

Seattle Human Services Department

Navigation Team - Capacity Increase - June 2019

SEATTLE
CITY HALL



City of Seattle

City of Seattle - Navigation Team Background

Goal: To connect vulnerable people living unsheltered to services & shelter and remove encampments that pose serious public health and safety risks.

Background: Launched in 2017 to address growing unsheltered community, impacts from unmanaged encampments.

Navigation Team is comprised of specially trained police officers, outreach workers, System Navigators, and Field Coordinators.

The team works in close coordination with other service providers and agencies to fulfill the team's goal.



City of Seattle - Navigation Team Outreach (Q1 2019):

Outreach:

- 731 individual people engaged
- 1,564 contacts made
- 222 referrals to shelter

Navigation Team Operations:

- 72-Hour removals: 13
- Obstruction/hazard removals: 58
- Garbage, waste, debris removed: 355.36 tons



City of Seattle - Navigation Team capacity increase

Capacity was ramped-up in early 2019 and fully implemented in June. Capacity increased was designed to better address public health & safety concerns and provide more access to services and shelter. This expansion included:

- **2 new System Navigators** positions to conduct advance and day-of outreach to encampments, including connections to services and shelters such as tiny house villages, enhanced shelters, and basic shelter.
- **2 Field Coordinators added** in early 2019, allowing team to inspect more sites, conduct more “litter picks” at encampments, and remove encampments that obstruct public use.
- **Improved coordination with SPD community police teams (CPT) and bike patrol officers** to support SPD efforts to keep public spaces safe and accessible for all. CPT and bike patrol officers are now able to call for Navigation Team support when an individual living unsheltered needs assistance, such as storing personal belongings or a referral to shelter.
- **Weekend coverage** to support ongoing Navigation Team work to connect people to shelter and resources, while also addressing negative impacts from encampments on public property.



Capacity Expansion - Preliminary data for month of June:

System Navigators

- 91 total engagements (83 unique individuals)
- 20 total referrals to shelter (18 unique individuals)
- 22% referral rate

**Includes weekend coverage, ramp-up period in June*



Navigation Team Operations

	72- Hour Cleans	Obstructions & Hazards combined	Inspections	Litter Picks	Garbage/Waste /Debris (Tons)
Jan	4	39	48	4	193.89
Feb	2	13	12	6	82.55
March	4	17	3	2	78.92
April	7	15	31	2	73.66
May	10	8	34	1	177.98
Average	5.4	18.4	25.6	3	121.4
Total	27	92	128	15	607
June	11	84	165	39	153.67

