



The Sheltering Tree
Flagler County Family Assistance Center, Inc.
First United Methodist Church
205 North Pine Street, Bunnell 32110

Post Office Box 1219
Bunnell, Florida 32110
386.437.3258 Ext. 105

June 27, 2019

Mayor Catherine Robinson
Vice Mayor John Rogers
City Commissioner Bill Baxley
City Commissioner Donnie Nobles
City Commissioner Jan Reeger
City Clerk Kristen Bates
City of Bunnell
201 West Moody Boulevard
P.O. Box 756
Bunnell, Florida 32110

Formal Appeal

RE: Public Hearing Case PZA #2019-21
Request for Special Exception permission to operate a cold weather shelter at
205 N. Pine Street, Bunnell, Florida

As operators of Flagler County's only cold weather shelter, we are writing to appeal Decision PZA#2019-21 from the Planning, Zoning, and Appeals Board. This decision is appealed under Section 2-86 of the City of Bunnell Land Development Code. We are respectfully requesting a reversal of this decision. The initial application was for a special exception for a cold weather shelter offering a safe and humane refuge from extreme weather. This is consistent with the public interest of the City of Bunnell and Flagler County.


The Cold Weather Shelter, operated by Flagler County Family Assistance Center, known as The Sheltering Tree, opened in direct response to critical community need. Persons who utilize the shelter include victims of domestic violence, individuals in temporary financial crisis, families living in cars, the chronically or temporary homeless, and the working poor. The shelter does not create or contribute to homelessness in Bunnell, either directly or indirectly.

For eleven years, the cold weather shelter has worked with public and private stake-holders to address, coordinate, and support community concerns. The Flagler County Family Assistance Center has no paid members or workers. The Center receives no government funds, national or local, and is exclusively funded by donations from Flagler County residents and businesses.

The volunteers who run the shelter do not want to see Bunnell and the county lose this invaluable community asset providing a warm and safe place for the poorest and most vulnerable people in our community who do not have a voice.

We respectfully ask the commission to reverse the decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Bickings".

Susan Bickings

Chair

Flagler County Family Assistance Center, Inc.

My address and contact information is:

6 Black Bear Lane

Palm Coast, FL 32137

386-503-0816

Commission on Homelessness

2019 Point-in-Time Count Report

Flagler & Volusia Counties

www.vfcontinuum.org

April 2019

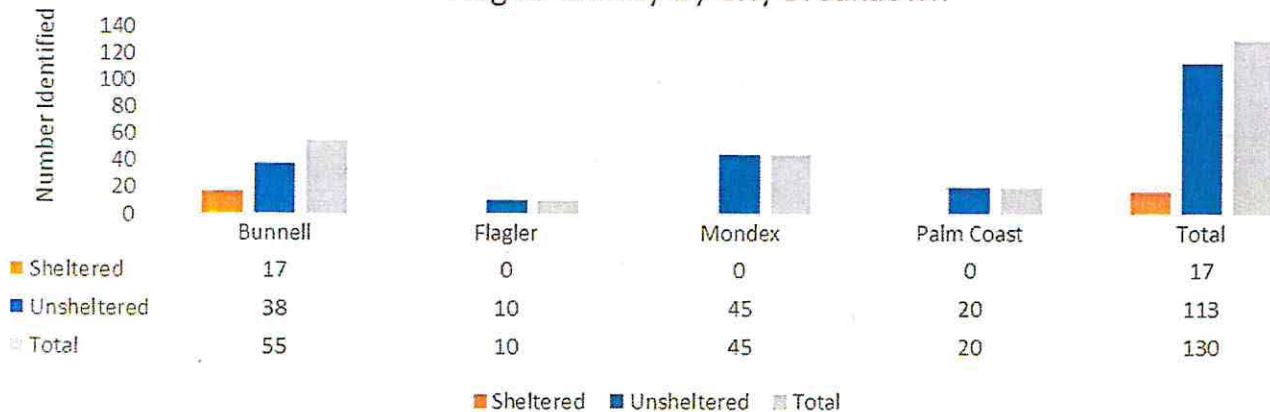
FL – 504 Continuum of Care Point in Time Count Total: 875

Point in Time Annual Trends



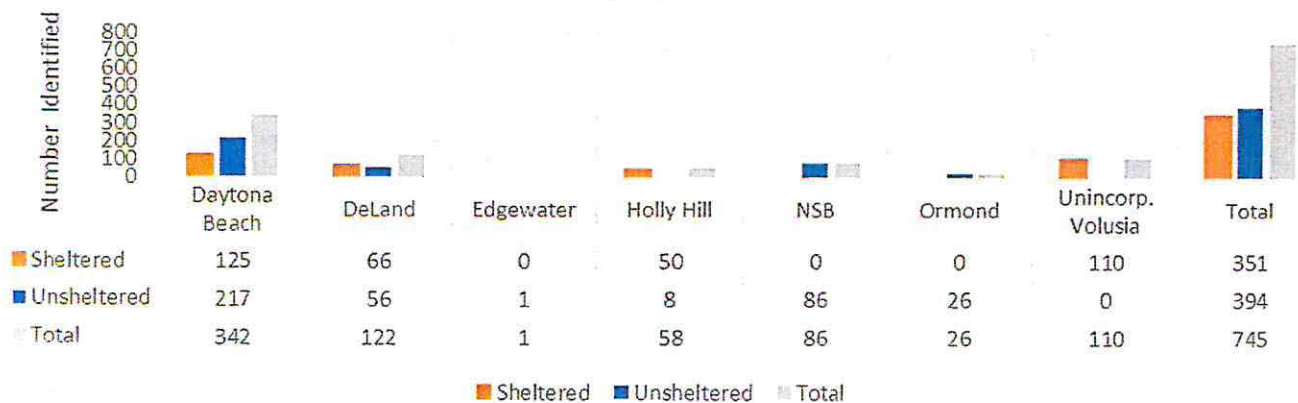
Flagler County Point in Time Count Total: 130

Flagler County by City Breakdown

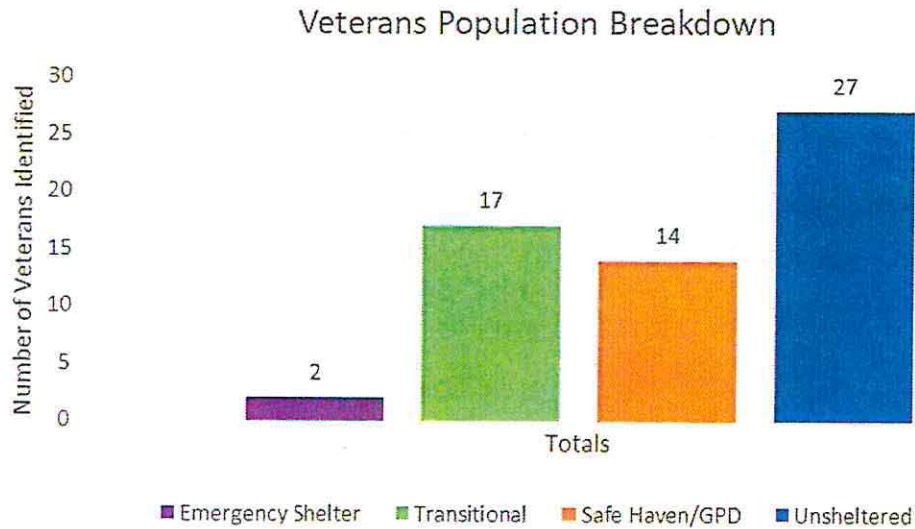


Volusia County Point in Time Count Total: 745

Volusia County by City Breakdown



Total Number of Veterans Identified During the Count: **60**



What else did we learn?

Top 3 Identified Causes of Homelessness

Employment/Financial Reasons: **31.6%**
Family Issues: **22.9%**
Medical/Disability: **12.3%**

Top 3 places survey participants reported sleeping at night

Woods/Camp: **33.4%**
Downtown Streets: **23%**
Vehicle: **8.7%**

Where did you live when you became homeless?

63.7% from the Flagler-Volusia Area
16.9% from elsewhere in Florida
17.8% from out of state

Top 3 Needs Identified

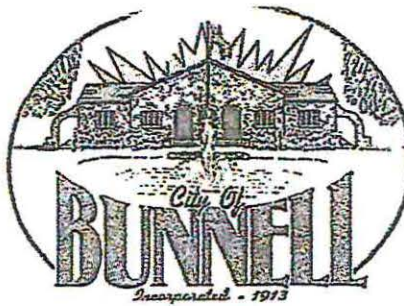
Shelter: **55%**
Affordable Housing: **54.5%**
Food/Meals: **49%**

Note: survey participants may have selected more than one need.

CATHERINE D. ROBINSON
MAYOR

JENNY CRAIN-BRADY
VICE-MAYOR

ARMANDO MARTINEZ
CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Crossroads of Flagler County

COMMISSIONERS:

JAMES E. FLYNT, SR.

DAISY M. HENRY

ELBERT TUCKER

November 3, 2009

Reverend Elizabeth Gardner
First United Methodist Church of Bunnell
205 North Pine Street
Bunnell, FL 32110

Dear Reverend Gardner:

On behalf of the Bunnell City Commission, please accept our gratitude for your compassionate outreach to those in need. Your offer of comfort could very well be the shining "light in the dark" to help those less fortunate through these difficult times.

You have set, and continue to set, a high standard of brotherhood and good will. We are certain you will be rewarded and remembered in the hearts of those you've helped.

Sincerely

CITY OF BUNNELL

Catherine D. Robinson
Mayor

Rodney Lucas

From: Kristen Bates
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Susan Bickings
Cc: Alvin B. Jackson Jr; Wade Vose; Rodney Lucas
Subject: RE: Receipt of An Appeal to PZA decision 2019-21

The City has received your written appeal. It will be scheduled for the next possible City Commission meeting. You will receive a notification letter telling you of the meeting date and time. If you need any other information at this time, please let us know. Thank you.

Kristen Bates, CMC
City Clerk
PO Box 756
201 W. Moody Blvd.
Bunnell, FL 32110
Direct Dial: 386-263-8808

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Bickings <bickings2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Kristen Bates <kbates@bunnellcity.us>
Subject: Receipt of An Appeal to PZA decision 2019-21

Dear Ms. Bates,
Today I hand delivered an appeal to the city commission regarding the PZA decision to close the Cold Weather Shelter. This appeal falls within the 30 day window allowed for appeals.
Please let me know by email that you received the letter from me, since I left it at the front window for you.
Thank you for your reply. You have been very efficient and helpful to our requests.
Sincerely,
Sue Bickings
Chair
The Sheltering Tree FCFAC