

Weekly Report

Date: Friday, May 19, 2017

Link:

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

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.
 - Recruiting and training efforts for the center’s new staff continues.
 - 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 the public meeting next week continues. This meeting is lead and hosted by the church congregation with assistance from City staff.
- The identification of the new permanent location for Operation Nightwatch continued this week. A new location is expected to be operational in September coinciding with the planned closure at the current site.
- Work continues with the operators at all the sanctioned encampments to prepare and provide as many new spaces at each site. The three newest sites at Georgetown, Myers Way, and Licton Springs are all operating successfully but are also nearing capacity. Currently, 130 people are housed at the new, authorized encampments.
- Planning for potential new authorized encampments continues. Evaluation of current authorized encampments is underway in order to learn lessons for the next iterations of encampments.

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.**
- More than 2,300 tons of trash and debris removed (about 4.6 million pounds).
 - These removal operations have had a perfect safety and no-injury record!
- A clean-up operation began this week in the Cloverleaf area of I-90/Rainier Avenue South.
 - The installation of fencing at this site to secure the area began this week.

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<p><i>An abandoned site with trash, in the Cloverleaf area of I-90/Rainier Avenue.</i></p>	<p><i>The same area after the site was closed to camping and cleaned by crews.</i></p>

- Planning continues this week for the upcoming clean-up of the areas near S Poplar and S Dean streets.
- Our crews also worked at these locations:
 - S Spokane and S Colorado streets
 - Elliott Ave W and W Lee streets

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 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.
- For the outreach efforts at the I-90 Cloverleaf site, the Navigation Team reports the following results:
 - Of 56 people contacted, 26 people have moved to alternate living arrangements, including 21 who moved to sanctioned encampments. As with other encampment removals, services beyond alternative shelter were offered, resulting in the following:
 - Seven people assisted in securing state ID.

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- Three people provided with medical assistance at the encampment site.
- Four people received coordinated entry housing assessments.
- 11 people connected to case management services.
- Six people referred to MID employment coordinator for assistance with housing.
- 32 total mental health outreach contacts provided on May 11, 15-16.
- Nine individuals declined any options offered. Another eight disclosed they would look for another place to camp.
- This effort included essential support from REACH, Union Gospel Mission and the Mental Health Outreach Team.

Mission 4: Implement Revised MDARs

Lead: Chris Potter, Finance and Administrative Services Operations Director

- Planning work with staff from Seattle Office for Civil Rights and the Navigation Team for the upcoming outreach/field work observation visits.
- Streamlined processes for retrieval and delivery of belongings that were stored after clean-up operations.

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

Leads: Robin Koskey, Office of Housing

- Our first workshop was held this week that included several property management companies, property owners, and landlords.
 - Several strategies were discussed that will help to ensure participation in the program including rent guarantees, security deposits, and specialized services for the tenants to increase the likelihood of successful rentals.
 - The willingness of the workshop participants to work toward the goal of a decrease in homelessness was gratifying to witness.
- Continued the efforts 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

- The third meeting in the community to discuss Camp Second Chance in West Seattle occurred this week.
 - The neighbors reported no specific complaints about the operations of this sanctioned encampment.
 - Sgt. Zerr of the Navigation Team provided a very detailed description of the one-on-one interactions that the team has with people living in unsafe or unsanctioned encampments. This work leads to many people accepting offers to live in a safer place that can include one of the sanctioned encampments.
- Coordinated with a 20-person citizen volunteer group with its offer to provide a breakfast meal on the closure date for the people camping within the cloverleaf near I-90/Rainier

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Avenue S. They have reached out to again assist as appropriate during the removal of the campers at Poplar & Dean/Dearborn.

- Planning continued this week for the upcoming faith-based organizations meeting in early June.
- Meeting this week with the Coalition to End Native American Homelessness to assist it with connections to our Navigation Team staff.

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).
- Ongoing preparation with staff for the field efforts.
- Advance communication efforts to lessen the instances of misinformation and rumor.
- Worked to make good connections with neighbors to cross-post accurate information on various social media channels.
- Assisted with compilation of responses to questions that have been received from various sources.