



December 1, 2015

The Honorable Lawrence J. Morrissey
Mayor, City of Rockford, IL
425 East State Street, 8th Floor
Rockford, IL 61104-1014

Dear Mayor Morrissey:

Thank you for your commitment to ending Veteran homelessness. Your leadership—and that of your colleagues in the city of Rockford—has been instrumental as we work together to ensure that every Veteran in our country has a home.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Veterans Affairs are pleased to confirm that the city of Rockford has effectively ended homelessness among Veterans. We are confident that the infrastructure and systems you have built will ensure that any Veteran experiencing a housing crisis in Rockford will get the support they need to quickly obtain a permanent home.

On behalf of USICH and our Federal partners, thank you for answering the First Lady's call to action in the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. We recognize and appreciate your extraordinary team, and look forward to continuing our collaboration as we work to end homelessness for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Matthew Doherty".

Matthew Doherty
Executive Director

Cc: Ann Marie Oliva, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, HUD
Lisa M. Pape, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs, VA

Zero: 2016

from Community Solutions

December 15, 2015

Dear Mayor Morrissey, Shelton Kay, Ron Clewer, Jennifer Jaeger and Angie Walker,

Congratulations!

This letter confirms that the Rockford, Winnebago & Boone Counties Continuum of Care has achieved Functional Zero on veteran homelessness, according to the standards adopted by the 75 communities participating in Zero: 2016.

In reaching this milestone, you have proven and documented that fewer veterans are now experiencing homelessness on your streets and in your shelters than your community is routinely housing each month. You have identified these veterans by name and proven your monthly housing performance using a rolling, 6-month average. You are measurably ensuring that, from now on, homelessness among veterans will be rare, brief and non recurring.

This achievement marks a major milestone in our [Zero: 2016 initiative](#), a movement of 75 communities across the country working to do whatever it takes to end veteran and chronic homelessness by the end of next year.

When you applied for Zero: 2016 you agreed to push forward on implementing best practices in supporting all of your homeless veterans into housing: building a local team, optimizing your resources, establishing and working from By Name Lists of all people experiencing homelessness, reporting your housing placements monthly to track your progress, and now, celebrating the work you've done to change your system.

You are leaders in this work and we celebrate you and stand with you to maintain the momentum for ending chronic homelessness in your community next.

Onward!



Beth Sandor
Director, Zero: 2016
Community Solutions

P.S. It is with special pride that I note you are the first community in America to receive this certification. Your achievement will set a powerful example for other communities to follow as they pursue a measurable end to veteran homelessness. Congratulations!