

**A RESOLUTION of the Fort Wayne Common Council
to Recommend the City of Fort Wayne amend their policy on
Opening their Warming Stations to the Homeless Citizens
of Fort Wayne During the Coldest Times of the Year**

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Wayne is experiencing the coldest months of the winter season; and

WHEREAS, the homeless population within our community is at risk of hypothermia, often compounded by alcohol or drug addiction(s) which causes more rapid heat loss through vasodilation; and

WHEREAS, many of our homeless citizens have other comorbidities such as malnutrition, mental illness, inadequate clothing and underlying infections, that pose a higher risk of hypothermia and other cold weather-related illnesses, including infection from frostbite and pneumonia; and

WHEREAS, life threatening hypothermia can occur at 32 degrees Fahrenheit with the addition of wind chill (see Exhibit A) and precipitation, markedly increasing loss of body heat;

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless, in its report on Winter Homeless Services recommends opening shelters 24-hours a day to all those seeking shelter, when the ambient temperature is at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country and the District of Columbia have policies in place to open shelters to the homeless 24-hours a day when ambient temperature reaches 32 degrees or lower;

WHEREAS, statistics show that more than 700 homeless people die each year from hypothermia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Wayne presently activates its designated warming stations when the ambient temperature falls to 10 degrees Fahrenheit or below;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMON COUNCIL OF FORTWAYNE, INDIANA, RECOMMENDS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Fort Wayne opens its public warming stations when ambient temperatures fall to 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, notwithstanding the policies put in place by other agencies and/or organizations.

SECTION 2. That Common Council recommends to other agencies that operate warming shelters or stations to open their shelter or station at temperatures not lower than 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

John N. Crawford, Council at-large

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Joseph G. Bonahoom, Council Attorney