

**HOMELESS SERVICES ANNOUNCES 2013 REDUCTION IN STREET HOMELESSNESS;
DECLINE OF 28 PERCENT ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGHES SINCE 2005**

Ratio of street homeless individuals to City's general population remains one of the lowest of any major municipality in the country.

City and MTA will extensively expand subway outreach throughout system

New York City's Department of Homeless Services today announced the 2013 HOPE survey results with a 28 percent decline in street homelessness since 2005. Based on information gathered from the survey, Homeless Services estimates that 3,180 homeless individuals were living on the streets, parks, and in other public spaces of the City this January, a decrease of 1,215 individuals since the estimate was first conducted Citywide in 2005, and 82 fewer individuals than 2012. Since 2005, New York has experienced a 62 percent reduction in individuals living on City surface areas. Subway results demonstrated a challenging increase from 845 individuals in 2005 to 1,841 in 2013 and in comparing this year to last, an augmentation of 207 people. Overall, however, the ratio of street homeless individuals to the City's population as a whole - 1 in 2,662 - remains one of the lowest of any major city in the country.

While outreach to individuals in the subways can be arduous, an aggressive, new strategy change will ensure the entire 468 subway station system is covered, with added focus on the ends of the lines, outreach teams on moving trains, and expanded hours in an all-encompassing and proactive new strategy. The City of New York and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority have agreed to develop an innovative subway outreach initiative, and work jointly to judiciously expand efforts throughout the system.

"Our goal is to reach as many street homeless people as possible," said Homeless Services Commissioner Seth Diamond. "City outreach teams are compassionate and tenacious, and their work makes the difference in thousands of lives by building relationships and connecting people with housing. We will break down barriers together and get many more street individuals to say 'yes' in the future and come indoors."

In the City's new approach to homeless individuals on subways, the Department of Homeless Services will assume responsibility for all trains, stations and ends of the lines, while the MTA will maintain accountability of its commuter rail properties, including Grand Central Terminal and Pennsylvania Station. This new approach will allow for higher quality, more integrated outreach services, with greater data sharing. As with surface areas, it will be a performance-driven system, with ambitious targets to place homeless clients into housing. New York City holds itself accountable for addressing unsheltered homelessness in a manner unlike any other city.

"The MTA and the Department of Homeless Services' effective partnership will deliver enhanced outreach services to individuals in every area of the subways," said Cynthia Wilson, manager of MTA Homeless Outreach Services. "By vastly increasing resources for homeless persons in the subways, we will bring greater services and develop more relationships to advance our goal of placing homeless individuals into housing and improving their lives."

In September 2007, Homeless Services redesigned its outreach efforts in an attempt to significantly increase the number of street homeless persons placed into housing. More than 3,800 chronically street homeless individuals have since been housed. With outreach teams mobilized 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, across all five boroughs; specialized low threshold housing, with smaller, more private facilities and fewer regulations

that the street homeless population is more likely to accept; and targeted funding to ensure that resources reach the individuals most in need, New York City is a national leader in investing in persons living on the street.

Homeless Services utilizes the City's 311 communications system to deploy street outreach services through every day citizens. By calling 311 or using the 311 app when a homeless individual appears to be in need of assistance, any New Yorker can dispatch an outreach team to that person and help them move indoors. Homeless Services relies every day on New Yorkers to be the City's extra eyes and ears. Each month, outreach teams respond to hundreds of 311 calls to aid homeless individuals.

For detailed information on the methodology and results of this year's HOPE survey, please visit Homeless Services' website at www.nyc.gov.