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Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:22 AM

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Slusher

Subject: PRESS RELEASE: PROPOSAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BREVARD

Good morning!

On yesterday, Monday May 16, I, Dontavious "Tay" Smith, submitted to the Brevard County Board of Commissioners and Charter Review Committee a strategic plan to end homelessness and the affordable housing issue here in Brevard.

The plan outlines a plan to create a program entitled, "Operation: Leg Up Brevard", to assist citizens with housing, transportation, health and education, and to become self-sufficient.

Attached is the proposal sent to Brevard Commissioners and the forwarded email I sent as well. Hopefully, this plan will catch the eye of those of you in this email to respond with some productive feedback to see this proposed program to come to fruition.

Thank You For Your Time,

~Tay

www.duhmayuh.com

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Dontavious Tay Smith <flanative_Cocoa321@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:25:33 AM

To: Dontavious Tay Smith <duhmayuh321@gmail.com>; Dontavious Tay Smith <flanative_Cocoa321@hotmail.com>; Tay Duh Mayuh <tayduhmayuh@gmail.com>; mike@mhflorida.com <mike@mhflorida.com>; Melissa Brandt <melissa.brandt@brevardfl.gov>; D1.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov <D1.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov> <D1.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>; D3.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov <D3.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov>; D4.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov <D4.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov>; kendall@meblawfirm.com <kendall@meblawfirm.com>; RobinLFisher66@gmail.com <RobinLFisher66@gmail.com>; marciajnewell@hotmail.com <marciajnewell@hotmail.com>; gingerjeweler2@gmail.com <gingerjeweler2@gmail.com>; btrettis@pd18.net <btrettis@pd18.net>; matt.nye@nyecorp.com <matt.nye@nyecorp.com>; Gabriel Jacobs <[gjacobson.attorney@outlook.com](mailto:gjacobs.attorney@outlook.com)>; rwhite345@hotmail.com <rwhite345@hotmail.com>; bjenk1017@aol.com <bjenk1017@aol.com>; coliver@rosswayswan.com <coliver@rosswayswan.com>; seschmitt@aol.com <seschmitt@aol.com>; chandlerjordin@yahoo.com <chandlerjordin@yahoo.com>; dneuman16@gmail.com <dneuman16@gmail.com>; vbluebker@gmail.com <vbluebker@gmail.com>

Subject: PROPOSAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BREVARD

Good Day Commissioners,

Hope all is well! Again, this is, Dontavious "Tay Duh Mayuh" Smith, and this morning I'm reaching out to those of you on the Brevard County Board of Commissioners and the Charter Review Committee to propose a strategic plan to end the homeless and affordable housing crisis we're in. I've been working on this proposal throughout the duration of my vacation in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil and Cartagena, Colombia. After receiving a plethora of phone calls and emails from citizens asking me, (as a potential County Commissioner for District 2), "what are my ideas and approaches to this serious issue", I felt it was my duty to come up with a plan that our underprivileged citizens can prosper from. But most importantly, as a participant living below the poverty line in Brevard County since graduating from FAMU in 2008 and running for Mayor of Cocoa twice, I understand the frustration and disappointment citizens are showing. Though I don't have the resources, manpower, nor the budget to allocate funds towards a project of this magnitude, Brevard County does.

I sincerely PRAY, that you understand the possibilities that this proposed program could not only have on our citizens in Brevard, but citizens around the United States.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you soon!

~Tay "Duh Mayuh"

Sent from Mail for Windows



DONTAVIOUS "TAY" SMITH

PROPOSES:

OPERATION: “*LEG UP BREVARD*”:

***A Proposed Program to End Homelessness and the Affordable Housing Crisis
Issue In Brevard***

PROPOSED FOR:

Brevard County Commission

Brevard County Commission Charter Review Committee

www.DuhMayuh.com

How do we approach the drastic problem of homelessness and affordable housing here in Brevard County, FL? While on vacation in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil and Cartagena, Colombia, my mind and heart could not leave Brevard and the thousands of underprivileged citizens homeless and affordable housing situation. Living below the poverty line myself since graduating college in 2008 and being at Commission meetings hearing citizens cry for help, has given me the expertise to understand poverty and the effect it has with delayed and denied opportunities in order to get a “*Leg Up*” in Brevard. So, I’ve come up with this proposed program to help our Brevard County citizens get a “*Leg Up*” and began to become self-sufficient. Hopefully, this outlined proposal to initiate the end of homelessness and the affordable housing crisis we’re facing will be a model for neighboring counties, the State of Florida, and even the United States to image after. To end homelessness in Brevard, we need an all hands on deck effort; meaning a county-wide approach between the public and private sectors to coordinate in delivering transportation, housing, education and health programs or initiatives to our citizens. The objective is, “*reaching back and pulling up your neighbor*”, which is the only way the underprivileged will get a “*Leg Up*” here in Brevard. Though, I don’t have the resources nor the finances to make this program effective, the Brevard County government does. It’s time to use a “common sense” approach to these tackle these issues.

To address homelessness, Brevard County government should take a coordinated approach to a county-wide response that is strategic and driven by accurate data. The use of county data about the needs of those experiencing or facing homelessness to inform citizens on how the Brevard government allocates resources, services, and programs is vital to how we sustain and implement ideas for the program to be a continued success.

“Operation: **Leg Up Brevard**: *A Proposed Program to End Homelessness and the Affordable Housing Crisis In Brevard*”, is simply a proposal to the Brevard County government and/or the Charter Review Committee to help eliminate poverty and promote “*the pursuit of happiness*” throughout the county, and creates policies and leniency through planning and zoning ordinances so the private sector can create affordable housing in Brevard. “Operation: **Leg Up Brevard**” is not a handout to struggling Brevard County citizens, rather it’s providing them a “*Leg Up*” to establish an adequate and sustainable form of livelihood through the proposed program’s resources. Citizens must be employed and/or receiving a secondary education in order for the program not to be considered a “*handout*”. This

proposed program will get citizens empowered, employed and equipped with the necessary tools needed to “pursuit happiness” in Brevard.

The Coordinated approach

The following are key elements in this “Operation: ***Leg Up Brevard***” proposal:

1. Establishing a Housing-Homeless trust fund¹
 1. This fund will help those living below the poverty line; who must meet 200% of the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ low income poverty guidelines and allowable and unallowable sources of income. This fund will help low-income individuals ranging from unemployed or underemployed college graduates, non-violent felons, single-families, migrants, the elderly and veterans.
 2. Resources allocated to this fund will come through, including but not limited to; establishing or allocating funds from a Medical Marijuana Dispensary and marijuana physician tax or fee to ensure a steady influx of revenues; a percentage of about 2.47% from the local gas tax; a percentage of about 2.15% from local tourism tax; about 3.45% from local construction tax; allocated funds from local municipal block grants, state and federal grants, private sector and wealthy individuals who are willing to risk a huge Reward on Investment.
2. Create “***Operation: Leg Up Brevard***” Voucher Program
 1. As a requirement for ALL participating citizens in this program, they must attend and complete a monthly 2-hour online training on Budget and Fiscal Management, Home Maintenance, and Social Engagement for a consecutive 6-months.
 2. Program will provide housing, transportation, education and health vouchers for participating citizens in “***Leg Up Brevard***” program.
 1. Vouchers will help low-income families and individuals pay for housing, transportation, education and health care in Brevard. (ie. U.S. HUD Section 8 Program)
 2. **Housing voucher:** Partner with developers and landlords to cover cost of participants rent ranging from 6-12 months. Depending on employment and income status.

¹ Per proposal from Charter Review Commissioner, Jordin Chandler, to establish a housing trust fund for workforce and vulnerable families in Brevard.

3. **Transportation voucher:** Partner with local car dealerships to voucher cars through “*Leg Up Brevard*” program. Provide SCAT bus transportation monthly vouchers to participants.
4. **Education voucher:** Provide an education voucher to assist participants in student loan relief and/or enrolling students in college.
 1. “*Knowledge Is Power*” program will offer potential students a 2-year degree at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) or online through Guild Education and Ulearn educational platforms, ensuring students can at least apply financial aid and obtain an Associates degree without the worry of cost.
5. **Health Voucher:** Participants will get 50% discount or FREE membership on general membership at any local participating gym throughout county.
 1. “Operation: *Leg Up Brevard; Body Right Health Initiative*”:
 1. Will provide access to participating gyms for participants
 2. Will allow Brevard County employees to receive a \$.25 raise annually for loosing and/or maintaining weight over the course of a year with no underlying health issues, and must not smoke cigarettes or tobacco.
 3. County will provide county-wide outdoor health workout stations².
3. Ensure “*Leg Up Brevard*” participants are employed and making adequate salaries through partnering employment service in Brevard, including but not limited to; Brevard Career Source and Florida Unemployment Assistance programs.
 1. In order for participants to become self-sufficient, adequate employment is key to ensuring citizens have a sufficient form of livelihood.
 2. Prioritizing “*Leg Up Brevard*” participants get employment opportunities to be successful program participants.
4. Create “*Finally Home Affordable Housing Initiative*”.
 1. Brevard County will donate land to developers who will create fixed-rate affordable housing projects county-wide for “*Leg Up Brevard*” participants and county employees.
 2. County to auction off shipping container, single-family, mutil-family transitional development housing projects throughout county, with assistance from state, local and

² Rio De Janeiro, Brazil outdoor health stations allows its citizens and guests workout for free and to build a physique for a healthier living.

- federal housing authorities (ie. HUD). Creating a safe, sufficient and green environment where home-ownership and the enjoyment of life is obtainable.
3. Provide some leniency to planning and zoning ordinances related to development of fixed-rate affordable housing in Brevard.
 4. Discount or waive fees for planning and zoning for developments under the proposed program.
 5. Reduce or remove minimum square footage requirements for houses and apartments.
 6. Create county-wide environments where affordable income and fixed-rate housing are available.

The proposed “***Leg Up Brevard***” program, will be a significant game changer for homeless and underprivileged citizens here in Brevard. The entailed coordinated approach is much needed and will address the needs of those facing or experiencing homelessness in Brevard, as well as give Brevard County employees a chance to get a “*Leg Up*” through this proposed venture.

The due process to get this proposal reviewed and/or inserted as an agenda item for the Commission and/or the Charter Review Committee is not my expertise, At the pivotal time we’re in, I hope the County Commission and the Charter Review Commission can see my vision, or any vision for that matter, for a non-homeless and affordable housing Brevard County.

Thank You For Your Time!

One Love,

~Tay “*Duh Mayuh*”





























