

C

RESOLUTION No. 81- 09

Defining "Homeless" for Polk County

WHEREAS, Polk County Shelters have provided 5,233 shelter nights (2009) to homeless individuals and families residing in our county; and

WHEREAS, Polk County has presently no local definition of homelessness and, therefore, these individuals are not recognized and in many instances are unable to receive appropriate services; and

WHEREAS, because Polk County has no local definition of homelessness, all county shelter programs are required to follow the rather narrow definition provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, HUD's definition does not include individuals that are residing in substandard housing or families temporarily living with family or friends due to a lack of permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that all shelter programs, including but not limited to, CRA, Northwoods Homeless Shelter and The Salvation Army, shall have the authority to use the local definition of homelessness where it exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors defines "homeless", for all legal purposes as families and individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. The term "homeless" includes:

- Families or individuals who are sharing the house of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, RV parks, campgrounds or doubled up with family or friends due to lack of alternative accommodations. Individuals living in other emergency or transitional housing or are abandoned in hospitals.
- Families or individuals who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Families or individuals who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Families and individuals that have received an eviction notice from their landlord and have 14 days or less to vacate their residence.
- Migratory families or individuals who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

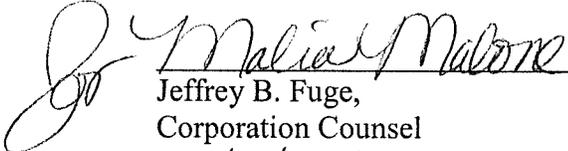
*Carried
by W*

C1

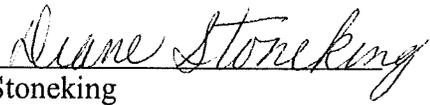
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of "homeless" as herein provided shall be used by all county shelter programs including, but not limited to, CRA, Northwoods Home Shelter and the Salvation Army where usage of a local definition is permitted.

Funding Amount: N/A Funding Source: N/A
Date Finance Committee Advised: N/A
Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A
Effective Date: Upon Passage

Date Submitted to County Board: November 10, 2009

Approved as to form: 
Jeffrey B. Fuge,
Corporation Counsel

County Board Action: adopted by voice vote

Submitted:

Diane Stoneking