



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Morrissey to Attend White House Veterans Homelessness Summit; Facilitate Panel with Formerly Homeless Veterans

ROCKFORD, Ill. – Mayor Larry Morrissey, and Jennifer Jaeger, community services director for the City of Rockford Human Services department, will join First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden today at the White House for the Joining Forces Veterans Homelessness Summit, a convening of community leaders from across the country for an afternoon of panels and breakout sessions designed to celebrate the successes and share best practices to continue the work of the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. The Joining Forces initiative calls on Americans to rally around service members, veterans and their families, and support them through wellness, education and employment opportunities.

An opening ceremony with remarks from First Lady Michelle Obama begins the summit, followed by a panel with formerly homeless veterans that will be facilitated by Mayor Morrissey. Morrissey was invited to facilitate the panel due to Rockford's efforts and achievement in ending veteran homelessness.

In December 2016, the City of Rockford was recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the national nonprofit agency, Community Solutions, as the first community in the national Zero: 2016 movement to reach functional zero and effectively end homelessness among local Veterans. The City of Rockford was also recognized by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness for successfully completing the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, an initiative led by First Lady Michelle Obama. Rockford's Homelessness Continuum of Care is led by Jaeger as part of her work in the City's Human Services Department, which serves as the Community Action Agency for Winnebago and Boone Counties. The Continuum includes numerous public and private organizations and was instrumental in achieving and sustaining success.

"It's an honor to accept the invitation from the First Lady to participate in today's Capstone event to discuss our efforts and share best practices that helped Rockford achieve this important goal," stated Mayor Morrissey.



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The summit will continue with breakout sessions and an armchair discussion with Secretary Castro, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Secretary McDonald, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and concludes with a Joining Forces reception.

"Ending Veterans Homelessness seemed impossible at one time. But by accepting the First Lady's Challenge, and working to leverage resources from the VA, HUD and our local community, we have been able to create personalized solutions for each Veteran. We have demonstrated to the nation that this can be done and we have sustained success over the last year. I'm incredibly proud of this work and honored to be a part of it."

The summit is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. and will be streamed live at www.whitehouse.gov/live.

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