



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager *S.H. Howard*

FROM: Dianna Grey, Homeless Strategy Officer *Dianna Grey*
Kimberly McNeeley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department *Kimberly McNeeley*

DATE: July 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Sanctioned Encampments, Resolution No. 20210506-070

On May 6, 2021, Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20210506-070 directing the City Manager to provide information and analysis regarding possible designated encampments for people experiencing homelessness in the City of Austin. This memorandum serves as an update on staff efforts since the last [update](#) on July 1, 2021.

City Sanctioned Encampment Locations

After careful consideration and vetting of City-owned properties, staff has identified the following two sites as locations that meet most of the previously identified criteria for use as a legally designated encampments. Both properties are owned by the City of Austin, are being held for future creation of affordable housing, and could be used temporarily until that development takes place. Note that both of these locations would likely require rezoning, temporary or conditional use permits, or other entitlements to allow for prefabricated structures that can be inhabited. Often called micro-shelters, the prefabricated buildings can be assembled within a few hours. Both locations would be fenced and include 24/7 staffing if utilized as a temporary designated encampment.

Preliminary Site #1: 3511 Manor Road, District 1

Opportunities

- Near retail amenities (at Mueller) and bus lines.
- There is a Hike and Bike path in close proximity.
- The front entrance provides effective traffic and site control. It is also large enough to accommodate larger vehicles.
- Utility infrastructure is in place to meet needs for electricity, water and wastewater where portable shower and bathroom units could be connected.
- The site itself is approximately three acres in size. The number of potential residents would depend on structures chosen and layout of the site.
- There is fencing around the property.
- The site includes about 15-20 covered parking spaces, sheltered by a metal roof structure.

Preliminary Site #1: 3511 Manor Road

Opportunities continued...

- The site includes five shipping containers that have been climatized to include AC window units. These containers could have multiple uses, including office and storage.

Challenges

- Wildfire risk will need to be mitigated.
- The nearest fire hydrant is 2000 feet from site.
- Condition and structural soundness of the fencing, parking structure, and other infrastructure will need to be assessed, and some repairs will be needed.
- The existing structure is not usable due to asbestos and demolition may be advisable to make most efficient use of the site.
- Site would require appropriate entitlements and permitting.

Preliminary Site #2: 4011 Convict Hill Road, District 8

Opportunities

- Access to amenities and bus line are approximately 5 to 15 minute walk away.
- Area has enough space for a camp and facilities.
- The site has space for self-contained portable restrooms and showers (these would require servicing and water and wastewater capacity).
- Existing building could allow for access to utilities.

Challenges

- Distance to the city center may require supplementary transportation resources.
- Will require fire mitigation.
- No fencing is currently present.
- Adequacy of water and wastewater lines to back portion of property is unknown.
- Site would require appropriate entitlements and permitting. Location in the Barton Springs area means that site plan waiver may not be possible.

Community Engagement/Outreach

If the sites remain under consideration, staff will initiate a community engagement process in August and will include opportunities for residents to share their feedback via community meetings and surveys via SpeakUp Austin!

Next Steps

City staff remain committed to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community. Staff continues actively pursuing steps to prepare these sites for Council consideration.

A briefing to Mayor and Council is scheduled for the City Council Work Session on July 27, 2021 to provide more information regarding staff's on-going efforts.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
CMO Executive Team
Ken Snipes, Austin Resource Recovery