

MDAR Advisory Committee

on Implementation of Rules for Removing Unsanctioned Homeless Encampments

Tuesday, April 3rd, 6:00- 8:00 PM

City Hall, Council Committee Room 370

Meeting Notes

Present: Patricia McInturff, Colleen Echohawk, Erin Goodman, Dan Wise, Mark Lloyd, Harold Odom, Mike Steward, Quynh Pham, Juan Cotto, Dennis Cook, James Hurd, Jane Nelson

Absent: Michael Neguse, Sheila Sebron, Leslie Howard, Flo Beaumon

Staff Present: Jackie St. Louis, Chris Potter, George Scarola, Robert Stowers, Emily Nolan, Fred Podesta, Jason Johnson, Will Lemke, Brenda Anibarro, August Drake-Ericson, Sola Plumacher, Mariko Lockhart

Welcome/Introductions

Public Comment Period

C – I want to highlight the SPD’s involvement with encampments, they are issuing littering and trespassing tickets, there is no way to get in touch with some of the people who received tickets to tell them they do not have to pay them. Also, retrieval of items after the 70 days is not helpful if people don’t have places to store their items. Shelters and Tiny Houses need a referral from the Navigation Team, this is keeping some people on the streets that want services and are not interacting directly with the Navigation Team.

C – Ballard on Seaview Ave a lot of encampments cropping up, today I was chased down the Burke Gilman trail.

C – Parks need to have priority for cleanup, the encampments make the park unusable for others.

C – An elderly man in my neighborhood was swept last week, he has support from the neighborhood. These policies have impacts on humans – the police threatened to take his dog, and his belongings were taken away. We can do better for people.

Racial Equity Tool (RET) Kit Update - Jackie

There has been one meeting since we presented to you in February. We are specifically going to look at the Navigation Team. We are looking at ways to incorporate experience voices from those living outside and will be reaching out to one of the sanctioned encampments. We will also look at the mission of the Navigation Team as part of the process.

Office of Civil Rights – Presentation of 2017 Encampment Report - Brenda (see presentation, and report).

C – None of the recommendations are a surprise, I am concerned about the summaries of site visits, and then none of them show up in recommendations. EX: On one visit, 17 officers were present, why? Another site shows no posting.

A – We could have added more details to the summaries.

C – The MDARs need to go through the RET. I am sorry we didn't get this in time to dig in and have a discussion about it.

C – There were no resident present at one site with the large police presence.

C- No one was there because they moved the night before, the cleanups scare people away.

C – I don't want us to pick apart each clean up, I want to think big picture.

C – Again, I wish we would have had this before-hand.

Q – What level of data were you getting (statistical), and what data comes from Navigation Team?

A – There is limited data that we were looking at.

C – There is a missing a component of those who didn't take shelter.

A – We would like to be out there more and spend more time with the outreach provider. We wish we could go deep and look at all the issues. There is a lot of rich information out there. HSD should and could be taking a bigger look at the data.

Q – On the first finding on people of color, is there a way to pull the data apart to see what groups are being served, and where do we still have room to do better.?

A – My understanding is HSD's data team is doing more to look at the data.

Q – I have questions about SPD and their interactions. I don't see anything on body cams, and how they interact with people in tents.

A – That part of the report is more about the observations where we saw people (SPD Officers) being helpful, but we could do more interviews with campers.

C – I would like to see more on SPD in the next report. I would also like more on hazardous waste. I would like more on the people who are not taking or receiving services. This all tells a story we are not hearing,

Q – How does this data get shared with SPD (the non-Navigation Team SPD)?

A – This report will be shared with the SPD.

C – I have reached out to FAS to get more information on how the SPD Officers are trained.

C – Is this the same data that was used for the report that came out of Mayor Murray's office last year?

A – No, that was different data.

C – Different Precincts deal with the issue differently, it would be great if they all responded uniformly, and the Navigation Team was spread out.

C – People leave the encampments early because they don't want to deal with Police. There is room for community support and participation in this work.

Q – What would that look like?

C – Non-profits, or community members could be more involved – they have different relationships with those living outside.

C – I am confused by what we see on the street, and what is in the reports of the work. We talk to people and know they give different answers than the Police Officers report.

C – We are working with REACH and have good relationships and success with them.

Prioritization/Response to the Business Community – August (see presentation)

C – How do you track the duplicates?

A – We filter, and can look at 200-foot ranges to try and deduplicate the information and determine if it is the same spot.

Q – How do you look at crime, and heavy drug use/sales?

A – We refer those issues to the SPD.

C - We need to be able to scale this work, San Francisco has 90 people doing this work. The Executive asked for more money to grow the Navigation Team, and Council didn't keep the money in the budget.

C – Just growing the Navigation Team without growing resources does not work. The Navigation Team needs to have housing options to offer folks living in encampments.

MDAR Changes/Recommendations to Council – August (see presentation)

Q – Why is the issue of more attention to emphasis areas not a recommendation for change?

A – It is not in the staff recommendation at this time, this committee can make that a recommendation. We are going to work with this committee to also help shape our recommendations.

C – My suggestion would be that you call out the emphasis areas in your report.

Discussion/Planning - Colleen and Patricia

We need to reach agreement with our committee on steps moving forward for our recommendations as part of our year-end report.

C – The Co-Chairs propose that we have a subcommittee to work on our recommendations.

A - Agreement with that proposal, and we will set up a timeline for the work.

C – We would like to have people self-identify if they are interested in joining the sub-committee

C – Can we make sure to have a balance of voices on the sub-committee?

A – Yes, we want to make sure all voices are represented. . If it is not balanced between advocates, neighborhood groups, park advocates and business community we may reach out to some of you.

C – We will follow up with the City Council to see if they will allow for more time. They asked for our recommendations in April, and we would like to push it out to July. Patricia and Colleen sent a letter to Council asking to delay both the Executives Report and the Report of this committee so that they can be submitted at the same time. We are waiting for a reply.

C – Is there anything else we need before the next meeting?

Q – What is the plan for encampment removal on the Parks Department land as the summer hits and more people are at the parks?

A – Parks will be doing more obstruction work. Parks already works with the Navigation Team, and it will take more resources for the Summer months to address tents and campers.

C – There is not a lot of work being done to addresses Parks and Business for the Emphasis areas. Places that are on the perimeter of the Park/Businesses are affected by campers. I understand having priority areas along the freeway, but it would be interesting to do a residential overlay (density areas) and see how other areas of the city are being impacted.

C – The City funds more outreach than REACH, how much coordination happens between all the outreach agencies?

A – We do try and coordinate to make sure we are using the other funded outreach providers.

C – There is often a disconnect between the City Departments, and they tell the business community they can't touch the work, and that it is up to the Navigation Team.

C – I didn't see any request for more resources in the recommendations.

A – At this time, City Council just asked as to look at the rules. Our Committee is free to make a recommendation for more resources.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

Next Meetings:

July 10th, Oct. 9th