Homelessness Encampment Initiative

Health & Human Services Commission Meeting
February 13, 2019
Issues of Concern

• Public Safety:
  o Storm Water Conveyance
  o Flood Risk to Homeless Individuals

• Environmental Impacts

• Impact on WPD Resources:
  o Cost
  o Employee Safety and Morale
WPD given resources to address homeless encampments:

- $250K per year/four years
- Increase capacity – contract for clean-up:
  - Pilot 9 hot spots
  - Model best practices
- Service-oriented approach
- Limits on use of Drainage Utility Fund
- Cross-functional interdepartmental team:
  - Establish SOPs
  - Guide implementation of pilot projects
  - Participating organizations:
    - WPD PARD APD ARR DACC EMS
    - Integral Care PATH Team (Programs for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness)
Why Do People Live in Encampments?

Perceptions of Safety

“I stay away from others. I try not to communicate because they either need something or steal from me when I am gone.” - William

“I won’t go Downtown no more. I stopped going when I was assaulted” - Elena

Staying Clean and Sober

“That place is for drug addicts and people with mental issues.” - Jaime

“Especially here [ARCH], too dangerous. Too many drugs and fights. Not worth it. Have to start all over if you get stuff stolen.” - Andres

"It sucked...because there are a lot of drugs" (Coordinated Assessment at ARCH) – Elena

Lack of Appropriate Services

“Just knowing that we [my family] are all together [makes a good spot to park or camp].” - Sean

“Angel- My Dog [is my family].” - Sean

"No place for family to be. Getting into housing is harder as a couple.” - Kaia and Ethan
Support WPD mission areas while minimizing harm to homeless population?

Good ideas come together across departments:

- **Human-centered design**
  - Office of Design and Delivery, I-Team
- **Leave No Trace (LNT)**
  - Parks and Recreation
- **Meeting** people and their needs where they are
  - Integral Care PATH Team
  - Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate</th>
<th>Prioritized</th>
<th>Deprioritized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe risks to human safety</td>
<td>Moderate risks to human safety and environmental quality</td>
<td>Low risk to human safety and environmental quality</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PATH/HOST - Outreach and offer emergency shelter</td>
<td>PATH and Integral Care Case Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies: Document storage bags</td>
<td>To meet immediate needs and support move</td>
<td>To support Leave No Trace principles</td>
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<td>Trash Removal Timeline: 72-Hour Notice</td>
<td>30-Day Notice</td>
<td>Self-sort, regular pick-up at designated spot</td>
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<td>Goal: Mitigate an emergent risk</td>
<td>Mitigate moderate environmental health and safety risks and connect resident to services.</td>
<td>Provide services in-place and connect to permanent housing while improving environmental quality.</td>
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• Minimize human impact through the application of seven principles.

• Protect environmental quality, support a safer and healthier experience for everyone using the land.
# PARD LNT Scoring System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description of Camp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Immediate threat to life, health, and safety: Sanitation concerns, obvious illicit activity, violent behavior, and lewd conduct</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Blocking access to amenities and/or Damages to Assets: Blocking ADA access, amenities, playscapes, or directly on trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Environmental Concern: Large furniture, cutting and removal of vegetation, within water ways or flood prone areas, large quantities of trash, cutting of vegetation, fire dangers, improperly disposed hypodermic needles</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Clean, Safe Camp: These are model camps, we would work to help find more permanent solutions but are not a priority police action or immediate eviction</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Abandoned Camp: Clean by contractor, available staff, cleared by volunteer groups revegetate to prevent reentry where possible continue to monitor</td>
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WPD Action Items

• Contract in place to assist with Immediate or Prioritized sites
• Notification Protocols
• Personal Property
• Mental Health First Aid Training
• Testing Leave No Trace principles on a deprioritized site
  – No blockage of conveyance or creating erosion
  – No history of complaints
  – Proximity to trash pick-up sites
  – Willing and capable participants
Testing services and Leave No Trace at a deprioritized site:

• Since engaging, they have a case manager through Integral Care
• Completed a coordinated assessment to wait for housing
• Receiving healthcare services
• Removing trash in and around encampment
• Working to improve cooking and heating solutions at the site
• Money saved mitigating trash
Path Forward

• Evaluate pilot program – lessons learned
• Learn and expand cleanup contract
• Continue to monitor deprioritized site and collect data on Leave No Trace and service connection.
  o Start trash collection
• Implement the contract
• Test 30-Day Notice plan

Future Consideration

• Scaling 30-Day Notice and Deprioritization strategies
• Distinguishing between urban and rural encampment needs
• Infrastructure changes to culverts where we can daylight
Questions?

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