

# Bridging the Gap

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*Status report of the Mayor's interim action plan to address unsanctioned encampments and create new and safe alternatives.*



# Implement Interim Action Plan

## Action Plan:

- More compassionate, transparent management of encampment cleanups;
- Creation of new, safe 24/7 alternatives (Navigation Center and new encampments);
- Improved outreach to encampments and in commercial districts; and,
- Better garbage and needle pickup.



# Creating Safe Alternatives

## Navigation Center:

- HSD selected DESC and Operation Sack Lunch as operators.
- Site selection is under consideration.
- New timeline for opening the Navigation Center will be developed after site selection and neighborhood notification is complete.

## Sanctioned Encampments:

- HSD announced 3 new sanctioned encampment locations:
  - ✓ 1000 S. Myrtle Street with capacity to serve 60-70 people
  - ✓ 8620 Nesbit Avenue N. with capacity to serve 60-70 people
  - ✓ 9701 Myers Way S. with capacity to serve 60-70 people
- Each will be permitted for 12 months with an option to renew for an additional 12 months.
- LIHI will operate the sites at Nesbit Ave N. and S. Myrtle St. DH, HSD is in discussion with potential operators for the Myers Way site.
- DON, DH, HSD have started community outreach & notification.



# Creating Safe Alternatives

## HSD issues RFP that includes:

- ✓ 24/7 indoor shelter;
- ✓ Conversion of existing day centers or overnight shelter into 24/7 shelter;
- ✓ Storage of personal belongings; and,
- ✓ Donations from private, faith, and corporate partners of in-door space for sheltering.

RFP released December 13, 2016 with proposals due back by January 20, 2017.



# Expanded Access to Shower Facilities

Starting on December 1<sup>st</sup> parks will provide showers at four (4) community centers:

- ✓ Rainier Beach
- ✓ Miller
- ✓ Greenlake
- ✓ Delridge



# More Compassionate, Transparent Protocols

## New encampment cleanup rules are being drafted...

- An interdepartmental review group has been formed
- New protocols are being drafted based on principles of the Task Force on Unsanctioned Encampments
- Protocols will be memorialized by a rule making process
- The draft rules will be available for public comment in early January

## New FAS external website is being developed...

- Publishing the inspection and cleanup report from each cleanup
- Identifying the locations from which belongings were stored, and how the belongings may be recovered



# Creating Safe Alternatives

## Increased outreach to encampments:

- HSD, All Home, and Reach are leading an effort to develop standards for more coordinated, effective outreach.
- HSD will contract for additional outreach workers beginning in January 2017.

## Increased community impact and crisis response:

- MO, HSD, FAS, and SPD are developing plans for 3 additional multi-disciplinary outreach teams distributed citywide (in addition to downtown, Capitol Hill).
- These outreach teams will be activated in the first quarter of 2017.



# Training & Referral Tools for Frontline City Staff

**Human Service Department** is developing the following resources:

- A referral card based on one developed in partnership with the Crisis Clinic (211). These cards will be distributed to frontline staff across the city.
- Training for frontline employees. May partner with Crisis Clinic to deliver training. These trainings will begin in the first quarter of 2017.





# SPU Improved Garbage and Needle Pick-up

## Seattle Public Utilities Encampment Trash Pilot – Pick up schedule:

- SPU currently has scheduled trash pick-up near unauthorized encampments at the Ballard Bridge (southside at Nickerson/Emerson), Ballard Locks (at NE 54<sup>th</sup>), and Myers Way Ave (along 9000 block).
- SPU previously provided scheduled trash pick-up near a variety of unauthorized encampments in International District, SODO, Interbay, & along South Spokane.
- Successes and challenges – mixed results.
- SPU plans to expand to 3-4 more sites in 2017.
- Selection criteria includes safe access for vendors, safe conditions for encampment residents, ability to engage encampment residents, & not immediately scheduled for FAS to remove the encampment.



# SPU Improved Garbage and Needle Pick-up

## SPU Encampment Trash Pilot - On-Call Pick-up:

- FAS addresses trash at the most problematic encampments by displacing people and completely cleaning the vacant site
- In some cases, SPU can remove trash and debris near an encampment without disturbing the encampment
- On-call response to trash and debris requests near unauthorized encampments by public or FAS.
- Trash must be clearly separated from the encampment.
- Response criteria includes debris clearly identified as garbage, located away from the encampment, located on public or ROW, debris separated from personal possessions, & site must not be scheduled for FAS to remove the encampment.



# SPU Improved Garbage and Needle Pick-up

## Litter Abatement Pilot:

- Activities supplement the extensive citywide Clean City programs and spending;
- Current locations – Little Saigon, Chinatown/ID, & Ballard;
- Six (6) month pilot;
- Plan to expand into 4 additional neighborhoods in 2017; and,
- Selection criteria for new neighborhoods under development.

## Abandoned Sites – SPU Illegal Dumping Response:

- SPU removes debris from abandoned and unoccupied encampments as part of its Illegal Dumping Program.



# SPU Improved Garbage and Needle Pick-up

## Needle Pick-up and Drop-off Programs:

- Respond to request for pick-up within 24 hours.
- Requests reported via:
  - Illegal Dumping/Sharps Hotline: 684-7587
  - SPU Website, or
  - “*Find it, Fix it*” Mobile App
- SPU has located 6 new large needle drop-off boxes, in addition to the existing drop-off locations at both City transfer stations.
- Selection criteria included geographic diversity, complaints, accessibility for drop-off, combined with department & community input.
- Parks is in the process of locating 5-10 smaller drop-off boxes within Comfort Stations.

