



TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

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Mayor Robert D. Parisi Commits to End Veteran Homelessness in West Orange

The goal of the 'Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness' is to eradicate Veteran homelessness by 2015

September 9, 2014 -- West Orange, NJ – Mayor Robert D. Parisi has committed to end Veteran homelessness in West Orange by 2015. The Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness aims to pool federal, state, and community resources to assist homeless Veterans in securing permanent housing and the services that will help them stay in their homes. Mayor Parisi joins more than 200 mayors and other elected officials across the country that are working to ensure that every U.S. Veteran has a place to call home.

"We need to let the brave veterans who have served our country know that they will never be forgotten," said West Orange Mayor Parisi. "I am honored to join mayors from other New Jersey towns in this fight to end veteran homelessness."

The Mayors Challenge is a White House initiative launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in June, bringing together the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USCIH), and the National League of Cities. Together, these federal agencies are working with local partners to strategically target resources like HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers that fund housing and social services for Veterans. Other key resources include financial assistance and job training through local providers that receive federal funding from the federal Continuum of Care program.

"HUD welcomes and applauds Mayor Parisi's commitment to ending veteran homelessness in West Orange by 2015," said Holly Leicht, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey. "The brave men and women of the military, who have given so much to protect our lives and liberty, deserve to have a place they can call home. Through the Mayors Challenge, all levels of government are joining forces to make sure that they do."

"HUD's New Jersey office is prepared to provide support and guidance to Mayor Parisi and his staff to assist West Orange in reaching this important goal," said Maria Maio-Messano, HUD New Jersey Field Office Director. "With increased focus on West Orange's



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Veteran homeless population, together we can ensure that the men, women, and families that need this vital support will soon be in a stable home environment.”

Later this year, HUD anticipates awarding approximately 10,000 new HUD-VASH vouchers nationwide to build upon significant progress toward ending Veteran homelessness. Since 2008, more than 59,000 vouchers have been awarded, and 43,371 formerly homeless Veterans are currently in homes of their own thank to the HUD-VASH program. Rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation’s Veterans.

Since 2010, when the federal government launched Opening Doors, a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, there has been a 24 percent reduction in homelessness among Veterans. This reduction has been achieved through a partnership between the Obama Administration, local governments, non-profits, and the private sector. Through this final push, the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in America is within reach.

To learn more about resources for local Veterans experiencing homelessness, visit <https://www.onecpd.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-veterans/>.

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