

Bridging the Gap

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 1st 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 54th), 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.

