

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor

Office of Communications



PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Gray Extends Services to Help Protect District's Homeless in Dangerously Cold Weather

Protection of Life Drives Mayor's Efforts to Shelter Homeless Residents

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray will maintain the expansion of services for homeless residents based on National Weather Service projections of frigid air and wind-chill temperatures in the District through January 24. The expanded services include emergency shelters at designated recreation centers and warming buses located throughout the city.

These measures will continue through Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. or until the Cold Emergency Alert is deactivated by the District's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).

Extreme cold temperatures in the region threaten the lives of people who are homeless. Those most at risk for cold-related injuries, including hypothermia and frostbite, are referred to as "chronically homeless." On January 21, Mayor Gray and HSEMA Director Chris Geldart activated the city's Cold Emergency Plan. The activation will continue until the temperature, including wind chill, reaches at least 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

To request transport to shelter for persons in the District who are homeless and on the street now, contact the Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252, 202-399-7093 or 311. You can also request transport by e-mailing uposh@upo.org. Please include the time when the reporter saw the homeless person, the address or location of the sighting, and a description of the person's appearance.

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