

## Administration

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Flagler County takes action to improve difficult situation of the homeless

**March 5, 2019** – Flagler County is taking action that will improve the difficult living situation for the homeless camped behind the main branch library on Palm Coast Parkway while complying with the notice served by the City of Palm Coast Code Enforcement to clear the property of litter, debris, vegetation, and potentially life-threatening hazards.

Beginning Saturday, March 2, the county issued a “notice to vacate” to the residents living behind the library – offering up the county-owned campsite at Russell Landing, assistance getting there, and transportation to and from the west side park location and a central location in town. Notices were handed out individually, and 15 were posted strategically on site, as well as within the library.

The site at Russell Landing offers running water, electricity, toilets, a shower, and a sink.

“Most of the homeless living behind the library are in tents, and this is the largest group camping setting we have with a shower and restroom,” said General Services Director Heidi Petito, under whom parks fall. “This is not intended to be a permanent solution, but it will improve health and safety issues for the homeless while we work toward a public-private partnership that will be permanent.”

In the notice to vacate, Flagler County has asked those interested to have their belongings ready to move by 10 a.m. Thursday. Individuals can take smaller items on the bus. Larger property and tents will be loaded by the owner into an enclosed trailer for transport to Russell Landing.

“We are making every accommodation we can think of to help our homeless,” Petito said. “We are moving people with their pets, and following all the rules that apply to animals in our parks.”

After the move, bus runs will be made daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. but individual transportation will be provided on a case-by-case basis to those with gainful employment or doctor’s appointments that fall outside that window.

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