

# ***FLC 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM***



## ***SARASOTA'S SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES AND NEW HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM***

***August 14, 2019  
Orlando, FL***

*Welcome to*

**FLORIDA**

**THE SUNSHINE STATE**



*Presented By*

**Marlon Brown**  
**Deputy City Manager**  
***Sarasota FL.***



## **QUESTION**

**What is Homelessness?**

## **SIMPLE ANSWER**

**Someone without a Home**



## QUESTION

**What does Homelessness  
Look Like Today?**



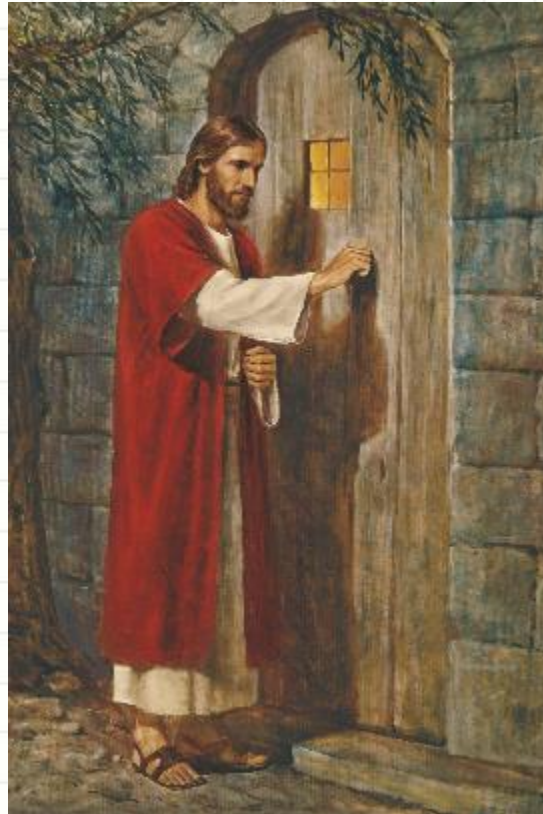
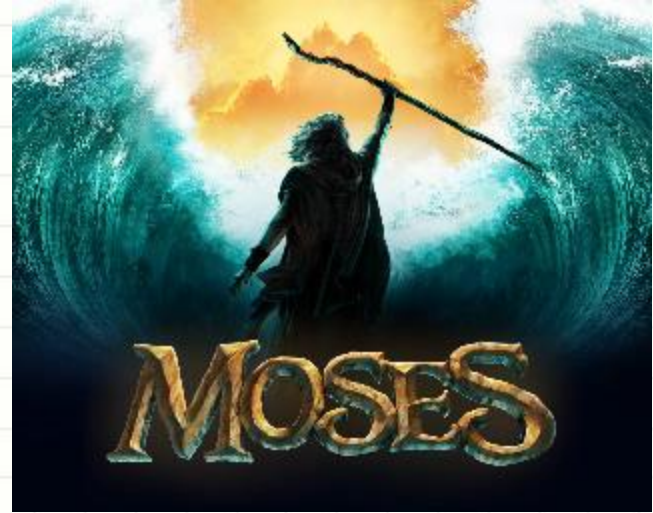




## QUESTION

**What did Homelessness Look Like Before?**







# **Famous People who were once Homeless**





## QUESTION

**What are the causes of Homelessness?**

## ANSWERS



**loss of loved ones  
job loss  
domestic violence  
divorce and family disputes  
depression  
untreated mental illness/substance abuse  
post traumatic stress disorder  
physical disabilities**



## QUESTION

**What are some of the solutions to Homelessness?**



## ANSWER

**Programmatic Vs. Band-Aid?**

*An approach to solving the problem?*

*Vs.*

*An approach that pushes it from one location to another or one that just masks it?*



## QUESTION

**What are some of the programmatic solutions to Homelessness?**



## ANSWER



Build public and political support

Develop a community plan to end homelessness

Housing with supportive services

***Increased Mental Health and Substance Abuse Funding***

Job training and better wages

Financial coaching

Better coordination among nonprofits

Stop Eating Fastfood 😊

**Be relentless!!**



## QUESTION

**How did the  
City of Sarasota**



**SUCCESSFULLY**

**REDUCE the VISUAL ASPECTS of  
Homelessness after being named  
the “Meanest City for  
Homelessness”?**



## Sarasota, Fla. named meanest city for homeless 01/13/2006

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Sarasota, which recently imposed a no-camping ban, is the **meanest city in the nation toward the homeless**, according to a national advocacy organization. Sarasota bans sleeping outside overnight without permission on public or private property.

[http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-01-13-homeless-cities\\_x.htm#](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-01-13-homeless-cities_x.htm#)



# The Washington Post

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Sarasota, dubbed the '**Meanest City in America**' by advocates a decade ago for its ordinances, has been the scene of one of the **fiercest and most anguished battles over homelessness.**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/homeless-say-booming-cities-have-outlawed-their-right-to-sleep-beg-and-even-sit/2016/06/02/7dde62ea-21e3-11e6-aa84-42391ba52c91\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.4fa8f79ab6d2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/homeless-say-booming-cities-have-outlawed-their-right-to-sleep-beg-and-even-sit/2016/06/02/7dde62ea-21e3-11e6-aa84-42391ba52c91_story.html?utm_term=.4fa8f79ab6d2)



**“All day, all night,** fights, drugs nonstop,” complains a city resident, who purchased and restored a property in the city.

“This year, seemingly overnight, people were living across the street,” another city resident complains. **“It’s ridiculous;** they have furniture. I’ve seen people having sex under blankets.”

The percentage of homeless people in the City of Sarasota is estimated to be as high as **six times** the national average.”

<https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2014/12/31/41465>



## Annual Report

■ 2,054 people were counted as homeless, an increase of 40% over the 2011 count.



# Homelessness Jumps in Sarasota, Manatee Counties.

<http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/homelessness-jumps-sarasota-manatee-counties#stream/0>



## 2015 HUD PIT

### County

	2015		2014	
	Number	Percent (%)	Number	Percent (%)
Manatee	724	34.66%	1069	47.89%
Sarasota	1365	65.34%	1163	52.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2232</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### City

	2015	
	Number	Percent (%)
Anna Maria	1	0.05%
Bradenton	676	32.36%
Palmetto	45	2.15%
Englewood	34	1.63%
Nokomis	27	1.29%
North Port	110	5.27%
Osprey	1	0.05%
Sarasota	1106	52.94%
Venice	88	4.21%
Other: Non-Incorporated	1	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Challenges





# ***Challenges***





# ***Challenges***





# 2019 HUD PIT

## PIT Survey Year to Year Comparison

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Rate of Change	
					18 vs 19	16 vs 19
<b>Total Homeless Count</b>						
Total	1468	1447	1192	<b>1135</b>	<b>-4.8%</b>	<b>-22.7%</b>
Sheltered (Emergency & Trans. Housing)	804	785	740	<b>735</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>
Unsheltered	664	662	452	<b>400</b>	<b>-11.5%</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>Sub-populations</b>						
Veteran	161	149	108	<b>110</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>-31.7%</b>
Chronically Homeless	311	285	250	<b>246</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>-20.9%</b>
Youth	121	121	115	<b>83</b>	<b>-27.8%</b>	<b>-31.4%</b>
Adults with Minor Children (Households)	79	74	76	<b>68</b>	<b>-10.5%</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>
<b>Geographic Identification</b>						
Manatee County (including City of Bradenton)	497	570	545	<b>541</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
City of Bradenton Only		328	340	<b>322</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>
Sarasota County (Including City of Sarasota)	971	877	647	<b>594</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>	<b>-38.8%</b>
City of Sarasota Only	632	429	351	<b>303</b>	<b>-13.7%</b>	<b>-52.1%</b>

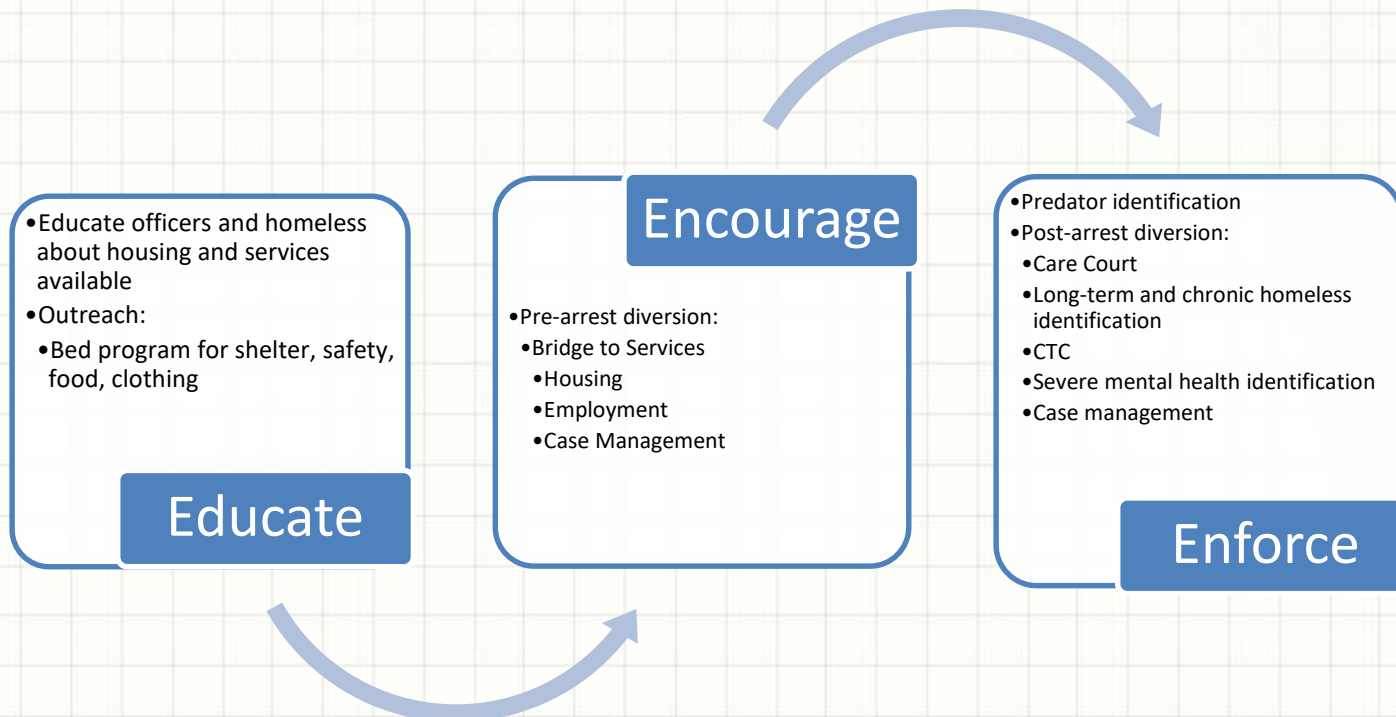
Source: 2019 HUD Point in Time Survey, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness







## Created The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) in **2014** *With the Three E's*





# Homeless Outreach Teams

## (Case Manager with Two Police Officers)





# Homeless Outreach Teams





# Bridge to Services

## HOT Beds



# Bridge to Services

Approx. **39%** of City HOT shelter bed entrants exited to a positive housing destination.







**In 2017 the City and County funded the development of  
“Creating an Effective Homeless Crisis Response System”  
by Florida Housing Coalition.**

**In April of 2017, the City and County Commission’s adopted the  
recommendations of FHC.**

**Since being adopted the efforts of all partners have been to accomplish  
the recommendations in the report.**

***Adopted a:***

**One by One Program**

# Positive early results seen in new Comprehensive Treatment Court

"Even though it's very premature to say for sure, it's assuring to get to this point and know we're having positive results," said Circuit Judge Erika Quartermaine, who reported initial data from the program at a meeting of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council Monday.

The program launched on March 1. During its first three months of operation, the program — which has a capacity of 25 at any one time and that filled within the first two weeks of operation — had 41 participants and a 68 percent success rate, with success defined as having a long-term plan for housing and mental health treatment and a source of income, either gainful employment or disability benefits.

The three-year state grant supporting the program, which has been matched by local nonprofit and governmental funding, calls for an increase in capacity to 35 next year and 40 in its final year. Quartermaine said she hopes by that time, the program will have data to support additional funding.

"After the first full year, we'll have a much better idea," she said. "It's hard to speculate, but I certainly believe that the cost savings will be obvious at that point. And we already have a 100 percent success rate in treating these people with humanity and giving them opportunities they would otherwise not have had."

# City, Local Agencies Collaborate to Start Homeless Court

This specialized court handles homeless individuals charged with minor criminal activity.

By [Staff](#) • 7/23/2019 at 1:17pm

Known as Community Care Court, cases are limited to homeless individuals charged with minor criminal activity within the Sarasota city limits, such as open container, trespassing, lodging out of doors, and public urination, may be eligible for this specialized court, which focuses on causes and solutions for homelessness. Individuals who volunteer to opt into the program may be diverted into available social service programs in the region's Continuum of Care and other service providers for mental health screening, drug/alcohol assessment, employment and housing opportunities. Community Care Court differs from Comprehensive Treatment Court (CTC) in that CTC is a jail diversion program solely for misdemeanor offenders with chronic mental illness.

# Sarasota's new Community Care Court helps the homeless



 [BUY PHOTO](#)

 [HIDE CAPTION](#)

City of Sarasota officials join representatives from the 12th Judicial Circuit Court, the public defender's office, Gulf Coast Community Foundation and the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness during a press conference Wednesday to announce early successes from the Community Care Court. [HERALD-TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTO / THOMAS BENDER]



# 2019 HUD PIT



Since the development of HOT programming in **2014**, we have seen a reduction in the homeless population:

- **1106 individuals in 2015 to 303 individuals in 2019.**
- **72% reduction** in the City of Sarasota.

## **Further Successes**

### **Sarasota County Fire Department reports:**

- **29%** decrease in calls from homeless individuals since 2016.
- **41%** decrease through June of this year



**“I don’t think  
(Sarasota) deserves  
that title anymore”**

**ACLU of Florida, regarding Sarasota’s “*Meanest City*”  
designation**

***The Mission – was NOT to end homelessness!***



*Attributed to MGM Studios*



# ***Florida funding for mental health***

- ***In 2010 Florida ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in total expenditures per capita for population.***

<https://www.governing.com/gov-data/health/mental-health-spending-by-state.html>

- ***In 2017 Florida had risen to on 41<sup>st</sup>.***

<https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/national-studies/funds-for-mental-illness-is-your-state-generous-or-stingy-press-release.html>

***With the closure of most psychiatric hospitals we believe that this has contributed to a homelessness problem***

# ***Florida funding for mental health***

Should the Miami-Dade County Homeless and Domestic Violence Tax be allowed to be implemented statewide?

Should it be expanded to include the possibility of a tax on recreational marijuana, if successfully passed?

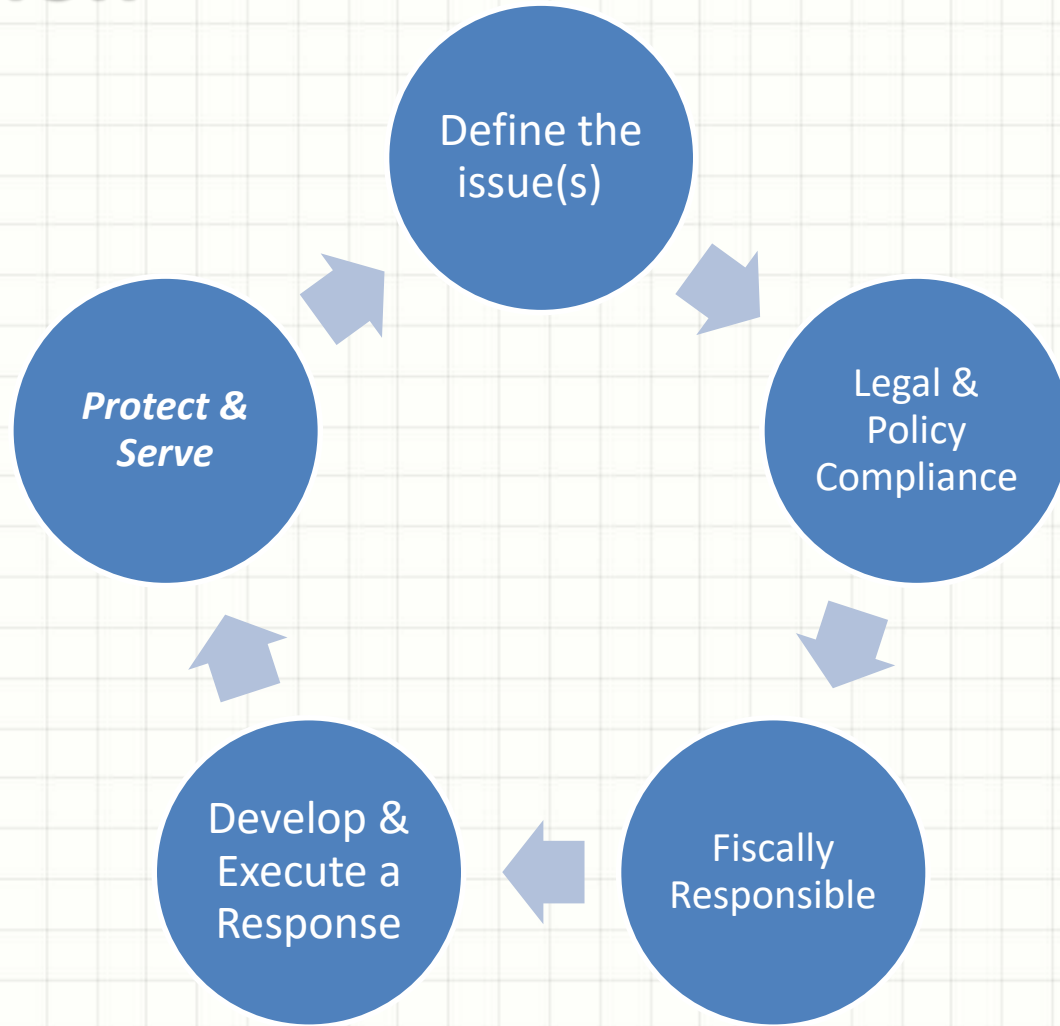
- A 1% Homeless and Domestic Violence Tax is collected on all food and beverage sales by establishments licensed by the State to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises, except for hotels/motels. Businesses with over \$400,000 in gross receipts annually collect this tax.
- 85% of the tax receipts goes to the Homeless Trust, and 15% goes to domestic violence centers.

# The Fourth "E"





# Accomplishing the **EVER-EVOLVING** Mission





*\*Use of these logos is for demonstration purposes only & does NOT indicate that these entities have endorsed SPD's program or presentation.*



# ***16<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Congressional Unit Citation Award 2016 & 2018***



<http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/local/sarasota-pd-honored-with-th-district-congressional-awards/article>





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
of CHIEFS OF POLICE

Serving the Leaders of Today,  
Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

# ***2017 IACP Leadership in Human and Civil Rights Award.***



**QUESTIONS?**

# THANK YOU!

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