

# Weekly Report

Date: Friday, October 13, 2017

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Links:

- **Homelessness Response Blog** - <http://homelessness.seattle.gov/>
- **Navigation Team featured in Q-13 news story** - <http://q13fox.com/2017/10/12/before-the-sweep-inside-seattles-debate-over-homeless-encampments/>

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## **MISSION UPDATES:**

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

*Lead: Jason Johnson, HSD Deputy Director*

- Planning and field work for re-siting two authorized encampments at the end of their two-year permit term.
  - Planning and site preparation work continues for the use of the Port of Seattle property as a new authorized encampment located just north of the Magnolia Bridge. The City intends to use the site as the new location for Tent City 5, currently located at 3234 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., which must move by mid-November due to an expiring permit.
  - We are actively planning for the use of a City-owned parcel at 3814 Fourth Ave. Northeast as the location for the replacement of the existing encampment in Ballard.

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

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

- As of Oct. 9, a total of 3,082 tons of trash and garbage have been removed from locations across the city.
  - This week, the crews worked at the following locations:
    - Belltown blocks including Western and Bell; Blanchard and Bell; and Lenora Street, west of First Avenue.
    - Greenbelt areas of Queen Anne Hill, on both the west and east sides.
    - On Saturday, Oct. 14, there was a lane closure of the I-5 express lanes for equipment and safety purposes to remove the collected trash from along the freeway.

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Above: before and after the cleanup under the Viaduct near Lenora Street

Below: before and after cleanup in the west Queen Anne greenbelt



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

*Lead: Lt. Jason Verhoff, Navigation Team*

- Q13 Fox News aired a profile of the Navigation Team (link above). The reporter noted that the media often covers the day an encampment is closed and cleaned, but not any of the work leading up to it. She used this piece to highlight the outreach that occurs daily in

encampments around the city, whether they are scheduled for cleanup or not. The Navigation Team did a great job of describing the work they do to make connections and build relationships with people living unsheltered in the hopes of connecting them to services that will help move them into safer living conditions.

- 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 week the team was working with and providing outreach services to people at several locations, including:
    - Belltown blocks, west of First Avenue.
    - Rainier Avenue South and I-90 interchange.
  - From Feb. 20-Sept. 21, 2017, the Navigation Team's outreach to people living outdoors has resulted in:
    - 5,127 total contacts to a total of 1,340 individuals.
    - Of those 1,340 individuals, 528 (39%) accepted relocation to safer spaces, including shelter, authorized encampments and reconnecting with family or other support system.
    - 864 of 1,340 (64%) accepted some sort of service, including case management support/referral; mental health support/referral; substance use disorder treatment referral; state ID acquisition assistance; medical support/referral; coordinated entry housing assessment (VISPDAT); King County Housing Authority lottery registration; employment support; benefits activation support; vehicle repairs; and basic needs.
    - Updated numbers will be available soon.

#### **Mission 4: Implement Revised MDARs**

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

- The Multi-Department Rules (MDAR) Advisory Committee met on Oct. 10. Its next meeting is scheduled for January.

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

*Lead: Robin Koskey, Office of Housing*

- Continuing development of the overall strategy and program design and recruitment for a leadership group of property owners, managers, and other business leaders to move toward an effective initiative launch in early 2018.
- Planning and logistics for the upcoming visit to Seattle of the executive director of Open Doors, the model program in Atlanta. We are scheduling meetings with City Council staff, property owners, service providers and our leadership group.

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

*Lead: George Scarola, Mayor's Office*

- Proactive work of City staff continues, as we engage business and community representatives to hear their concerns and observations. This informs and enables our

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future work to prioritize and implement upcoming operations based upon the needs throughout the city.

- In response to neighborhood concerns about camping in the right of way, we are working with the Seattle Department of Transportation to install 10 bollards on Nesbit Avenue North along the southwest planting strip behind Seattle Fabrics to discourage active camping along this street.
- The public is invited to provide their comments to the City Council on the proposed 2018 City of Seattle budget in relation to the homelessness response. To provide written comments to the City Council, you may write to [Council@Seattle.gov](mailto:Council@Seattle.gov) This email address will send your communication to each of the nine councilmembers. The proposed budget includes ongoing funding for:
  - City Outreach (Navigation) Teams
  - Hazardous Site Cleaning Efforts
  - Outreach Services and Needs Assessment for People Living in Vehicles
  - Community Resource Officer for Seattle Public Library
  - Case Management at the Six Existing Permitted Encampments
  - Housing Resource Center to Help Unlock the Private Apartment Rental Market to Risky Renters

The final public hearing on the proposed budget will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 in Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave.

### **Mission 7: Maintain Situational Awareness**

*Leads: Daniel Kirk, 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, FAS Communications and Meg Olberding, HSD Communications*

- Published blog postings and updated content on the Homelessness website (see link above).
- Responded to media inquiries.