

To Members of Council,

I am writing in strong support of continued funding and a contract extension for 519Pursuit and its outreach work in our community.

As someone who has volunteered directly with 519Pursuit, I have seen firsthand the critical role outreach plays in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our city. Outreach is not an abstract service—it is real, immediate, and often life-saving. It connects people experiencing homelessness with basic necessities like food, clothing, and hygiene supplies, while also building trust and creating pathways to housing, healthcare, and long-term supports.

Many individuals living unsheltered do not access traditional services due to barriers such as past trauma, mental health challenges, or systemic gaps. Outreach meets people where they are—literally and figuratively. Without it, many would be left completely disconnected from the supports they need to survive.

Organizations like 519Pursuit also play a key role in reducing strain on emergency services. By addressing needs early and consistently, outreach helps prevent crises that would otherwise result in increased use of paramedics, emergency rooms, and policing resources. In this way, funding outreach is not only compassionate—it is also practical and cost-effective.

At a time when homelessness is increasing and becoming more visible in our community, reducing or destabilizing outreach services would be a step in the wrong direction. The need is growing, not shrinking. Stable, predictable funding allows outreach teams to plan effectively, build relationships, and deliver consistent support.

Investing in outreach is an investment in community well-being. It reflects a commitment to dignity, safety, and proactive solutions rather than reactive measures.

I urge Council to approve continued funding and a contract extension for 519Pursuit so that this essential work can continue without interruption.

Thank you,

--

Ben Fraraccio