



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-082

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: March 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Homeless Outreach & Resource Initiatives Update

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission of initiatives being implemented to expand supportive services for our unhoused population while optimizing the use of the Community Court facility.

The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division's Homeless Initiatives Team is partnering with local service providers to host an event series focused on long-term stability and wellness for our unhoused neighbors and those at risk of homelessness. The overarching goal is to offer viable pathways to independence by providing professional career coaching and employment opportunities, actionable housing and budget strategies, and essential mental health support. Each event is specifically tailored to connect this vulnerable population with vital services and resources needed to transition into stable housing while promoting healthy living.

February 2026 Outreach & Resource Highlights

Photo Identification Day – February 3, 2026

In partnership with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DMV), City staff hosted a Photo Identification Day at the Community Court facility. The DMV deployed its staff and equipment to issue photo IDs on-site. A total of fifty-six (56) participants attended, and twenty-one (21) received photo identification cards.

Access to photo identification is a critical step for individuals experiencing homelessness, as it enables access to housing, employment, healthcare, and other essential services.

Health and Wellness Day – February 6, 2026

In partnership with various community organizations, City staff hosted a Health and Wellness Day serving seventy-one (71) unhoused participants, along with seventeen (17) donor and partner organizations. Services included blood pressure screening, HIV testing, immunizations, oral health education, and mental health screening. This event supported early intervention, preventative care, and connection to ongoing supportive services.

Partner Organizations

- Broward Health Point Mobile Health Unit (HIV testing, social work services)
- Broward Addiction and Recovery Center (Blood pressure screenings)
- Broward County Department of Health (Immunizations)
- Nova University School of Dentistry (Oral health education)
- Broward County Human Services (Healthcare services, test & treat)
- Anuvia Medical Center (Community health and insurance services)
- Broward House (Housing and substance use treatment for individuals living with HIV)
- Fellowship Recovery Community Organization (Detox and substance use treatment)
- Taskforce for Ending Homelessness (Mental health screening, housing follow-up)
- Fountain of Youth (Health insurance, Medicare information)
- Area Agency on Aging of Broward County (Social services for adults 60+)
- Foot Forward Foundation (New and gently used sneakers and shoes)
- Greenhouse Church of South Florida (Bagged lunches)
- Ready for the World (Personal hygiene kits)

Donor Organizations

- City of Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency (Hygiene supplies)
- Broward Regional Health Planning Council (Personal protective equipment and giveaways)
- Mount Olive Development Corporation (Hygiene supplies)
- H.O.M.E.S., Inc. (Hygiene supplies)

All seventy-one (71) participants engaged with one or more partner organizations. Notably, fifty-eight percent (58%) of attendees were between fifty (50) and sixty-nine (69) years old.

Program Impact

- Fifty-one (51) participants took part in oral health education
- Forty-eight (48) engaged in substance abuse and detox services
- Forty-eight (48) connected with Broward County Human Services
- Forty-three (43) received blood pressure screenings
- Forty (40) engaged with the South Florida Institute on Aging
- Sixty-nine (69) participants received new or gently used sneakers

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Respondents expressed interest in repeating the event and recommended adding vision screenings, as well as information on diet and exercise to future offerings.

Upcoming Outreach & Resource Events

The following events have been scheduled to provide direct access to essential services:

- Job Readiness and Employment Fair – Friday, May 8, 2026
- Financial Literacy and Housing Readiness Workshop – Friday, August 7, 2026
- Mental Health and Self-Care Day – Friday, November 6, 2026

For additional information, please contact Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager at (954) 828-5391, or RadWilliams@fortlauderdale.gov.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
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