

# 2017 Encampment Monitoring Report

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Presentation to the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic  
Development and Arts Committee

May 22, 2018



## **SOCR's Role – What we do**

**Monitoring program is guided by an MOA between the Seattle Office for Civil Rights, Finance and Administrative Services and the Human Services Department:**

*“The Seattle Office for Civil Rights will provide high-level oversight to ensure the City is following the Multi-Departmental Administrative Rules (MDAR 17-01), the Finance and Administrative Services Rule (FAS 17-01) and other adopted policies pertaining to removing unauthorized encampments as they may change from time to time.”*

## **SOCR's Role – How we monitor**

- **Conduct a review of monthly operational reports and encampment removal data collected by the City via REACH or other agency partners.**
- **Perform random site visits during encampment removals. Document observations and provide immediate feedback if critical, including halting removals if necessary to preserve compliance with MDAR 17-01 or FAS 17-01.**
- **Conduct interviews of encampment clean-up personnel, law enforcement officers, residents, and other stakeholders.**
- **Issue a semi-annual report detailing observations, findings, and recommendations.**

# Our work in 2017

## Timeline

MOA signed in April. Monitor hired in May. Second monitor brought on in July. (both had served in role in 2016)

## Monitoring Team

Two monitors (Civil rights investigator, RSJI staff) and SOCR Policy Manager

## Number of sites visited

24 sites visited since May of 2017

- 20 of these were encampment removals

## Compliance Summary

- The 20 removals of the 130 that took place from May-Dec, 2017 were found to be in compliance

# **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



1.

**Finding:** People of color make up a disproportionate share of those who are unhoused in Seattle. Racial justice must be central to the City's policy response to unauthorized encampments. SOCR recommended a racial equity toolkit analysis which began in 2017.

**Recommendation:** The racial equity toolkit analysis should focus on the City's policy response to unauthorized encampments. This should include a review of the MDAR 17-01 and FAS 17-01, the structure of the Navigation Team, organizational/departamental placement, and the use of law enforcement in a human service capacity.



2.

**Finding:** Storage practices in compliance but additional strategies needed.

**Recommendation:** Continue to gather and use input from people living in unauthorized encampments to inform the development of storage strategies to ensure that people can successfully access their personal property.

3.

**Finding:** Human service providers could play a greater role in the prioritization of encampments.

**Recommendation:** Review the prioritization process with contracted human service providers, look at decision points and determine strategies to ensure their voices are taken into account early in the process. Include REACH in site assessment to formalize their input at this critical decision point.



## 4.

**Finding:** Data collection needs attention to ensure the City can meaningfully address the barriers people experience to accessing shelter and housing.

**Recommendation:**

- Ensure privacy.
- Ensure uniform and consistent data collection.
- Distinguish between removal and outreach site visits.
- Improve alignment of the dataset with the City's goal of ending homelessness.



5.

**Finding:** People living unhoused continue to face systemic barriers to shelter.

**Recommendation:** Prioritize resources for appropriate low-barrier shelter and housing to address the complexities of homelessness.

# Questions?

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