

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM IS LAUNCHED
BY FLATIRON PARTNERSHIP AND URBAN PATHWAYS

NEW YORK — The Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District, working in conjunction with Urban Pathways, has initiated its Homeless Outreach program.

“In accordance with our District Plan, the BID is pleased to launch its homeless outreach program through a contract with Urban Pathways,” said Jennifer Brown, the Flatiron Partnership's Executive Director. “Working with Urban Pathways, we hope to decrease the homeless population in the district by providing a team of trained outreach workers to provide ongoing assistance, program referrals, and shelter and housing options to homeless individuals in need of services.”

A two-person team provided by Urban Pathways began working in the district on Dec. 3, offering assistance to homeless in need of medical attention, treatment programs and shelter to those who request it.

Urban Pathways, which was formed in 1975, is a non-profit community-based service agency that provides assistance to the homeless by helping to add stability and independence to their lives, enabling them to eventually move off the streets and into permanent housing. Since 2005, it has been part of the Manhattan Outreach Consortium, a borough-wide group of agencies whose mission is to reduce the number of homeless.

Until March 31, the Flatiron district's Homeless Outreach team will be on duty from Monday to Friday, for a total of 20 hours a week. From April 1 to June 30, when warmer weather is expected to increase the homeless population on the street, the shifts will increase to 35 hours a week.

The team will operate under the direction of Jean Taitt, Urban Pathways' Director of Outreach, and report to BID management on an ongoing basis.

The current schedule calls for the team to be on the street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays; 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Tuesdays; 6:30 p.m. to midnight on Wednesdays; 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays.

Twice a month, a five hour Saturday/Sunday or special overnight shift will replace one of the regular five-hour shifts.

“We know through our own observation that our hard-core population of chronically homeless individuals are typically within the BID vicinity both day and night,” Brown pointed out.

She explained that nighttime hours are important both to coincide with the food drops that are made during those times and to reach the homeless who might come into the district only after dark to find places to sleep.

About the Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

The Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District (www.discoverflatiron.org) is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2006 by property owners, tenants, city officials and others with a stake in the community, an approximately 38-block area with borders extending from 21st Street to 28th Street and from Third Avenue to Sixth Avenue. The mission of the Partnership is to make a great neighborhood even better by making it cleaner, safer, and more beautiful through supplemental sanitation and security services, the promotion and marketing of the area's diverse offerings and undertaking additional neighborhood improvements.

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