

# Weekly Report

Date: Friday, May 12, 2017

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Link:

- **Homelessness Response Blog** - <http://homelessness.seattle.gov/>

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## **MISSION UPDATES:**

### **Mission 1: Make an additional 200+ safer living spaces available**

*Lead: Jason Johnson, HSD Deputy Director*

- Navigation Center – (Continuing planning for opening)
  - Construction build out continued this week.
  - Community engagement meetings continued this week.
- Planning continues for the opening of the new 100-bed shelter that will be operated by Compass Housing and located at the First Presbyterian Church on First Hill. The preparation for a public meeting in late May continued this week. Staff from the Department of Neighborhoods and Compass Housing canvassed the neighborhood to answer questions and provide information on the operation of this new shelter.
- The overnight shelter for men, known as Operation Nightwatch, opened on Wednesday night at its new temporary location on Boat Street NE. It is expected that this location will be open nightly through August. The identification of the new permanent location for Operation Nightwatch continued this week.
- Work continues with the operators at all the sanctioned encampments to prepare and provide as many new spaces at each site to be ready to accept the new expected referrals from the outreach efforts this week at several areas near South Dearborn Street/I-90/Rainier Avenue South.

### **Mission 2: Reduce Trash**

*Lead: Ken Snipes, Seattle Public Utilities Solid Waste Director*

- Work continued this week by the hard-working crews from **Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Transportation as well as the Washington Department of Transportation.**
- Nearly 2,200 tons of trash and debris removed (about 4.4 million pounds).
- Since the formal activation commenced in mid-February, over 11,000 sharps have been collected from drop-boxes and open areas. SPU responds to complaints within 24 hours.
- Planning for the upcoming clean-up operations which commence next week at several areas near South Dearborn Street/I-90/Rainier Avenue South.



### **Mission 3: Connect people with services and mitigate most hazardous encampments**

*Lead: Lt. Jason Verhoff, Navigation Team*

- The Navigation Team continues its daily contact with dozens of people at several sites spread across the city. This team is made up of outreach staff including a dedicated team from the Seattle Police Department and professional outreach providers.
  - This team offers a full range of options that include specific resources and a continuum of care, tailored to the specific needs of the client.
    - Successful referrals to drug & alcohol counseling programs.
    - Aided people needing transportation to medical appointments and to offices to receive new identification cards.
  - Intensive outreach continued this week with 93 contacts so far at the Cloverleaf (I-90/Rainier Avenue) north to Dearborn.
  - Since Feb. 22, the Navigation Team had over 1,321 contacts with 499 discrete individuals. 69% of these individuals accepted some kind of service, of which 141 were relocated to safer living alternatives.
  - Hosted police department staff from both Tacoma and Puyallup who were interested in learning about our best practices for successful outreach to people living outside.

Seattle EOC Homelessness Response Activation

 A photograph showing a person standing on a wooden structure under a concrete overpass. The structure is partially covered with a blue tarp. The area is overgrown with tall grass and weeds.	 A photograph showing a large pile of garbage and debris on a dirt area. In the background, there are trees and a parking lot with several cars.
<p><i>A Navigation Team member assesses a structure in the area of I-90/Rainier Avenue.</i></p>	<p><i>Garbage and debris that will be removed during the cleanup that begins next week.</i></p>

**Mission 4: Implement Revised MDARs**

*Lead: Chris Potter, Finance and Administrative Services Operations Director*

- Continued training and consultation on encampment rules.

**Mission 5: Incubate Housing Resource Center (HRC) to Increase Housing**

*Leads: Miriam Roskin & Robin Koskey, Office of Housing*

- Planning continued this week to identify an interim operator for the HRC.
- King County and the City of Seattle are hiring temporary staff for the interim operation of the center.
- Planning and outreach with our partners at rental housing authorities continued for next week's workshop for property owners.
- Working with our funding partners on the structure for the long-term operator.

**Mission 6: Engage the Public and Mobilize Community Response**

*Lead: George Scarola, Mayor's Office*

- Planning continued this week for the next business representative meeting in June.
- Simultaneous outreach and meetings continue with interested groups that represent business, community and faith-based organizations.
  - Common themes have included interest in assisting in the efforts with volunteerism, concerns about trash accumulation, safety, and behavioral issues.
  - Weekly reports on the homelessness activation are provided to the business group.

**Mission 7: Maintain Situational Awareness**

*Leads: Daniel Kirk & Desiree Omlil, City Budget Office*

- Measurement collection continues for situational awareness and for budget planning.

**Mission 8: Employee Training and Communication**

*Lead: Jessica Kennedy, Seattle Dept. of Human Resources Labor Relations*

- Continuing implementation of the training plan for encampment removal work.
- Ongoing communication with City labor unions.

**Mission 9: Communications**

*Leads: Julie Moore, Communications Team, FAS and Meg Olberding, Communications Team, HSD*

- Published blog postings and updated content on the Homelessness website (see link above).
- Brainstorming proactive work with the media to highlight specific work from the operations within the various missions.
- Assisted with the preparation of the presentation materials for the City Council's Human Services and Public Health committee meeting on Wednesday.
- Assisted with compilation of responses to questions that have been received from various sources.