



CITY OF SEATTLE **HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE ACTIVATION**

Briefing to City Council | March 8, 2017

Fred Podesta, Citywide Director of Operations

Office of the Mayor



- Facilitate interdepartmental coordination
- City's senior executive leadership and departments
- Enhance efforts to address the needs of people living without shelter and the impact of our homeless crisis in neighborhoods
- Accelerate efforts to meet the needs of people living unsheltered by connecting them with services and shelter
- Mitigate the public safety and health conditions associated with unauthorized encampments

HOMELESSNESS BY THE NUMBERS

The number of people living without shelter in Seattle has risen to more than 2,800 according to the last one-night count.

In Seattle alone, the number of homeless school-age children in our public schools has risen to 2,000.

Countywide, there are over 10,000 people living homeless, including nearly 3,000 in transitional housing, 3,500 in shelters and 3,000 living on the streets.

There are currently 900 families living outside in Seattle.

Last year our region housed 6,700 people, yet 6,900 new people became homeless during that same period, and another 600 "returned" to our shelters, for a net increase 800 more people outside.

66 unsheltered individuals died on Seattle streets last year.

Team Missions

- Mission 1 – Human Services Dept. Relocate 200 individuals to safe alternatives
- Mission 2 – Public Utilities Reduce Trash
- Mission 3 – Finance & Admin Svcs (Re)Implement MDARs
- Mission 4 – Finance & Admin Svcs Mitigate most hazardous encampments
- Mission 5 – Dept of Transportation Remove obstructions of sidewalks and parks
- Mission 6 – Human Services Dept. Develop post-stabilization housing strategies
- Mission 7 – Finance & Admin Svcs Maintain situational awareness and plan sustainability

Emergency Operations Center

The mission of the Seattle EOC is to minimize the impact of emergencies and disasters on the community through coordinated planning, information-sharing and resource management between all City departments, partnering agencies, and the public.

For this activation, the specific mission of the Seattle EOC is to facilitate interdepartmental coordination as the City's senior executive leadership and departments enhance efforts to address the needs of people living without shelter and the impact of our homeless crisis on neighborhoods. This event will accelerate efforts to meet the needs of people living unsheltered by connecting them with services and shelter while mitigating the public safety and health conditions associated with unauthorized encampments.

Mission 1: Make an additional 200+ safer living spaces available

Lead: HSD

Mission 2: Reduce Trash

Lead: SPU

Mission 3: Connect people with services and mitigate most hazardous encampments

Lead: Mayor's Office

Mission 4: Implement Revised MDARs

Lead: FAS

Mission 5: Incubate Housing Resource Center (HRC) to increase access to housing

Lead: Office of Housing

EOC MISSIONS

Mission 6: Engage the public and mobilize community response

Lead: Communications and Office of Policy & Innovation

Mission 7: Maintain Situational Awareness

Lead: Mayor's Office, Seattle IT, OEM

Mission 8: Employee training and communication

Lead: SDHR

Mission 9: Communications

Lead: FAS

Mission 1: Make an additional 200+ safer living spaces available

Lead: Jason Johnson, Human Services Department (HSD) Deputy Director

- Real-time shelter availability process put in place for the Navigation Team this week.
- Georgetown and Myers Way sanctioned encampment sites were permitted and contracted.
 - Georgetown site expected to accept people next week.
 - Myers Way site is waiting for soil testing results. Expected to have 50 tent capacity.
- Bridging the Gap RFP – contract awarded to Compass Housing, \$1.3 million. Low-barrier shelter will eventually have 100 beds, 24/7 schedule, serving all populations (M/W/Couples).

Mission 2: Reduce Trash

Lead: Ken Snipes, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Solid Waste Director

- Organized the various agencies involved in the mission into an effective structure (mainly WSDOT and City of Seattle).
- Planning work with Mission 3 on the closure of the Royal Brougham encampment.
- Continued to tackle tasks associated with the non-encampment work plan.

Mission 3: Connect people with services and mitigate most hazardous encampments

Lead: Scott Lindsay, Navigation Team, Mayor's Public Safety Advisor

- Finalized list of top 40 most challenging and hazardous encampments; created a map with encampment locations.
- Participated in site cleanups:
 - Emerson
 - Gas Works
 - Mercer Street / I-5 areas
- Prepared for scheduled closure of the Royal Brougham and Airport Way encampment, including providing outreach and storage services.
- Temporarily closed the Royal Brougham encampment on Monday, Feb. 27 – explosion hazard from the propane truck crash on I-5. Closure included organizing day shelter for the camp residents.

Mission 4: Implement Revised MDARs **(Multi-Departmental Administrative Rules)**

Lead: Chris Potter, Finance and Administrative Services Director of Operations

Mission 5: Incubate Housing Resource Center (HRC) to Increase Access to Housing

Lead: Office of Housing

Mission 6: Engage the Public and Mobilize Community Response

Leads: Communications and Office of Policy & Innovation

Mission 7: Maintain Situational Awareness

Leads: Mayor's Office, Seattle IT, OEM

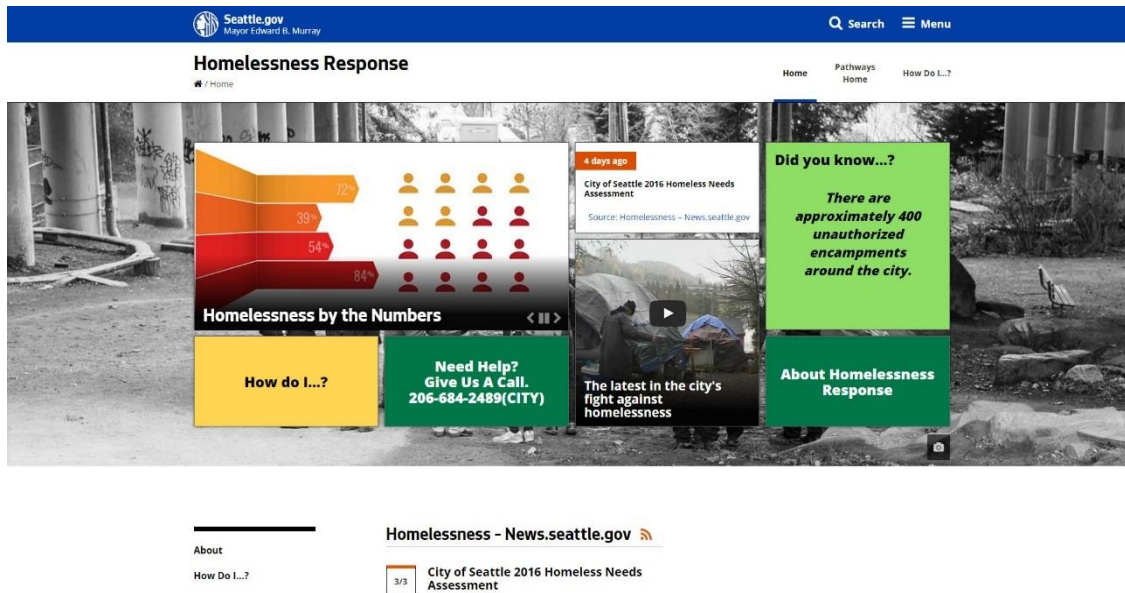
Mission 8: Employee Training and Communication

Lead: Cassandra da Costa, Seattle Department of Human Resources – Labor Relations

- Developed Citywide general training requirements for employees working at encampment sites.
- Began analysis of special training requirements associated with implementing new encampment rules.

Mission 9: Communications

*Leads: Julie Moore, Communications Team, FAS
Meg Olberding, Communications Team, HSD*



- Communications Team continues to respond to inquiries regarding trash around the city; they continue to work closely with SPU to respond to questions.
- Communications Team was on-site for the closure of the encampment at Royal Brougham and Airport Way.
- Release planning for the updated Multi-Departmental Administrative Rules (MDARs).