

DATE _____

NUMBER 68-2023

TITLE: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE XII ENTITLED "DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES" TO CREATE A DIVISION OF HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION.**

(Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert)

WHEREAS, homelessness has emerged as a global human rights violation; and

WHEREAS, safe, stable, affordable, accessible, and permanent housing is a human right, and its absence negatively impacts typical development; physical and mental health functioning; nutrition; social and emotional wellbeing; education, employment, and training opportunities; academic success; family and social cohesion; and the ability to exercise individual rights and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township ("City") is consistently assessing safety and quality of life matters for citizens and residents and looking for ways to improve same; and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that there are individuals in the City experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, there have been efforts by the City to identify unsafe and/or abandoned properties where unsheltered individuals might use for temporary havens; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire for the City to foster relationships with community partners who can assist with housing, and case based stabilization plans for individuals currently or anticipating eviction and loss of housing and environmental security; and

WHEREAS, a determination has been made that City and its citizens would be better served by the creation of a Division of Homelessness Prevention.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Municipal Governing Body of the City of Orange Township that the municipal code be amended and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1.

§ 4-49. Functions.

The Department shall perform all appropriate functions associated with:

- A. ~~Such public health programs as environmental sanitation, maternal and child health, communicable disease control and vital statistics registration.~~ Implementing public health programs such as environmental and hazardous material regulation, maternal and child health, medical screenings and preventative education, animal control, vaccination clinics, infectious disease control, homelessness prevention and vital statistics registration.

- B. ~~Such social programs for the needy as public assistance, legal aid, medical care and hospitalization, dental clinics and fresh air camps. Social programs related to:~~
1. Public assistance and legal aid for the underserved.
 2. Programming and independent living resources for older adults.
 3. Financial literacy and interest group initiatives.
 4. Inclusive programming for LGBTQIA individuals and families.
 5. Inclusive workshops for multigenerational and multicultural engagement.
- C. ~~Recreation programs for persons of all ages and varied interests and abilities, including the physically handicapped in all areas of the city. Recreation programs for persons of all ages and varied interests and abilities, including persons living with disabilities.~~
1. Provide fresh air camps and discovery activities.

§ 4-50. Division of Homelessness Prevention.

- A. There shall be a Division of Homelessness Prevision with the Department of Community Services. A coordinator of social services shall be appointed by the Director of the Department with the approval of the Mayor to run the division.
- B. Coordinator Duties. The Coordinator duties shall include but not be limited to:
1. Facilitating community outreach events.
 2. Identifying community partners that will shelter and feed persons suffering from severe homelessness.
 3. Working with the Orange Police Department, Orange Fire Department, the Office of Emergency Management and aid organizations to aid families displaced.
 4. Any other duties related to assisting unsheltered individuals and other individuals experiencing early stages of pre-displacement as assigned by the Director.
- C. The following terms in this section shall have the following definitions:

EARLY STATES OF PRE-DISPLACEMENT – at risk individuals in need of resources and humans services to avert displacement, or to locate a new home.

UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUAL – an individual experiencing displacement, loss of housing, and/or requiring assistance to locate temporary accommodations while searching for a new home.

SEVERE HOMELESSNESS – individuals, including families with children, experiencing displacement, loss of housing, nutrition and employment, who require emergency assistance for transitional housing, counseling, and additional services.

§ 4-50.1. Organization.

The Department shall be organized pursuant to the plan as provided in Article IV, § 4-23.

SECTION 2. Inconsistencies

All other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 3. Headings

All headings within this ordinance are for convenience only and are not deemed to be part of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and upon expiration of twenty (20) days following publication unless otherwise provided by resolution of this City Council.

Adopted:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency Eason
Council President

Purpose: To create a Division of Homelessness Prevention.

Fiscal Impact: Moderate

Approved:

Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.
Mayor