

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Donna Barron, City Manager  
**FROM:** Melinda Galler, Assistant City Manager  
**DATE:** March 14, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** **Approval of the City of Lewisville Joining the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team's 2020 strategic plan includes a goal to end veteran homelessness. City of Denton's Mayor Chirs Watts signed on to the challenge in October 2018. Mayor Watts along with the Denton County Homelessness Team has requested that the City of Lewisville join the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness which is a call to action for all mayors and other state and local leaders to publicly commit to making sure that every veteran who served America has a home in America. The goal of the initiative is to coordinate efforts among local, state and federal agencies to develop partnerships with cities to end homelessness in their communities.

To be recognized as having achieved the goal, communities must meet certain requirements laid out in the federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness, which are intended to help communities drive down the number of veterans experiencing homelessness to as close to zero as possible, while building systems that support long-term, lasting solutions. Staff has spoken to Gary Henderson, President and CEO of United Way, who explained that the City's joining of the Mayors Challenge does not mean that the City of Lewisville has to meet the standards alone, but that the City is part of the county-wide efforts led by the Denton County Homeless Leadership Team. Currently, Extreme Green is constructing transitional housing in Lewisville for female veterans. The home is located on College Street and will house up to six adults.

### **ANALYSIS**

The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team support staff is working with all Denton County communities to implement a plan to make the goal of ending veteran homelessness a reality. The collaborative county-wide efforts to address Veteran Homelessness included the launch of the Denton County Veterans Center in 2017, securing HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, and implementing a Coordinated Entry system so every person experiencing homelessness in Denton County can be identified and matched to appropriate services. The City of Lewisville contributed \$4000 to the Coordinated Entry position.

Denton County service providers continue to work to collaborate and implement Coordinated Entry to better identify people experiencing homelessness. As of the end of November 2018, the United Way estimated that there were 50 homeless veterans living in Denton County. This data

reflects a manageable number of veteran households experiencing homelessness in Denton County and a number that the communities in Denton County can work together to bring to zero by 2020.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The City staff recommends that the City Council approve the City of Lewisville joining the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness as set forth in the caption above.