

September 29, 2016

Re: Florida Homeless Bill of Rights

To Whom It May Concern:

The South Florida Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild would like to offer its strong endorsement of the Florida Homeless Bill of Rights. This is a vital piece of legislation to advance the interests and rights of the most at-risk residents of our state: people experiencing homelessness. For too long, Florida cities and counties have approached the problem of homelessness only through criminalization. This mean-spirited view does nothing to address the root causes and is counter-productive.

The Homeless Bill of Rights represents a thoughtful attempt to push back against this criminalization. It constitutes a humane and enlightened tool to ensure that whatever resources a municipality or the state determines it wishes to dedicate to the eradication of homelessness, the most basic rights and dignities of these fellow members of our society will be protected.

Hopefully the dedication of more resources and employment of more effective strategies will soon stem the tide of homelessness in Florida, as they have in other communities. But until that time, a Florida Homeless Bill of Rights is imperative to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness are treated with compassion, dignity, and respect. Accordingly, we strongly urge the Florida legislature to adopt the Florida Homeless Bill of Rights.

Sincerely,

Dante P. Trevisani, Esq.
President, South Florida Chapter of the National
Lawyers Guild