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HOMELESSNESS INCREASES BY 4% IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Tampa, Fla (June 14, 2022) According to the 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) count, the number of people living on the street or in shelters increased by four percent in Hillsborough County. Approximately 1,513 people in the county were recorded as being homeless during the annual count, an increase from 1,452 in 2020.

“It has become tremendously difficult to find affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness,” stated Antoinette Hayes-Triplett, CEO of Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative. “The PIT count data was collected in February, prior to the significant increases in rent, gas and food. Since the implementation of the strategic plan in June 2019, over 1700 people have moved into permanent housing via the 10 initiatives outlined in the plan. However, I am extremely concerned about the on-going affordable housing crisis in Tampa and Hillsborough County, especially for our aging residents. Since 2018, there has been a 67% increase in the number of residents 62 years and older seeking homeless services.”

Hillsborough County’s PIT count was conducted on Thursday, Feb. 24 with the help of over 120 volunteers who canvassed the area. The count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and serves as a snapshot of homelessness in the county on a single night. Highlights from the collected data include:

- 4% decrease in unsheltered homelessness; 612 people to 588 people.
- 21% increase in family homelessness; 379 people to 458 people.
- 8% decrease in Veteran homelessness; 160 people to 147 people.

“Our community has shown great resilience in the face of the ongoing pandemic, but many challenges remain,” Hayes-Triplett further states. “Homelessness impacts the quality of life for everyone in our community. It is imperative for the community to be a part of the solution. Homelessness is a community problem that requires a community solution. It’s imperative for us to scale-up the initiatives outlined in the strategic plan.”

Noting the ongoing challenges Hillsborough County faces, the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative (THHI) are actively working towards long term solutions to end homelessness. One such solution is that of shared housing. Shared housing is a viable solution for many single people residing in shelters and homeless encampments. THHI is working on building several shared housing units, with three of the houses already established. The goal is to provide 50 units which in turn would house a total of 150 people. Additionally, THHI will remain focused on identifying and securing additional resources to replace the temporary pandemic relief funds that have until this point been used to address homelessness.

To schedule media interviews, contact Toiaya Crawford at toiaya@fifthavemgmt.com or call 813.203.7616.

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About Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative

The Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative (THHI) confronts the challenges endemic in tackling homelessness by creating and maintaining strategic synergistic relationships with federal, state, local, and private entities, through the utilization of metric-informed strategy, and through the implementation of best practices across the Continuum of Care. For more information, visit thhi.org.

*Data taken from System Performance Measures and other Homeless Management Information System reports

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