

**Internal Task Force on Homelessness
Teleconference Meeting Agenda
October 29, 2020
2:00 p.m.- 3:00pm**

I. Welcome & Purpose

A brief hello and introduction from each participant.

City Manager's Office - Amanda Lee, Sylvia Solis Daniels, Kaitlyn Elliott-Norgrove
City Attorney's Office - Walter Chung
Engineering - Kim Cruz
Exodus - Noelani Dizon-Oathout, Emily Ludwig
Economic Development -Delilah Langan
Code Enforcement - - Derek Clemente, Jessica Farrell
Stormwater - Jon Nottage, Jennifer Nowaczewski
Sheriff's Department - Al Gathings
Public Works - Chris Arce
Recreation - Rob Anderson

- Introduction to Emily, Social Worker from EXODUS. Newly from Missouri, so she is eager to learn about resources, community, etc. She has connected with SDSO and CODE, too.
- Introduction to Jennifer from STORMWATER. She will coordinate trash compliance program. State regulators passed requirements for local govts to prevent trash from entering creeks and other watersheds. City receives credit when waste is removed. Previously worked for Orange County. Grand Jury for Santa Ana encampment—great familiarity. She worked for LA as trash consultant. Experience with encampments.
- Roundtable introductions

II. City Attorney Presentation (Walter Chung)

Provided updates on CDC Considerations for Encampment Clean Ups & Vista Municipal Code Regarding Homelessness

- Based on CDC guidelines, most cities have not been removing encampments (Escondido & City of San Diego are the exceptions).
- ACLU sent letters to cities with police departments informing them that they should not remove encampments for threat of lawsuit.
- Oceanside is doing environmental cleanup, just picking up trash and not citing. Just trying to maintain cleanliness and housekeeping.
- Escondido does not have large encampment issues; they are posting notices and cleaning encampments. They are holding possessions up to 60 days, these are pre-COVID procedures.
- If Vista cleans an encampment, before we do any cleanup we must go back to pre-COVID methods including posting 72-hour notices and hold any possessions at Public Works.
- We are utilizing our contract with Exodus to connect people to services versus strictly utilizing enforcement. Sheriff's department is able to enforce trespassing orders.
- If we can, we should document that we have offered housing options, and then we should proceed with cleaning in a pre-COVID method. At minimum, we should proceed with environmental cleanups.
- Sheriff's Department asked for Boise v. Martin case update. This case does not outlaw a city's ability to ban illegal camping. If you have no housing options available, you cannot prevent someone from being unsheltered. Reality in Boise was unlike ours. Housing/shelter options can be in the region, not just the city.

- Sheriff's Department asked for update on panhandling. Muni code disallows aggressive panhandling. Only punishable as an infraction but during the pandemic any citations issued will be difficult to be heard in the courts due to capacity during the pandemic.
 - There is little that we can do about panhandling. Often when the Sheriff's go to where panhandling is reported no one is there.
 - We will address frequented panhandling sites with EXODUS and through the Task Force.
- We do not want to enable camping from a legal standpoint.
- Walter recommends a clean-up; we're on solid legal footing and have encouragement from the State with receipt of our letter from the State Water Resources Board for the Cube Smart/Arbor Glen site to address stormwater issues.
- The Boise v. Martin case applies only to Public property
- Housing Division will make recommendation that for public property, we start with clean up and not enforce encampment removal at this time, unless there are other state agencies or significant health/safety issues involved.
 - We will draft a process for internal awareness, we can look at making this an external message to communicate how we address encampments and issues such as How do we know if the property is public or private? What steps do we take to address encampments?
 - Stormwater: From the State's perspective, we have land-use authority and it doesn't matter to them that something may be private property. Re: SWRB citation.
 - Attorney: Private owners may be cited in order to clean it up. We know State is only looking at water quality. If the SWRB sends us a notice of violation (trash/waste in creeks) then this would be an exemption and we must address this.

III. Updates from each department represented at the meeting

Each task force member to provide an overview of any homeless activities or interactions within your department/division, share resources, pose questions, identify opportunities, etc.

- Code: Encampments on onramps are being addressed with Caltrans.
- Fire: Unattended cooking from an encampment caused second homelessness-related fire in the past two months.
- Stormwater: Will draft response letter to the SWRB and get additional feedback from other departments including City Attorney & Housing.

IV. Brief Overview of 8 Current Strategic Plan Activities in Progress

A) Internal Homelessness Task Force – will bring PLAN updates to Council in the next few months in the new year.

B) Homeless Prevention Pilot Program - Funding for families to prevent them from becoming homeless. Covering rent. Spent \$35,000 of this through NCLL; still processing applications

C) Homeshare Coordination Services - Contract with ElderHelp. Set to begin December 1. Resource for folks on the cusp of homelessness.

D) Encampment Clean Up – ongoing activities addressed earlier in the meeting.

E) Education and Outreach Program - Making recommendation for clean-up process. Information for internal and external audiences.

F) Governmental and Legislative Advocacy – No update

G) Secure Shelter Beds – contract in progress with the Alliance this includes La Posada and Haven House. Beds are not guaranteed available, but we receive some priority.

H) FT Social Worker with Flex Funds - Exodus has had a lot of conversations with folks in encampments who do not have interest in shelters. How can we stabilize in other ways? Rapport building and time are critical. EXODUS and SDSO are going out on Thursday mornings to visit trouble spots. As it evolves, we'll see successes or areas for improvement.

V. Next meeting – No November Meeting, December 12/15/20 at 2pm

Other:

Recreation & Community Services: Migration from Wildwood and into Brengle. Folks are using outlets at Brengle. RCS wants to prevent this. Blue, older RV-type vehicle in handicap lot at Moonlight parking lot; drawing power. Couple experiencing homelessness at Sports Park; using bathrooms, showers, and yelling at folks. Reports of drug use. Believed to live behind the fields in Oceanside. The WAVE had documented issues; someone was washing clothes. A gentleman who is on grass daily out front of WAVE. 7-10 vehicles at Brengle at any given time. Exodus will begin conducting outreach at these sites and provide updates at the next meeting.