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Happy summer! Happy tsunami on homelessness! Austin saw lots of action related to homelessness this month.

First, let me announce that **Matthew Mollica** will be ECHO's next Executive Director starting August 1. Matt currently serves as VP of Housing Assistance with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, which has over 650 employees and provides direct health care services (through an FQHC) in addition to housing and homeless services. Matt previously worked as a housing coordinator in San Francisco - both roles provided substantive experience in addressing issues of homelessness in large cities.

- Matt has an MBA and experience with budgets, grants and blending funding from diverse streams to scale up services
- Matt has experience leading staff and managing teams
- Matt has been intimately involved with Denver's Pay For Success project. Denver is in year 4 of their project and is embarking on Pay For Success 2.0!
- Matt's deep understanding of discrimination and marginalization in the perpetuation of homelessness, and his belief in systemic

solutions add to his fit to lead in Austin

- Matt uses data for decision making and persuasion, and he has a high level of comfort with HMIS and a Coordinated Entry System.

The ECHO Board of Directors conducted a national search to find the right person to lead both our organization and our coalition at this time of so much opportunity and promise. While they had many strong candidates to consider, Matt's qualifications and passion help ease the pain for me as I leave ECHO and step into another chapter of leadership and service. Welcome Matt!

I will use the month of July to help transition ECHO for Matt's leadership. My role as executive director ends July 31 and then I will devote my energy to winning the Democratic primary for Travis County Commissioner Precinct 3. My new email address is annforcommissioner@gmail.com and my website is www.annforcommissioner.com Thank you for your hard work and support over the past 7.5 years. It has been my complete privilege to work along your side. Please stay in touch!

Good work continues to **End Youth Homelessness by 2020**. Hats off to LifeWorks for their leadership and to Caritas and SAFE for their partnership as we all work to connect youth to housing, jobs, education and whatever else they need to succeed!

Next, the Austin City Council has been busy! Their actions include:

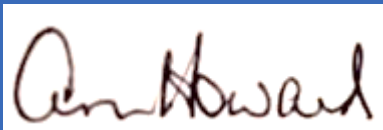
1. Approval to purchase of building near the intersection of Ben White & Bannister to become a housing focused shelter. While details are being worked out, the idea is that referrals come from the Coordinated Entry System and all clients will be connected to housing resources to create effective flow into the shelter and out to permanent housing.
2. Removal of an old exemption that allowed 400 lakefront properties to not pay City property taxes. Council voted to used \$3M to help address homelessness and childcare!
3. Modifications to the no camping and sit/lie ordinances so that it is no longer a violation to be sitting, lying or camping UNLESS you are blocking passage or causing harm to others. Council replaced the aggressive solicitation ordinance which was used to address

panhandling with a “aggressive confrontation” ordinance which can be used to address any intentional behavior that causes fear. Council listened to hours of testimony both for and against these changes. In conclusion, Council voted for the changes, but also instructed the City Manager to bring back a plan that addresses street homelessness and creates an effective policy for all of us sharing the street... business, families, visitors and people sitting, sleeping and even camping. We all know that means scaling resources for housing programs and we will work with the city on the right policy.

4. And last month, Council voted to pursue expanding the Convention Center in a way that brings life to the blocks it sits on and accommodates larger and different meetings. Part of the agreement is to create a Tourism Public Improvement District that uses a new hotel tax as a dedicated funding stream to fund homeless services and housing.

In July, the City plans to hire the first Homeless Strategy Officer who will work together with all of us to keep the City moving forward towards an effective end to homelessness in our community. Please thank Mayor Adler and all the Council Members for their work!

Have a great July and keep up the good work!



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