

Internal Task Force on Homelessness Teleconference Meeting Notes

An Internal Homelessness Group meeting was held on March 25, 2021 from 2-3pm via Teams.

I. Welcome & Purpose

II. Updates from each department represented at the meeting

Each task force member to provide a brief update of any homelessness activities or interactions within your department/division, collaborate, pose questions, identify opportunities, etc.

- a. **Public Works:** Collected 41 shopping carts on March 18th, 2021. Walkthrough on Hacienda, cleaning and removal of belongings left and trash. Cirilo working with Sheriffs and Code. Majority of Hacienda cleanup is complete, walking through 1x week. Last big cleanup is of 9 tons of belongings and trash. Concerns about encampments/belongings blocking sidewalks, if the items are inhibiting walking on the sidewalk and putting public in danger, clean-up and/or removal is mitigating a public safety hazard.
- b. **Stormwater:** Noted other jurisdictions having issue/concerns with mapping encampments that Stormwater ran into in their own projects. Legal concerns for publicly listing encampments, privacy issues. Former Burlington Coat factory, encampment resolved with property manager. Vale Terrace encampment looks like it cleaned up as well. Attended a webinar regarding homeless encampments and how it is affecting water quality.
- c. **City Manager:** Earmarks from congressional committees, trying to determine which projects can use the funding. Only have 1 year to spend funds, currently determining the best use of the funds to deliver to Congressmen Levin. Possibly sidewalk work that relates to CDBG funding.
- d. **Sheriff's:** Noted Echo Park clean up as an example of LAPD cleaning up a homeless encampment and shed light on possibility of new ways to clean up encampments in city parks. Members of the COPPS Unit are working on completing drone certifications so that they can fly the drones regularly to monitor homeless encampments. Currently there are only County deputies able to fly the drones.
- e. **Exodus:** Social Worker has had success completing VI-SPDAT and referring people to intensive case management, through the Coordinated Entry System. She is finding new homeless individuals who were not previously entered into the coordinated entry system and people are being matched (eligible) for housing. Seeing that happen in the field during outreach encourages more people at encampments to become more open to housing solutions and outreach support.
- f. **Code Enforcement:** Code continues to go out to monitor properties for homeless encampments and trash cleanup. They are working in collaboration with Public Works, Sheriff's Department and Exodus to coordinate efforts.

- g. **Recreation and Community Services:** Noted that there has been an increase in homeless activity at parks. Staff continues to send outreach requests to Exodus for specific outreach.
- III. Overview of Strategic Plan Activities in Progress
 - h. Housing: Strategic Plan Update is going to Council on April 27th. The FAQ regarding homelessness is on the Housing website. Working with IT on adding links to reporting homeless encampments through website/app and potentially a map of encampments. Including link to report Caltrans encampments as well. Improving our contact with the public regarding what we are doing to address homelessness. The City is receiving more and more public inquiries on what we are doing to address homelessness, working on improving this communication tool for our website. Escondido has an example of mapping for homeless encampments. Homeless Prevention Pilot Program: 20+ Vista households have been assisted. Homeshare Coordination Services: Outreach activities have begun to educate the public on Elderhelp homeshare services. Secure Shelter Beds: Reporting Bed Count at CC meetings, recently toured the Interfaith Shelter with Councilmember Franklin.
- IV. Next meeting –April 22, 2021 via Teams