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Beverly Hills Hosts Volunteer Center for County-Wide Homeless Count

Beverly Hills, CA – The City of Beverly Hills hosted a “deployment center” for workers and volunteers participating in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) bi-annual homeless count. Designed to supply government agencies and service and housing providers with reliable estimates of the homeless population, the City provided a central meeting location in City Hall for training and communications, significantly easing efforts from previous years.

On Tuesday, January 27th between 7:00 pm and 1:30 am, 40 teams of volunteers counted the homeless in 33 census tracts across the Westside. Jim Latta, Human Services Administrator for the City was delighted with the last minute support of the Westside community. “We had planned for between 50-70 registered volunteers and on the night of the count over 150 individuals showed up to participate,” he said.

Members of the City of Beverly Hills’ Human Relations Commission and Human Services staff participated in the effort, including ride-alongs with the Beverly Hills Police Department and City partners People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) and the Step Up on Second outreach team from the Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP) program. The three local teams traveled throughout Beverly Hills to accurately count the homeless in the City to help define needs and direct resources.

"The City was pleased to provide a central location for the teams doing this important work across the Los Angeles region," said Barbara Linder, Chair of the Homeless Advisory Committee to the Human Relations Commission. "Data gathered at this event will help to better identify and assist those in need, and participation in these sorts of activities is a very positive way for our residents to develop knowledge and understanding of the plight of the homeless in our community."

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires local agencies to complete a homeless count every two years. The data is used to preserve the federal funds allocated to the region for homelessness by demonstrating the region’s need for resources, raising public awareness, accurately identify the needs of the homeless population, and measuring efforts to eliminate homeless and improve services.

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