For immediate release, March 30, 2020

Elgin Supports Temporary Daytime Shelter for People Experiencing Homelessness

Watch: *Mayor Kaptain and Pastor Abi discuss the newly opened temporary daytime shelter for those experiencing homelessness in Elgin.*

Mayor Kaptain announces partnership with New Life Covenant for temporary daytime accommodations

Elgin, IL - The City of Elgin has partnered with New Life Covenant Church to provide temporary daytime accommodations during these unprecedented times. The partnership comes at a time of increased demand for daytime shelter because many service providers are at capacity.

"Every individual in Elgin needs to be provided with basic necessities, especially when public facilities are closed and regular shelters have been forced to adjust their services and availability," said Mayor David Kaptain. "I am so grateful for New Life Covenant's ability and willingness to step in and take on this important role to provide services and refuge to our community during

this trying time."

The City will provide funding to New Life Covenant to assist in operations of the temporary daytime shelter, which offers a clean and safe environment for individuals and will be equipped with bathing facilities, cots and meals.

"Our mission has always been to be a church for the hurting. We have been saying all year, that it would be irresponsible for us to look away," said Pastor Abi Raices of New Life Covenant Church in Elgin. "It is only right that we convert our sanctuary into shelter for those needing refuge during the COVID-19 crisis."

Individuals in need can be picked up and dropped off outside the Elgin Police Department, located at 151 Douglas Avenue. Each day pickup time is 9:00 a.m. and drop off time is 5:00 p.m. Social distancing will be maintained on the New Life Covenant Church bus, and multiple trips will occur as demand warrants.

This action is consistent with the City's commitment to providing basic needs, like safe drinking water, food and shelter during the coronavirus pandemic. On March 20, Mayor Kaptain approved an emergency loan to Food For Greater Elgin to ensure the community has guaranteed access to food. In addition, in late 2019, Elgin City Council committed funding for a low threshold shelter in Elgin. Work continues with community partners to determine the feasibility and operational needs for such a shelter. During the 2019-2020 winter, New Life Covenant Church stepped in to manage operations of the emergency shelter at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Elgin, providing overnight shelter when cold weather posed threats to those experiencing homelessness.

Since the City learned about Governor Pritzker's Stay at Home Executive Order earlier this month, staff has been actively working with its community partners to make sure individuals experiencing homelessness have a safe place to go. The Elgin Police Department's social services team is providing assistance on an individual basis.

Staff has been in communication with Elgin area shelters that have shared their challenges in dealing with coronavirus, like being forced to reduce capacity in order to implement federal guidelines of social distancing.

Need help?
If you are experiencing homelessness and are in need of assistance, please contact the Elgin Police Department's Social Services Division Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m. at 847-289-2629. If you need assistance outside of those hours, contact the Elgin Police Department non-emergency line at 847-289-2700.

Want to help?
Supplies like masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes or sprays, liquid soap and water are needed and donations can be made by emailing Pastor Abi.

For more information, please contact Communications Manager Molly Gillespie at 847-931-5613 (O) or 224-762-0516 (C), or visit www.cityofelgin.org/coronavirus.

Subscribe for future updates

Watch for more news coming soon.