conducted on January 28, 2013. The data showed:

- 2,054 people were counted as homeless, an increase of 40% over the 2011 count.
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A National Crisis.

- 2018 HUD Point in Time (PIT) Survey indicated there were **552,830** homeless individuals in the U.S.
- Over 20% are “chronically homeless.”
- Half of the country’s homeless population is spread across five states: California, New York, Florida, Texas and Washington.
A historic crisis.

- King Philip’s War of 1675 – 1676 drove colonists out of their homes to seek shelter in the forests and coastal areas. Many forced into homelessness from insufficient resources to meet their basic needs.

- History repeats:
  - American Revolution.
  - U.S. Civil War.
  - Depression of 1875.

A mental health crisis?

- As the process of “deinstitutionalization” of persons suffering from a mental illness began in the 1960’s, many have been forced to live without help, medication or support.

- Predictably, calls to law enforcement about crimes and disorders involving people with mental illness increased.

- With the lack of services available to support persons with a mental illness, this responsibility has shifted to law enforcement, including:
  - Taking individuals to health care facilities under the Baker and Marchman Acts, and de-escalating situations with persons suffering from a mental health issue or in a mental health crisis.

A 2016 study by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) found:

- 6% of Americans have a severe mental illness (SMI).
- 20% to 25% of the homeless population suffer from SMI.
- 45% of the homeless population show a history of mental illness diagnoses.
Sarasota data:

SPD H.O.T. Officers and Case Managers make a combined 10,000+ outreach contacts per year.

H.O.T. Case Manager contacts so far this year show:

- Physical medical issues – 44.5%
- Mental health issues – 51.75%
- Alcohol abuse – 45%
- Drug abuse – 33.25%
- Drug abuse not answered – 48%
A law enforcement crisis?

Occurrences between law enforcement and persons with a mental illness have intensified, with approximately 92% of officers having at least 1 encounter, in the previous month, with a person with a mental illness who is experiencing a crisis, and an average of 6 encounters overall per month.
A law enforcement crisis?

Individuals with mental health issues are 7 times more likely to have contact with law enforcement officers than others and emotionally disturbed person (EDP) calls may be one of the largest number of non-criminal calls received by law enforcement nationwide.
Managing a Crisis.

Not solving it.
A law enforcement response.
A law enforcement response.

Mission.

Message.

Management.
Legal compliance.

“Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), state and local government criminal justice entities – including police – must ensure that people with disabilities are treated equally in the criminal justice system and are afforded equal opportunities to services through the provision of reasonable modifications to practices, procedures and policies.”
Legal compliance

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

SPECIAL LITIGATION SECTION CASES AND MATTERS

Corrections
Juvenile Justice
Disability Rights Docket
Law Enforcement Agencies
FACE
Religious Exercise of Institutionalized Persons
Indigent Defense
Archives -- closed matters
UNIVERS STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 88-2406-CIV-MORENO

MICHAEL POTTINGER, PETER CARTER AND BERRY YOUNG,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CITY OF MIAMI,

Defendant.

/ 

ADDENDUM TO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Plaintiffs, MICHAEL POTTINGER, et al., and the class of Plaintiffs they represent (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs"), and the Defendant, THE CITY OF MIAMI (hereinafter "CITY"), by and through their respective undersigned counsel, agree to the following addendum to the settlement agreement effective October 1, 1998. Subject to the approval of this Court, except as herein modified, the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement effective October 1, 1998 shall remain in full force and effect. The language underlined constitutes additions to the settlement agreement and the language stricken constitutes deletions to the settlement agreement.
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

DAVID CROSS, SHAWN DAVIS,
DONALD GOULD, PAUL LONARDO,
JOSEPH VASTA, GEORGE ZELLNER,
MICHAEL BASILE, and DOROTHY MEEHAN,
individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

v.

CITY OF SARASOTA; and BERNADETTE
DIPINO, in her official capacity as Chief of Police,

Defendants

CASE NO.: 15-cv-02364-EAK-JSS

SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiffs, DAVID CROSS, SHAWN DAVIS, DONALD GOULD, PAUL LONARDO,
JOSEPH VASTA, GEORGE ZELLNER, MICHAEL BASILE, and DOROTHY MEEHAN
(hereinafter “Plaintiffs”), sue the City of Sarasota, and Bernadette DiPino, (hereinafter
“Defendants”), and allege as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This case seeks declaratory and injunctive as a result of the City’s persistent
efforts to criminalize the status of those who are homeless despite the lack of an available shelter
and a deepening housing crisis. The Plaintiffs contend that the City’s use of ordinances that
criminalize sleeping violates the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual
punishment. Separately, the City’s ordinance criminalizing panhandling is facially
unconstitutional because it contains geographical restrictions that are content-based in violation
Defined “life sustaining conduct misdemeanors” as:

Misdemeanors “which a homeless individual commits by the mere fact that he or she is without shelter, and must conduct life sustaining activities, such as eating, sleeping, sitting, congregating or walking in public.”
Legal compliance

Defined “available shelter” as:

- At least 24 hours, with “dignity and respect.”
- A bed or mat at least 3 inches thick.
- At no cost to the homeless person.
- Within the city. (Or county, if person agrees).
- No religious or therapeutic programming.
Legal compliance

✓ Required “available shelter” to enforce “life sustaining conduct misdemeanors” against a homeless person.

✓ Established protections for personal property.

✓ Required training of law enforcement.
“It should be uncontroversial that punishing conduct that is a universal and unavoidable consequence of being human violates the Eight Amendment – if a person literally has nowhere else to go, then enforcement of an anti-camping ordinance against that person criminalizes them for being homeless.” (STATUS)
The Ninth Circuit agreed with the central premise in the suit, holding that “as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter.”
“The outcome of the Court’s decision will ripple across the country. Cities will have to address real solutions to the complex issues faced by homeless individuals and families rather than just create more barriers and fill more jails with persons who only needed a place to sleep for the night.” – Plaintiff attorney
Best practices.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of Transportation
Department of Veterans Affairs
Corporation for National and Community Service
General Services Administration
Office of Management and Budget
Social Security Administration
US Postal Service
White House Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Education
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of the Interior
Best practices.

1. **Combined housing and service strategies**, to include:
   a) “Ensure 24 hour access to shelters and/or services that offer alternatives to living in public spaces and access to services that meet the basic needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in order to reduce visible street homelessness and contribute to reductions in homelessness.”
   b) “Create street outreach teams and provide safe havens to help chronically homeless individuals exit the streets.”
   c) “Employ communitywide collaboration through education, volunteerism and donations to provide solutions to homelessness.”
Best practices.

2. **Collaboration** between law enforcement and social service providers to **connect people with services**:
   
a) “Outreach and engagement involving police and service provider collaboration to link people with supportive housing and avoid their arrest.”

b) Cross-training of police officers and service providers to facilitate information sharing and promote ongoing coordination.”
Best practices.

3. **Implementation of alternative justice system strategies** to reduce homeless involvement with criminal justice system, decrease recidivism, and *facilitate connection with other systems of care*:
   a) “Citation dismissal programs that allow individuals who are homeless with low-level infractions to participate in *service or diversion programs* or *link them with appropriate services in lieu of citation*.”
Homeless Outreach Teams.

Bridge to services.
The “Three Es.”

- **Educate** about the law and about local housing and social service resources.
- Educate homeless individuals through outreach.
- Educate stakeholders.

- **Encourage** homeless individuals to accept services through outreach and pre-arrest diversion.

- **Enforce** the law after rejection of services outcome, or as warranted.
- Offer post-arrest diversion.
The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families and other advocates. It is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness related behaviors. It also promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis.
Homeless Outreach Team

Homeless Outreach Specialist Officer and a Case Manager:
Performing outreach about the local social services that are available.
Making referrals of interested persons to these social services.
Homeless Outreach Team

Social services personnel can be deployed with Homeless Outreach Teams to offer services pursuant to their own mission.

A Homeless Outreach Team is thus a bridge to services, not a social service provider itself.
Reaching who no one else can.
Building what no one else can.
H.O.T. Care System Justice
Homeless Outreach Teams

Outreach 2018:

Initial outreach contacts by HOT teams: 10,525

Contacts by Case Managers: 1429

Client’s case managed: 1313

Clients who received direct service (no HOT bed): 916
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Gain vital insights into how to motivate people

- Physiological
- Security
- Belonging
- Esteem
- Personal accomplishment
HOT Beds

✓ 24 hours free dormitory shelter, security, food – 24/7/365 when escorted by SPD officers or case managers.

✓ No counseling or treatment requirement.

✓ No religious component.

✓ EEOC compliant.
Continuum of Care.
The other side of the bridge.
Continuum of Care.

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), created the Continuum of Care program by consolidating three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
Continuum of Care.

The *Continuum of Care (CoC)* is the entity designated and grant funded by the *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development* to coordinate housing and services for homeless families and individuals.
SPTEH supports a two-county Continuum of Care, which convenes service providers, community leaders, law enforcement, government and homeless individuals for the purpose of collaborating and coordinating services for the homeless.
Continuum of Care.

SPTEH administers the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a case management database which helps providers document services and outcomes, and prevents duplication of services.
SPTEH also conducts and tabulates the **Point-in-Time survey** in January of each year. The resulting report gives a point-in-time analysis of homeless dynamics in the community, the number of homeless people and the issues they face.
Building it together.

What CoC is:
- HUD resource
- Bridge to housing

What CoC isn’t:
- Substance abuse
- Mental health
- Crisis management
- Case management
Building what no one else can.
Bridge beds

Follow up to H.O.T. Beds

60 – 90 days to housing

Case management

Prepare for housing
Justice.

The Rule of Law. Responsibly.
I. RoL as the Foundation of the United States

What is the “rule of law”? While there are many definitions, including those identified in this Handbook, the US Government (USG) defines the idea in the following manner: Everyone must follow the law; leaders must obey the law; the Government must obey the law; and no one is above the law. Regardless of how the three-word phrase is defined, however, there is no question that RoL is the foundation of the United States. A quick look at why this is true provides a context for explaining why JAs have conducted RoL operations for more than a century.
As the American Revolution got underway, lawyers in the colonies were among the most radical thinkers. Believing that the tyranny of the Parliament in London was just as bad as the tyranny of George III, “many American colonists put their faith in fundamental law enshrined in a constitution—as John Adams famously put it, ‘a government of laws and not men.’” But Thomas Paine’s statement about the law in his pamphlet *Common Sense* best captures why RoL is the foundation of the United States. Wrote Paine: “[I]n America THE LAW IS KING. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be King.”
The rule of law means that all persons, institutions and entities - public and private, including the state itself - are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights principles. The rule of law is more than a safe and secure environment. It requires the security of individuals and institutions and accountability for crimes.
Rule of law.

- Laws conform to international human rights standards. (EK)
- Human rights (e.g., freedom of religion, assembly, press, speech, association and movement, and other civil rights) are effectively protected under the law. (EK, CA)

- Codes of conduct emphasizing adherence to law and to international standards of human rights are enforced by the courts and by supervisors in law enforcement agencies. (EK) (CA)
The rule of law refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.
Rule of law.

“Good, healthy democratic societies are built on three pillars: there’s peace and stability, economic development, and respect for rule of law and human rights. And where all three are present, you stand a very good chance of making a go of it.” - Kofi Annan

“I firmly believe in the rule of law as the foundation for all of our basic rights.” - Sonia Sotomayor

“One of the challenges of a democratic government is making sure that even in the midst of emergencies and passions, we make sure that rule of law and the basic precepts of justice and liberty prevail.” - Barack Obama

“The clearest way to show what the rule of law means to us in everyday life is to recall what has happened when there is no rule of law.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower
Medieval Diseases Are Infecting California’s Homeless

Typhus, tuberculosis, and other illnesses are spreading quickly through camps and shelters.

“Our homeless crisis is increasingly becoming a public-health crisis,” California Governor Gavin Newsom said in his State of the State speech in February, citing outbreaks of hepatitis A in San Diego County, syphilis in Sonoma County, and typhus in Los Angeles County.


Public-health officials and politicians are using terms like disaster and public-health crisis to describe the outbreaks, and they are warning that these diseases can easily jump beyond the homeless population.
“The hygiene situation is just horrendous” for people living on the streets, says Glenn Lopez, a physician with St. John’s Well Child & Family Center, who treats homeless patients in Los Angeles County. “It becomes just like a Third World environment, where their human feces contaminate the areas where they are eating and sleeping.”

“It really is unconscionable,” says Bobby Watts, the CEO of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, a policy and advocacy organization. “These are all preventable diseases.”
Legitimate, substantial & compelling interests.

Los Angeles reaches a tipping point for the spread of bubonic plague

California’s Biggest Cities Confront a ‘Defecation Crisis’

Lawmakers ban plastic straws as a far worse kind of waste covers the streets of San Francisco and L.A.
Los Angeles grapples with homeless camps, illegally dumped trash and rat-infested City Hall

Last week, Dr. Drew Pinsky, the prominent celebrity doctor, said the population is at risk due to infections disease and compared the city to a third world country.

"We have a complete breakdown of the basic needs of civilization in Los Angeles right now," he told Fox News. "Third world countries are insulted if they are accused of being like this. No city on Earth tolerates this. The entire population is at risk."
Legitimate, substantial & compelling interests.

The court further concludes that the City of Seattle's interests in protecting public safety by keeping the sidewalks clear of pedestrian hazards and in promoting the economic health of its commercial areas are substantial. Cf., Pottinger, 810 F.Supp. at 1581 (city has substantial interest in protecting aesthetically pleasing parks and streets, maintaining facilities in public areas, promoting tourism and business, and developing the downtown area); Tobe, supra (city has substantial interest in preserving the appearance and enabling the use of public facilities by citizens and visitors). The City of Seattle has made a legislative determination that this ordinance will help it to accomplish its goals. In the absence of any showing that the method it has selected intrudes on constitutionally protected activities, the sidewalk ordinance is a legitimate legislative determination.

City had legitimate governmental interests that were rationally related to and advanced by prohibition in ordinance prohibiting sitting or lying down on public sidewalks in commercial areas during certain hours; ordinance was enacted to ensure pedestrian safety and safeguard economic vitality of commercial areas.
Helping the homeless is a tough challenge for local governments. Trying to care for the homeless on the streets appears to be more costly than housing them.

For instance, a 2014 study by the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness found that “for long-term, chronically homeless individuals, including repeated incarcerations, emergency room use and inpatient hospitalizations,” Florida residents pay $31,065 per chronically homeless person every year, as opposed to paying only $10,051 per homeless person to provide permanent supportive housing and services such as job training and health care.
Outdoor Lodging.

Sarasota City Code 34-41:

**Encampment** not sleeping:
✓ Fire, cooking
✓ Earth breaking
✓ Storage

**Pre-citation diversion** must be offered + free lawful alternative.
Storage of personal property.

Sarasota City Code 21-44:

*Unattended or attended for 24 hours.*

Pre-citation warning / notice must be offered + free lawful alternative + exceptions.
NOTICE

“NO storage of unattended personal property on Public Property allowed”

All unattended personal property stored unlawfully will be removed by the Sarasota Police Department without further notice and may be recovered at the Sarasota Police Department within 30 days of removal.

Items will be disposed of after 30 days, unless considered trash or debris which will be disposed of immediately.

By order of Sec. 21-44
Sarasota City Code
Obstructing free passage.

Sarasota City Code 30-3:

Unreasonably obstruct right-of-way.

Pre-citation warning / notice must be offered + exceptions.
Solicitation.

Sarasota City Code 23-1, 23-6, 23-7, 23-8:

- **Personal solicitation**
- ✓ **Places**
- ✓ **Aggressive**

Solicitation on arterial roadways.
The Third “E.”

Enablement

or...

Enforcement.
Comprehensive Treatment Court.

A voluntary diversion specialty court in Sarasota, set up for individuals that are severely persistently mentally ill and have misdemeanor criminal charges.

611 were referred to the program but 494 declined to volunteer or did not engage further.

Since March 2017, 117 went through the program, 110 (94%) were homeless, of those 75% were dealing with schizophrenia or Bipolar disorders. 70% of that group having a secondary co-occurring substance abuse disorder.
City, Local Agencies Collaborate to Start Homeless Court

This specialized court handles homeless individuals charged with minor criminal activity.

Known as Community Care Court, cases are limited to homeless individuals charged with minor criminal activity within the Sarasota city limits, such as open container, trespassing, lodging out of doors, and public urination, may be eligible for this specialized court, which focuses on causes and solutions for homelessness.

Individuals who volunteer to opt into the program may be diverted into available social service programs in the region’s Continuum of Care and other service providers for mental health screening, drug/alcohol assessment, employment and housing opportunities. Community Care Court differs from Comprehensive Treatment Court (CTC) in that CTC is a jail diversion program solely for misdemeanor offenders with chronic mental illness.
Community Care Court.

Barriers to success:

- 59% mental health
- 74% alcohol abuse
- 33% physical health issues
- 52% drug abuse

?
City Police, H.O.T., CIT

COC & broader community resources

Justice, CTC, CCC
Homeless Outreach Team SYSTEM.

**Educate**
- City Code, Florida law, CIT, and Continuum of Care / social service partnerships.
- Outreach – *Deploy*:
  - HOT Team, Continuum of Care partners, HOT Bed Program.

**Encourage**
- Outreach & Pre-Arrest Diversion – *Deploy & Divert*:
  - HOT Team, Continuum of Care / social service partners, HOT Bed Program.

**Enforce**
- Post-Arrest Diversion – *Divert*:
  - Community Care Court, Comprehensive Treatment Court (HOT Team/Beds).
SARASOTA:
Creating an Effective
HOMELESS CRISIS
Response System

TRANSFORMING THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS ADULT HOMELESSNESS
APRIL 2017
Outcomes Matter.

One person at a time.
### County

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<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradenton</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>32.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englewood</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nokomis</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Port</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>1106</td>
<td>52.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venice</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Non-Incorporated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2089</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PIT Survey Year to Year Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Rate of Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Homeless Count</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1468</td>
<td>1447</td>
<td>1192</td>
<td>1135</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered (Emergency &amp; Trans. Housing)</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>-11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-populations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>-27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with Minor Children (Households)</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>-10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographic Identification</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee County (including City of Bradenton)</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Bradenton Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota County (Including City of Sarasota)</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>-8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Sarasota Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOT Bed outcomes.

Total percentage of US HUD housing outcomes: 36%

Total percentage of “positive outcomes:” 43%
### SPTEH Housing Exits

#### Number / Percentage Exiting to Permanent Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 - 2014</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 - 2018</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>14.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First Response.

Sarasota County Fire/Rescue reports:

29% decrease in calls for service from homeless individuals since 2016.

41% decrease year-to-date.
Until several years ago, the treatment of some homeless people in Sarasota was a gold mine for a local columnist looking for things to get outraged about.

Sarasota, which a national advocacy group had awarded a “Meanest City” title a decade ago, had police officers famed for talking about “bum hunting.” Being homeless was pretty much treated like a crime.

Times are tougher now. For me, that is.
For example, the number of unsheltered street homeless in the region is down 40% since 2016. And among particular groups within the overall count, the number of chronically homeless individuals is down about 21% in just three years, youth homelessness is down more than 31% in that time, and the number of homeless families with children is down by about 14%.
Sarasota focuses on fixing homeless problem one person at a time

Sarasota making strong strides combating homelessness, city officials say

Newly released figures show continuing progress in effort to reduce Sarasota’s homeless population
"I don’t think (Sarasota) deserves that title anymore."

- ACLU of Florida, regarding Sarasota’s “Meanest City” designation

Outcomes matter.

“I think Sarasota has become progressive in terms of its treatment of the homeless.”

- ACLU of Florida

Presentations:

IACP 2017
October 21-24
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
theIACPconference.org

GATEWAY
Connecting to Mission • Equipping to Serve
April 3-7, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA

2017 Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Breakthrough to Excellence: Building Bridges to the Future
November 1-3, 2017
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld®

BJANNTTAC
National Training and Technical Assistance Center
16th District U.S. Congressional Unit Citation.
2016 & 2018
IACP Leadership in Human & Civil Rights Award.

IACP’s Leadership in Human and Civil Rights award recognizes that protection of civil and constitutional rights is among the foremost responsibilities of police in democratic societies. As a result, the Human and Civil Rights Committee seeks to recognize programs and law enforcement efforts that exemplify the protection and promotion of civil and human rights.
Meanest City..?
THANK YOU!!

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