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May 21, 2019

Mr. Ron Olson
City Manager, City of Killeen
101 N. College Street
Killeen, Texas 76541

Dear Mr. Olson:

On behalf of the Families In Crisis, I am requesting the City of Killeen's support of the Friends In Crisis Homeless Shelter. The homeless are not just a responsibility of one organization, but rather the responsibility of the City of Killeen as and residents of Killeen and surrounding communities.

Families In Crisis was approached by the City to open a homeless shelter because it was the only organization with the capacity to operate the facility. At the time, it was indicated that the City would continue to provide support for the shelter, not only through CDBG funds but also through funds from the City, once the facility was operational. We have received some CDBG funds annually, but none from the City. As you are aware, because we shared our situation with the CDBG staff on May 7 and asked them to share it with you, the homeless shelter is temporarily closed effective May 18 due to loss of a grant and funding shortfalls. Our homeless persons who utilize the shelter are the ones suffering. We are aggressively pursuing funding from the citizens and organizations in Killeen to reopen within the next few weeks, month, or as soon as we have sufficient funds. Since we now have more than three years of operation, we are eligible to apply for some grants to which we did not have access previously, and we are actively pursuing them.

Because of the original commitment of the City of Killeen and the positive effects that the shelter has on the downtown area and the community, I am requesting approval for \$10,000 monthly. This is less than one one-third of the present operation costs and is believed to be reasonable and in the best interests of the City. With the number of persons placed in housing through our two shelters in Killeen, sales tax for items purchased and property tax on the client's rental residence provide funds to the City, and the results of getting individuals into housing lessens the City requirements of working with persons on the streets.

In addition to the monthly amount, additional assistance can be provided. As a result of the critical life saving services that we provide, the City could consider waiving the water, sewer, and trash fees for the homeless shelter. Since the City has annually had greater income than expenditures in the area of Public Works, it would be appropriate to not bill Families In Crisis for the homeless shelter for this year and future years in addition to the monthly commitment. For 2018, the charges were for the homeless shelter were \$12,673.

Addressing the gap in service to the homeless citizens of Killeen while relieving some of the cost and issues that accompany an unsheltered homeless population was the core objective when Families In Crisis and the City of Killeen began dialogue about this project which was originally

planned to be a joint, collaborative effort. Families In Crisis has kept and exceeded its commitment, but the City has not fulfilled its obligation as originally pledged.

For 2018, the average per night in the facility was 75.7 in its 78 bed facility. For the first four months of 2019, it has continued to average 75, and its clients number about 15% or 10-12 per night who are veterans. For 2018, we placed 511 in housing and provided housing assistance between the two shelters, the domestic violence shelter and the homeless shelter.

The financial requirement for the Friends In Crisis Homeless Shelter is \$30,000 per month, or about \$1,000 daily. The \$1,000 a day includes staffing for 24 hours each day, including staff on duty and security personnel when the facility is occupied from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. each day, staff for cleaning and disinfecting the facility when clients are not in the building to prevent disease or illness, and cooking staff who cook for more than 80 every day. It also includes the food and eating plates and utensils, individual hygiene items, air conditioning/heating, water and other utilities, and internal and external maintenance and upkeep of the facility. With 75 clients per night, the \$1,000 works out to \$13.33 per person each day. We have worked hard to make the facility cost effective as well as a safe, secure environment for those in need of it.

In operation since December 23, 2015, the homeless shelter, Friends In Crisis, is a 16 hour a day shelter for most individuals, with persons checking in at 3:00 p.m. and checking out at approximately 7:00 a.m. the next morning. Our case managers assist clients in planning their day and moving forward with their lives, including looking for a job. We serve an evening meal and provide a breakfast bar and/or fruit for their breakfast. We work with a number of other organizations to provide services to our clients with the mission to get them back on their feet and infused back into the community.

Because our mission is to house, support, and empower people, the operation of the shelter is costly. Just considering meals, the homeless shelter, with an average of 75 per night equates to 27,375 meals annually, and that does not include the breakfast accommodations each day. When you consider another daily task of washing 75 sets of sheets, pillow cases, comforters, and towels at the homeless shelter, it takes its toll on the washers and dryers, and that doesn't take into consideration the clothes that the clients wash. Utilities expenses to keep the facility comfortable for the residents is significant, and the commitment to provide enough staffing to address the needs of our clients is large.

Thank you for your consideration. As stated, our request is for \$10,000 per month and the waiver of City charges for water, sewage, and trash services for the homeless shelter is requested. The homeless are not just one organization's responsibility. We need the City to take some ownership.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at 254-466-3601 or contact one of our directors, William Hall or Suzanne Armour at 254-634-1184. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry W. Moehnke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Larry W. Moehnke, Ed.D.
Vice President, Board of Directors