

The City helping the homeless

The Bethlehem Gadfly coronavirus April 23, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on the coronavirus* 

PRESS RELEASE: City of Bethlehem Health Department April 22, 2020

Mayor Bob Donchez today announced that the City of Bethlehem has been actively working with community partners to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations, such as the homeless, are addressed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City recently received additional funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to support prevention, preparation and response activities related to COVID-19.

As part of the overall plan, the City's collaboration with New Bethany Ministries and Comfort Suites Bethlehem will provide hotel rooms for Bethlehem homeless individuals and families in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19 in the community. During this time, New Bethany Ministries will operate an additional transitional housing program to ensure that these families and individuals have a space to socially distance and self-quarantine as well as have access to consistent showers, hand washing and bathroom facilities.

A key goal of this initiative is to not only provide immediate housing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Bethlehem, but provide a more stable housing solution for these families and individuals after the pandemic as well. "It is during trying times like these that we will be judged by how we care for the most vulnerable among us," said Mayor Donchez. "Helping individuals and families with transitional housing is a priority to ensuring this virus doesn't spread throughout our most vulnerable populations."

"The Comfort Suites Bethlehem has always been a strong supporter of the community and we are glad to be able to offer our assistance during this crisis," stated Dave Urban, General Manager.

If you are a resident of Bethlehem and in need of this service, please contact New Bethany Ministries at (610) 691-5602 ext. 205 for evaluation and referral.