

## **RESOLUTION 2014-02**

### **A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED CENTRALLY LOCATED VOLUSIA SAFE HARBOR TRANSITIONAL SHELTER TO DIVERT HOMELESS MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND SAVING MILLIONS OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Daytona Beach Shores recognizes that the Volusia County jail now serves as the receiving facility for homeless people involved in the criminal justice system who are arrested for minor crimes like trespass or intoxication and cost taxpayers millions of dollars for short jail stays that are expensive, ineffective and do nothing to address the underlying causes of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Volusia Safe Harbor Transitional Shelter is modeled after the successful Pinellas County Safe Harbor where homelessness has been reduced by eighty percent sparking successful economic revitalization of downtown St. Petersburg; and

**WHEREAS**, Pinellas Safe Harbor is opened 365 days a year, twenty-four hours per day and designed to stabilize individuals through a comprehensive and seamless system of care to transition from the shelter to more permanent housing, so it complements existing programs and coordination between law enforcement, behavioral health, social service providers, faith based organizations, medical services, and community partners replacing a fragmented, inefficient, expensive system that did not work; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost to incarcerate someone in the Volusia County Jail is at least \$70 per day and the Pinellas Safe Harbor houses people for less than \$13 per day; therefore diverting frequently arrested homeless people from the criminal justice system and with over 4,000 guests having stayed days or weeks with an average of 400 every night staying 47 days, and where ten percent came directly from jail or prison, fifteen percent were Veterans and less than ten percent were from outside their metro; indicating it is not a “magnet” for homeless people; and

**WHEREAS**, Volusia Safe Harbor would be a cost effective shelter and service headquarters for the criminal justice system involving the homeless, a reentry portal for inmates released from jail, and eventually, emergency shelter for any adult. If the facility was centralized, middle of the county, close to the jail with other complementing and supplementing existing services aimed at permanent placement eliminating homeless people wandering around from one feeding side or shelter bed to the next and provide one place to coordinate these efforts with existing Votran bus routes, courtesy rides from the police, and outreach teams providing transportation to the central location.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Daytona Beach Shores as follows:

**SECTION 1:** The City of Daytona Beach Shores supports the proposed centrally located Volusia Safe Harbor Transition Shelter concept to divert homeless men and women from the criminal justice system saving millions in taxpayer dollars.

**SECTION 2:** That the City of Daytona Beach Shores supports centralizing all existing services aimed at permanent placement toward eliminating homeless people in Volusia County.

**SECTION 3:** That the City of Daytona Beach Shores urges all the fellow local governments to support the Volusia Safe Harbor Transition Shelter and centralizing all existing services aimed at permanent placement toward eliminating homeless people in Volusia County as well as including request for ongoing funding in their legislative agendas.

**SECTION 4:** That the Florida State Legislature, especially the Volusia County Legislative Delegation, support the Volusia Safe Harbor Transition Shelter and assist in allocation of possible funding to make this a reality and resulting in the economic revitalization of downtown throughout Volusia.

**THE CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH SHORES**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Harry H. Jennings

**ATTEST:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager, Michael T. Booker

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk, Cheri Schwab

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney, Lonnie Groot

Passed and adopted upon first reading this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

Posted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.