

October 16, 2017

Re: Petersburg Housing Coalition

PHC has been meeting regularly since June 2017 to discuss the growing problem of homelessness in our community. A growing network of social workers, direct aid providers and concerned community members, our goal is to bring a wide variety of groups together to find solutions.

Homelessness is a chronic problem that does not go away on its own. Once a person is without long-term housing, intervention is typically required in order for them to get people out of that cycle.

It is already affecting Petersburg in a variety of ways, but our coalition is looking for data behind the stories being told by our medical, mental health, and social service experts. Our goal is to collect as much information as possible, as quickly as possible, so we can use it to help find long-term solutions.

Our coalition requests the Borough's assistance in collating information, namely by:

Asking the Borough Manager to collect the following from Borough department heads regarding what they're seeing, in their facilities and interactions with the public:

- Broken down by season, over the past year, please share if your department has been affected by what many direct care providers see is a growing population of people struggling with long-term, stable housing.
- If possible, any dollar amounts that can be attributed to the above mentioned issue as it affects your department.
- Any other information or questions the assembly has to add regarding this issue.

As the weather changes, we know people are subject to unfavorable and unhealthy living conditions. Thus, in addition, we request that you please

Ask the Borough Manager to prepare a list of any/all potential warming shelters for those living in the elements, including Borough-owned facilities or potential private partnerships that could be developed. We have our own leads that we're pursuing, but the thermometer is dropping quickly and could use any help we can get on the topic.

The above points are a few of the short-term goals of our coalition.

There is much more work to be done with the longer-term issue of preventing homelessness before it begins, and helping more Petersburg residents secure long-term, affordable housing. We're looking forward to more collaboration with the Borough Assembly as this volunteer coalition continues its work, and we welcome all potential partners and collaborators going forward.

Thank you for your time.

Chelsea Tremblay
Member, Petersburg Housing Coalition