

Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations (COHHO)

2009 Hyperthermia Comments

To: Neil O. Albert, City Administrator
Clarence H. Carter, Director, DHS
Laura G. Zeilinger, Deputy Director, DHS
Patricia Handy, Homelessness Services, DHS
Chapman Todd, Chair, Operations & Logistics Committee,
DC Interagency Council on Homelessness
Councilmember Tommy Wells, Chair, Committee on Human Services

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations (COHHO). COHHO is a diverse group of non-profit organizations and individuals in the District of Columbia who have a common goal of ending homelessness. A list of organizations that are current COHHO members is attached.

COHHO has been at the forefront of gathering data and monitoring information about cold and heat alerts during hypothermia and hyperthermia seasons.¹ Exposure to extreme cold or extreme heat can result in death, and for homeless persons the risk of exposure to such extreme temperatures is a daily reality. For this reason, COHHO and its members have developed a system for tracking the daily weather conditions, the alert status, and the nightly census in the city contracted emergency homeless shelters.

During the 2009 Hyperthermia Season (June 1 through August 31), there were only 9 days on which the temperature or heat index reached or exceeded 95°F, the statutory standard for calling a hyperthermia alert. On 2 of these days alerts were not called. Ten alerts were actually called during the Hyperthermia Season, 3 on days when neither the temperature nor the heat index reached 95°. By comparison, there were 21 days on which the temperature or heat index equaled or exceeded 95° in 2008 and 18 alerts called. The attached chart shows the temperature and heat index and other weather conditions for each day, and the days on which alerts were called.

¹ COHHO or its member organizations have reported on extreme weather for more than seven years. COHHO's reports are intended to amplify, not replace, reports prepared by or for The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness.

The attached chart details the number of persons and families using the City's emergency shelters each night, broken down by gender. The chart also shows under the column labeled "Overflow" on which days there were 'overflow' persons in any men's or women's shelter (persons in excess of the number of beds in any given shelter), and the number of such persons. Finally, under the column labeled "Capacity", the chart shows when the total persons equaled or exceeded (by number) the capacity of the system. For families, we chose 160 Family Units as capacity because it was the number given on the daily census when the number of families in shelter was 160 or less. The capacity figure in the daily census actually increased on each day that the number of families exceeded 160 by the amount of the excess.

The men's shelters as a whole were at or exceeded capacity on 2 nights.

On 15 nights, one or more men's shelters experienced an overflow in that shelter. The overflow at one shelter was as many as 7 persons on one night.

On 17 nights, women's shelters were at or exceeded capacity. There were 73 nights (**79%**) on which there were 5 or fewer empty beds in the women's shelters.

One or more women's shelters had an overflow on 18 nights.

On 43 nights (47%), including each of the last 6 of the Season, family units equaled or exceeded 160 (capacity). Even though the 2009 Hyperthermia Season was cool and had relatively few alert nights, the number of families using the shelters was **significantly greater** than last year. For example, the minimum number of families on any night in 2008 was 109, in 2009, it was 145. The maximums were 126 in 2008 and 163 in 2009. This is a **30%** increase.

System wide, there were 1845 total persons in shelters at the end of the Hyperthermia Season compared with 1800 at the end of the 2008 Season, even though the summer was cooler and nightly total usage for most of the Season was less in 2009. This gives us concern that the capacities planned for the upcoming Hypothermia Season, even though expected increases were taken into account in planning, will be insufficient.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tulin Ozdeger
COHHO CoChair

Melvin Watkins
COHHO CoChair

	High	Low	Hum	Prec	H.I.	Alert	Total	Men	Women	F.U.	F.P.	Overflow	Capacity
6/1/2009	74	55	72%	0	74	N	1762	926	342	146	494		
6/2/2009	90	63	89%	0	91	N	1799	942	350	149	507	W1	
6/3/2009	84	67	93%	1.5	86	N	1784	929	348	150	507	W1	
6/4/2009	64	60	93%	0.28	71	N	1836	977	346	146	513		
6/5/2009	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	1811	973	348	145	490	M7	
6/6/2009	74	61	90%	Trace	76	N	1683	842	349	145	492		
6/7/2009	80	60	93%	0	81	N	1771	929	351	145	491		
6/8/2009	85	66	90%	0	87	N	1780	952	353	146	475	W1	W1
6/9/2009	85	64	90%	0.89	88	N	1806	963	352	146	491	M2W1	W
6/10/2009	83	64	93%	0.45	86	N	1832	983	352	148	497	M5W2	M3W
6/11/2009	81	69	92%	0.26	84	N	1815	964	354	148	497	W2	W2
6/12/2009	86	71	81%	0.02	87	N	1719	880	342	148	497		
6/13/2009	85	70	78%	0	86	N	1731	885	349	148	497		
6/14/2009	82	68	83%	Trace	80	N	1770	921	352	148	497		W
6/15/2009	82	66	86%	0	82	N	1797	958	351	146	488		
6/16/2009	76	66	89%	0	78	N	1822	978	356	146	488	M1W4	W4
6/17/2009	68	62	88%	0.06	68	N	1833	992	354	146	487	M12W2	M12W2
6/18/2009	79	67	93%	1.03	82	N	1792	946	352	149	494		W
6/19/2009	84	64	84%	0	86	N	1745	904	347	149	494		
6/20/2009	89	72	93%	0.39	94	N	1740	897	347	150	496		
6/21/2009	79	70	75%	Trace	80	N	1778	932	350	150	496		
6/22/2009	85	68	75%	0	86	N	1791	942	349	151	500		
6/23/2009	85	67	72%	0	86	N	1807	953	352	151	502	W2	W
6/24/2009	87	67	81%	0	86	N	1757	915	352	148	490		W
6/25/2009	91	69	72%	0	87	N	1783	930	352	152	501		W
6/26/2009	89	72	84%	0.16	94	N	1791	908	351	158	532	W1	
6/27/2009	84	70	70%	0.38	84	N	1767	883	352	158	532		W
6/28/2009	77	68	78%	Trace	78	N	1847	962	353	158	532	W2	W1
6/29/2009	86	66	86%	0	84	N	1834	946	353	159	535	W1	W1
6/30/2009	85	66	86%	0.02	85	N	1855	963	352	160	540		WF
7/1/2009	84	67	90%	0.04	84	N	1793	912	345	159	536		
7/2/2009	80	66	93%	0.06	81	N	1794	903	346	161	545	W1F1	F1
7/3/2009	78	64	67%	0.02	77	N	1702	812	348	161	542	F1	F1
7/4/2009	84	63	80%	0	83	N	1719	840	337	161	542	F1	F1
7/5/2009	73	66	70%	Trace	74	N	1787	902	348	161	537	F1	F1
7/6/2009	85	63	86%	0	84	N	1820	932	347	160	541		F
7/7/2009	88	67	83%	0	86	N	1822	930	351	160	541		F
7/8/2009	81	66	60%	0	80	N	1838	950	350	160	538	W1	F
7/9/2009	82	64	75%	0	81	N	1816	926	350	160	540	M1	F
7/10/2009	81	64	80%	0	79	N	1729	841	348	160	540		F
7/11/2009	84	67	83%	0.01	86	N	1687	794	351	161	542	F1	F1
7/12/2009	90	71	87%	0	88	N	1788	893	353	161	542	W1F1	W1F1
7/13/2009	88	70	56%	0	87	N	1831	935	353	161	543	W1F1	W1F1
7/14/2009	85	64	54%	0	81	N	1845	957	350	160	538	M1	F
7/15/2009	88	65	68%	0	87	N	1825	937	350	160	538	M5W2	F
7/16/2009	96	73	73%	0	95	N	1804	920	352	159	532	M3	W

	High	Low	Hum	Prec	H.I.	Alert	Total	Men	Women	F.U.	F.P.	Overflow	Capacity
7/17/2009	85	73	81%	0.13	88	N	1701	829	344	158	528		
7/18/2009	83	68	83%	0.01	81	N	1731	859	342	158	530		
7/19/2009	83	62	74%	0	82	N	1800	924	346	158	530		
7/20/2009	84	70	78%	Trace	83	N	1834	966	345	157	523		
7/21/2009	86	71	73%	0	85	N	1840	969	348	157	523		
7/22/2009	90	70	89%	0	91	N	1826	960	349	155	517		
7/23/2009	87	70	87%	0.56	92	N	1828	957	348	157	523		
7/24/2009	86	68	89%	0	87	N	1755	887	345	157	523		
7/25/2009	91	70	87%	0.07	93	N	1727	859	345	157	523		
7/26/2009	91	70	86%	Trace	93	N	1804	931	350	157	523	W1	
7/27/2009	88	72	90%	Trace	90	N	1829	951	349	159	529	W1	
7/28/2009	92	71	87%	0	95	N	1832	950	349	160	533	W1	F
7/29/2009	87	76	87%	0.05	91	N	1842	959	348	161	535	F1	F1
7/30/2009	89	72	90%	0.05	91	N	1818	934	350	163	534	W1F3	F3
7/31/2009	90	71	87%	0.13	97	Y	1763	889	345	160	529		F
8/1/2009	89	70	89%	0	94	N	1727	851	344	161	532	F1	F1
8/2/2009	83	70	90%	0.43	87	N	1783	907	347	161	529	F1	F1
8/3/2009	87	71	93%	0	88	N	1796	916	349	160	531		F
8/4/2009	90	72	81%	0	93	N	1826	943	350	161	533	M1F1	F1
8/5/2009	90	73	78%	0	93	N	1815	932	350	160	533		F
8/6/2009	79	71	88%	0.12	80	N	1785	902	349	161	534	F1	F1
8/7/2009	86	64	72%	0	82	N	1782	897	348	161	537	F1	F1
8/8/2009	87	69	75%	Trace	87	N	1726	844	348	160	534		F
8/9/2009	96	73	87%	0	99	Y	1790	907	349	160	534		F
8/10/2009	97	76	83%	0.23	102	Y	1840	947	348	163	545	M1F3	F3
8/11/2009	93	74	90%	Trace	100	Y	1842	956	347	160	539		F
8/12/2009	87	75	75%	Trace	89	N	1826	948	349	159	529		
8/13/2009	87	73	84%	Trace	88	N	1809	926	350	160	533	M1	F
8/14/2009	87	72	90%	0	88	N	1752	875	346	160	531		F
8/15/2009	89	72	87%	0	91	N	1736	861	344	160	531		F
8/16/2009	92	71	83%	0	91	N	1784	908	345	160	531		F
8/17/2009	91	72	87%	0	93	N	1836	954	351	160	531	M1	F
8/18/2009	95	74	81%	Trace	99	Y	1817	940	349	160	528	M2	F
8/19/2009	88	76	88%	0.13	94	N	1843	964	351	158	528		
8/20/2009	94	74	90%	0	101	Y	1821	944	349	159	528		
8/21/2009	95	73	88%	0.1	101	Y	1784	911	347	159	526		
8/22/2009	84	72	93%	1.19	90	Y	1756	885	345	159	526		
8/23/2009	89	69	88%	0	89	Y	1785	908	351	159	526		
8/24/2009	87	70	72%	0	86	Y	1839	958	350	158	531		
8/25/2009	86	68	83%	0	87	N	1843	969	347	159	527	M3	
8/26/2009	92	71	86%	0	93	N	1842	960	349	161	533	M1F1	F1
8/27/2009	91	72	81%	0	92	N	1816	935	348	160	533		F
8/28/2009	79	71	90%	0.13	82	N	1812	929	347	161	536	F1	F1
8/29/2009	87	73	93%	0.07	89	N	1771	889	346	161	536	F1	F1
8/30/2009	85	72	84%	0.01	84	N	1798	913	349	161	536	F1	F1
8/31/2009	76	64	62%	0	75	N	1845	961	351	160	533		F

