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Wake County Moves Forward with Center to Help Homeless

The Wake County Board of Commissioners today approved the \$1.2 million purchase of a property in downtown Raleigh that will function as a one-stop shop to help people experiencing homelessness get on the path to securing permanent housing. The multi-service center, which will be known as Oak City Center, will help people experiencing homelessness address the circumstances that are causing them to struggle. The ultimate goals are to reduce the length of time people are homeless, and to prevent people from moving in and out of homeless situations.

“As many as 5,000 people in Wake County experience homelessness over a year’s time, and right now, no place exists where they can access all the resources they may need in one single location,” said Sig Hutchinson, board chairman. “Oak City Center will help the most vulnerable members of our community find permanent housing, secure medical care, receive employment training and get back on their feet.”

The center will offer services such as:

- Comprehensive assessments of individual needs;
- Mental health assessments and referrals;
- Support services for veterans;
- Access to showers, laundry and other basic needs;
- Specialized employment trainings and educational opportunities; and
- Weekend meal distribution.

A joint effort with local communities, the City of Raleigh and local non-profits, the Oak City Center will be located at 1430 S. Wilmington St. The project’s total estimated cost is between \$7.6 and \$7.8 million, with the City of Raleigh contributing \$3.148 million for development and construction.

Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2018 and be completed in approximately one year.

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