

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2013

A RESOLUTION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2013 AS HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

BY: COUNCILMAN JEFF EVERSON

WHEREAS, in America, a country filled with infinite promise, the continuing problem of homelessness is deeply disturbing; and

WHEREAS, the most recent available data estimates that there 633,782 people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. on any given night and that more than 1.6 million people spent a least one night in emergency shelter or transitional housing over the last year; and

WHEREAS, of the 633,782 people experiencing homelessness on any given night 239,403 are people in families and 394,379 are individuals; and

WHEREAS, the current economic recession and foreclosure crisis exacerbate the problem of homelessness and that the number of homeless individuals is projected to increase by 2% over the next year as the lingering effects of the recession and constant budget cuts continue to aggravate deep poverty levels; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 4,500 people experience homelessness each year in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Family Homelessness, reported that 43,488 children are homeless in Louisiana and Louisiana ranks 48 of out 50 for the extent of child homelessness, and 46 when measuring the risk level for families to become homeless; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 Providence House served 980 homeless people in 289 families including 573 children and 283 adults and could not serve 1031 other families due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana it takes wage of \$15 dollars an hour to afford a 2 bedroom apartment or 2 full-time minimum wage jobs for an adult; and

WHEREAS, adequate and permanent shelter is a basic need, and its absence has a deleterious effect upon physical and mental health, personal development, and the ability to exercise individual rights and obligations; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness is critical to the vitality of our community and we must commit ourselves to understanding the causes of homelessness and how to best serve those in the greatest need.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Shreveport in due, regular and legal session convened, that it hereby support all efforts to end domestic violence in Shreveport and proclaims November 2013 as Homelessness Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office