

Homelessness Encampment Initiative

Health & Human Services Commission Meeting
February 13, 2019



Issues of Concern



- Public Safety:
 - Storm Water Conveyance
 - Flood Risk to Homeless Individuals
- Environmental Impacts
- Impact on WPD Resources:
 - Cost
 - Employee Safety and Morale

FY 2018-2019 Budget

WPD given resources to address homeless encampments:

- \$250K per year/four years
- Increase capacity – contract for clean-up:
 - Pilot 9 hot spots
 - Model best practices
- Service-oriented approach
- Limits on use of Drainage Utility Fund
- Cross-functional interdepartmental team:
 - Establish SOPs
 - Guide implementation of pilot projects
 - Participating organizations:
 - WPD PARD APD ARR DACC EMS
 - Integral Care **PATH** Team (**P**rograms for **A**ssistance in the **T**ransition from **H**omelessness)

Encampment Name	Address/Description	Service Frequency
East Riverside Dr.	2301 E. Riverside Dr.	Monthly
CCW @ Wickersham	1901 Wickersham Ln.	Monthly
CCW @ E Riverside - 1	4501 E. Riverside Dr.	Monthly
CCW @ E Riverside - 2	4501 E. Riverside Dr.	Monthly
Waller Creek @ 8th Street	708 E. 8 th St.	Quarterly
Warehouse Row - 1	3800 Warehouse Row	Quarterly
Warehouse Row - 2	428 Alpine Rd.	Quarterly
Williamson Creek @ East Stassney	1807 E. Stassney Ln.	Quarterly
Oak Springs	3002 Oak Springs Dr.	Quarterly



Why Do People Live in Encampments?



Staying Clean and Sober

“That place is for drug addicts and people with mental issues.” - Jaime

“Especially here [ARCH], too dangerous. Too many drugs and fights. Not worth it. Have to start all over if you get stuff stolen.” - Andres

"It sucked...because there are a lot of drugs"
(Coordinated Assessment at ARCH) – Elena

Perceptions of Safety

“I stay away from others. I try not to communicate because they either need something or steal from me when I am gone.” - William

“I won't go Downtown no more. I stopped going when I was assaulted” - Elena

Lack of Appropriate Services

“Just knowing that we [my family] are all together [makes a good spot to park or camp].”
- Sean

“Angel- My Dog [is my family].” - Sean

"No place for family to be. Getting into housing is harder as a couple.” - Kaia and Ethan

WPD Approach to Clean-Up of Homeless Encampment

Support WPD mission areas while minimizing harm to homeless population?

Good ideas come together across departments:

- Human-centered design
 - Office of Design and Delivery, I-Team
- Leave No Trace (LNT)
 - Parks and Recreation
- **Meeting** people and their needs where they are
 - Integral Care **PATH** Team
 - Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST)



Integral Care



Immediate	Prioritized	Deprioritized
Severe risks to human safety	Moderate risks to human safety and environmental quality	Low risk to human safety and environmental quality



Strategy:	PATH/HOST - Outreach and offer emergency shelter	PATH/HOST - Connect to services plan to relocate	PATH and Integral Care Case Management
Supplies:	Document storage bags	To meet immediate needs and support move	To support Leave No Trace principles
Trash Removal Timeline:	72-Hour Notice	30-Day Notice	Self-sort, regular pick-up at designated spot
Goal:	Mitigate an emergent risk	Mitigate moderate environmental health and safety risks and connect resident to services.	Provide services in-place and connect to permanent housing while improving environmental quality.

Leave No Trace (LNT)

- Minimize human impact through the application of seven principles.
- Protect environmental quality, support a safer and healthier experience for everyone using the land.



THE 7 PRINCIPLES of Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



PARD LNT Scoring System



Category	Description of Camp
5 Immediate threat to life, health, and safety	Sanitation concerns, obvious illicit activity, violent behavior, and lewd conduct
4 Blocking access to amenities and/or Damages to Assets	Blocking ADA access, amenities, playscapes, or directly on trail
3 Environmental Concern	large furniture, cutting and removal of vegetation, within water ways or flood prone areas, large quantities of trash, cutting of vegetation, fire dangers, improperly disposed hypodermic needles
2 Clean, Safe Camp	These are model camps, we would work to help find more permanent solutions but are not a priority police action or immediate eviction
1 Abandoned Camp	Clean by contractor, available staff, cleared by volunteer groups revegetate to prevent reentry where possible continue to monitor



LNT until better solution found

WPD Action Items

- Contract in place to assist with Immediate or Prioritized sites
- Notification Protocols
- Personal Property
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Testing Leave No Trace principles on a deprioritized site
 - No blockage of conveyance or creating erosion
 - No history of complaints
 - Proximity to trash pick-up sites
 - Willing and capable participants



BE SAFE BE SEEN Bags
I-35 is under construction, and TxDOT wants you to be safe.

How it Works

- Use this bag to store your important documents and medication(s).
- The bag is reflective, so keep it on you. It will help you be seen more easily by drivers.
- It is especially important to wear the bag at night. That's when most pedestrian accidents happen.
- If the bag is found by TxDOT during clean-ups, it will not be removed.

Please Know

- Do not try to cross I-35 on foot. If you are hit by a vehicle, you will die, or be seriously injured.
- Construction areas are not a safe place for pedestrians. Please move through them as quickly as possible and stay outside of areas marked off by cones and barrels. They are there for your protection.



What We're Learning

Testing services and Leave No Trace at a deprioritized site:

- Since engaging, they have a case manager through Integral Care
- Completed a coordinated assessment to wait for housing
- Receiving healthcare services
- Removing trash in and around encampment
- Working to improve cooking and heating solutions at the site
- Money saved mitigating trash



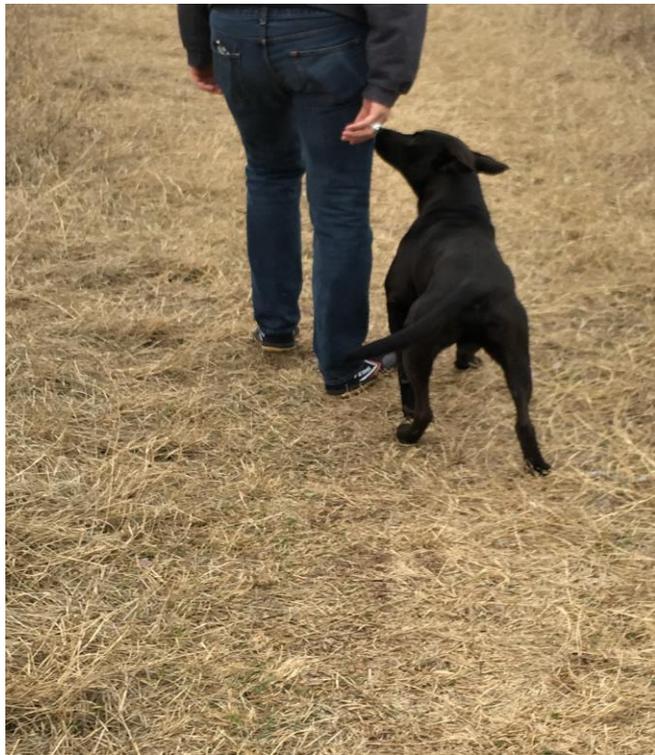
Path Forward

- Evaluate pilot program – lessons learned
- Learn and expand cleanup contract
- Continue to monitor deprioritized site and collect data on Leave No Trace and service connection.
 - Start trash collection
- Implement the contract
- Test 30-Day Notice plan

Future Consideration

- Scaling 30-Day Notice and Deprioritization strategies
- Distinguishing between urban and rural encampment needs
- Infrastructure changes to culverts where we can daylight

Questions?



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