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1 **R2018-28: RESOLUTION UPDATING THE POLICY OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
2 **CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS, AND TO SUPPORT CERTAIN**  
3 **PROGRAMS IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS POLICY.**

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4 **Applicant/Purpose:** ECHO / New Directions / to update the City's policy on homelessness.  
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6 **Brief:**

- 7 • In 2011, the City adopted a homelessness policy (R2011-55) which led to establishing an  
8 umbrella organization, New Directions of Horry County, to manage homeless services.
- 9 • New Directions has been incredibly successful in satisfying their goal of supporting  
10 individuals actively trying to break their cycle of homelessness.
- 11 • Despite this success, as the region grows so does the homeless population.
- 12 • Many of the region's homeless population are now considered chronic homeless.
- 13 • Earlier this year an informal task force including board members of ECHO & New  
14 Directions was established to examine the 2011 policy & determine its effectiveness.
- 15 • The informal task force believes it is time to encourage ECHO & New Directions to work  
16 cooperatively w/ each other as well as other governmental entities, & supportive  
17 organizations to expand their services to help all homeless, including those who are  
18 considered chronically homeless.

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20 **Issues:**

- 21 • As an expression of Council's policy, proposed resolution suggests that City:
  - 22 • Encourage those agencies assisting the homeless to work together to provide  
23 support and help, regardless of the individual's reasons for homelessness.
  - 24 • Encourage coordinated & collaborative relationships with City, County, State, &  
25 Federal agencies, along w/ other charitable agencies & private sector so that all  
26 available resources are applied to transitioning the homeless to sustainable  
27 living arrangements.
  - 28 • Support activities & programs designed to assist those persons in our community  
29 who are homeless.
  - 30 • Support long-term housing options for those residents of the community who are  
31 or become homeless.
  - 32 • Support affordable housing options as a tool for reducing the future incidence of  
33 homelessness in our community.
  - 34 • Act to mitigate the effect of homelessness on our community & economy.

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36 **Public Notification:** Normal meeting notification.  
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38 **Alternatives:** Modify the resolution. Deny the resolution.  
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40 **Financial Impact:** Initially none. As time passes & the need continues to grow, the costs  
41 associated w/ addressing homeless are expected to rise. As these costs rise, all members of  
42 the community (corporate, other governmental entities, non-profits, religious institutions, &  
43 individuals) are going to be needed. The City is not able to do this alone.  
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45 **Manager's Recommendation:** I recommend approval.  
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47 **Attachment(s):** Resolution

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CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE POLICY  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE  
ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS, AND TO  
SUPPORT CERTAIN PROGRAMS IN  
FURTHERANCE OF THIS POLICY.

WHEREAS, homelessness is a serious issue, affecting nearly every community in this nation, including the City of Myrtle Beach, and Horry County; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes homelessness is a human condition and not a crime; and

WHEREAS, as reflected in the "The Horry County HOME Consortium 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan"; the causes of homelessness and chronic homelessness continue to be a focus for our community and region; particularly in the City of Myrtle Beach;

WHEREAS, City Council acknowledges that homelessness is a challenge that is not going to go away, and as the region continues to grow so too will the homeless population; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes homelessness has numerous root causes and, as is true in every City in this nation, no single or easy solution exists to "fix" this challenge; and

WHEREAS, City Council also recognizes the homeless can have an impact on our community and the local economy in general; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution R2011-51 City Council adopted a policy on homelessness, which led to the creation of New Directions of Horry County; and

WHEREAS, New Directions of Horry County has been extremely successful in helping those persons in our community who are homeless and who are actively trying to break free from the cycle of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes it is the right time for New Directions of Horry County to expand its services to include assisting all homeless individuals.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE MYRTLE BEACH CITY COUNCIL:

1. In light of the complexity of homelessness, it shall be the policy of the City of Myrtle Beach to:
  - Encourage those outside agencies assisting homeless individuals to engage in cooperative actions;

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- Encourage those agencies assisting the homeless to work together to provide support and help, regardless of the individual’s reasons for homelessness;
- Encourage coordinated and collaborative relationships with City, County, State, and Federal agencies, along with other eleemosynary agencies, and the private sector to ensure to the greatest extent possible all available resources are applied to transitioning the homeless to sustainable living arrangements;
- Support activities and programs designed to assist those persons in our community who are homeless;
- Support long-term housing options for those residents of the community who are or become homeless;
- Support affordable housing options as a tool for reducing the future incidence of homelessness in our community;
- Take active steps as necessary to mitigate the effects of homelessness on our community and economy.

SIGNED AND SEALED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

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BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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JENNIFER STANFORD, INTERIM CITY CLERK