



March 25, 2024

Chair Honorable Members of the Commission

Executive Summary

This report serves to provide an update on the activities of the Homelessness Division since the July 26, 2023, presentation of the Review of Operations Under the 2020 Encampment Management Policy. This update will provide information on work in progress to examine operations conducted under the adopted 2020 Encampment Management Policy to contribute to recommendations for revision to the policy. This work includes contracted support from the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Technical Assistance consultants to evaluate the operations outcomes, systems, and resources supporting encampment response activities.

Background

On October 20, 2020, the City Council adopted resolution 88341 C.M.S. establishing the 2020 Encampment Management Policy (EMP), with direction that implementation of the policy's conditions and standards commence January 2021. The Encampment Management Policy set forth core City departments that support encampment operations with the City Administrator's discretion to add department support to effectuate the maintenance, cleaning, and closure of encampments as provided by EMP criteria, and other essential policy requirements.

At the July 26, 2023, meeting of the Commission on Homelessness, City staff presented a high-level overview of operation activities conducted under the 2020 Encampment Management Policy from January 2021 through June 30, 2023. The presentation provided baseline information on the operations details that included:

- The 10 City departments supporting encampment response activities.
- The outline of the steps for encampment operations planning.
- The number of encampment service requests submitted annually.
- The growth factor and number of unique encampment locations as reported by the public.
- The number of operations performed since implementation in January 2021 through June 2023.
- Specific challenges to encampment operations.
- Important next steps under three segments of work to more effectively support encampment response.

This report focuses on the Next Steps identified in the presentation. The three segments of coordinated work are identified as Homelessness Division, Housing and Homelessness Resources, and Encampment Management Team (EMT) Planning and Operations. The segments provide for 17 essential tasks that will provide for more effective encampment operations with the core objective of expanding critical resources to allow the unhoused to transition into interim and permanent housing.

To anchor homelessness and encampment response strategies to essential resources and best practices, the Homelessness Division engaged services from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Technical Assistance team, who serve as both management advisors and regulatory evaluators. Use of the HUD TA team allows for independent review of relevant homelessness policies by the chief authority on homelessness response, systems design, and resource allocation with the inclusion of equity.

The Encampment Technical Assistance workplan is grounded in the framework of Targeted Universalism which includes:

- Racial Equity and Justice
- Supports alignment with Alameda County and the Continuum of Care Program
- Tested Process as an established framework from the Othering and Belonging Institute.

The process focuses on five steps to refine City policies and approaches that yield targeted strategies to deliver improved outcomes for the City's homelessness and encampment response work. The approved workplan is included in the packet materials for reference and discussion with the Commission.

We look forward to the discussion with the Commission of how the workplan will advance homelessness and encampment response in the City of Oakland.

 /s/ LaTonda Simmons_____
Respectfully Submitted, LaTonda Simmons, ACA
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