



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BOARD OF ALDERMEN CITY OF ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

LEWIS E. REED
PRESIDENT

ROOM 232, CITY HALL
1200 MARKET STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2873
(314) 622-4114

January 10, 2019

Irene Agustin
Director of Human Services
City of St. Louis
1520 Market, 4th Floor #4065
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear Irene,

This morning, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Watch for our area starting Friday at noon and lasting until Sunday. The potential for severe winter weather is possible this weekend with heavy snow expected.

Per our City website, winter outreach and shelter operations are only implemented for the City when *nightly* temperatures are forecasted to fall below 20 degrees or 25 degrees with precipitation. This weekend, the weather forecast shows that temperatures will not fall below 25 degrees, yet there will be significant snow. Due to the expected snowstorm, I am requesting that that the City adjusts the policy outlined on the website, and implements Winter Outreach and Shelter Operations for this weekend and begin the Winter Outreach and Emergency Shelter Process as outlined on the City's website, regardless of the temperature.

I urge and implore you to reevaluate the current policy of only entering into winter outreach and shelter operations when the nightly temperature falls below 20 degrees.

Many cities utilize a procedure called, "Code Blue," that puts winter outreach efforts into effect when the temperature falls below 32 degrees, wind chill below 0 degrees or when there is an ice storm, freezing rain or greater than 6 inches of snow. If this policy was in place in St. Louis, we would be in winter outreach mode right now.

Knowing that low temperatures and participation are likely this weekend, I am interested in knowing plans to help the unhoused and homeless populations, not only this weekend, but for the rest of the winter months, as well as the possibility of reevaluating the temperature standards for what prompts the winter outreach process. I appreciate your work. It's going to take all of us working together to make a change.

Sincerely,

Lewis E. Reed
President to the Board of Aldermen