

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2023 OF THE CITY LAKE WORTH BEACH,
FLORIDA, REQUESTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE PALM BEACH
COUNTY COLD WEATHER SHELTER POLICY, PROVIDING A
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of the City of Lake Worth Beach welcome their responsibility to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of our City's residents; and

WHEREAS, this responsibility is particularly acute regarding the most vulnerable in our community; and

WHEREAS, hypothermia, that is, loss of body temperature, can cause severe health problems, including death; and

WHEREAS, hypothermia can be lethal at temperatures well above freezing, with overexposure occurring even at air temperatures as high as 60 or 70°F, and with most cases occurring under air temperatures of 30 to 50°F; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness can have above average exposure to cold weather temperatures and are more likely to have risk-increasing cofactors for dangerous hypothermia; and

WHEREAS, incidents of hypothermia, including death, have already occurred among members the unsheltered homeless community in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of the City of Lake Worth Beach are for these reasons grateful to leaders and staff of the County of Palm Beach for providing cold weather shelters; and

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of the City of Lake Worth Beach have noted from experience the possibility of positive modifications to the County's policies regarding cold weather shelters; and

WHEREAS, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties to our south open their cold weather shelters when wind chill adjusted temperatures are predicted to drop below 50°F; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County policy currently only allows for opening county cold weather shelters when wind chill adjusted temperatures are predicted to drop below 35°F or below 40°F, unadjusted;

WHEREAS, advance notice of opening of cold weather shelters with a minimum of 24 hours facilitates logistics and improves hypothermia prevention; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County policy currently only allows for same day announcement of cold weather shelter openings at 11 AM on the day of shelter opening;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF LAKE WORTH BEACH that

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated into this Resolution as true and correct statements.

Section 2. The elected leaders of the City of Lake Worth Beach respectfully urge the Board of Commissioners of Palm Beach County to adopt the following potentially lifesaving policy changes in advance of the 2023-2024 Winter season:

- A) Revise the criteria for declaration of cold weather emergency and associated opening of county cold weather shelters to be based on National Weather Service 24-36 hour advance prediction of Palm Beach County wind chill adjusted temperatures of 50°F or below; and
- B) Revise the announcement procedure to declare cold weather emergencies and announce associated opening of county cold weather shelters with a minimum of 24 hours advance notice.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be transmitted to the Board of Commissioners of Palm Beach County upon passage.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

The passage of this resolution was moved by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Betty Resch
Vice Mayor Christopher McVoy
Commissioner Sarah Malega

Commissioner Kimberly Stokes
Commissioner Reinaldo Diaz

The Mayor thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted on the
_____ day of _____, 2022.

LAKE WORTH BEACH CITY COMMISSION

By: _____
Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, City Clerk