

# **Encampments and Site Reclamation**

City of Tacoma

Neighborhood and Community Services

**City Council Study Session**

**June 16, 2015**

**ITEM #2**

## **Agenda**

- Context
- Background
  - Program Overview
  - Budget & Wrap Around Services
- Approach
- Issues/Challenges
- Next Steps

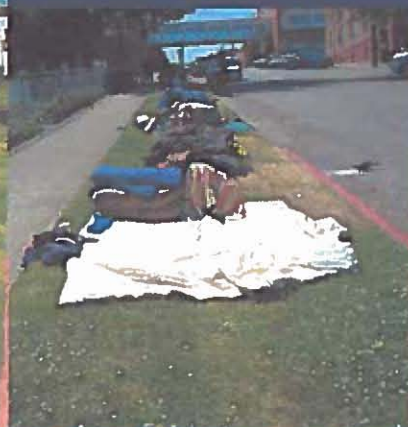
## Context: Earnest Brazil St.

- Public Nuisance
  - Open Containers
  - Drug Usage
  - Loitering
  - Human Waste
  - Lewd Acts
  - Hypodermic Needles
  - Encampments



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## Earnest Brazil St.



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13<sup>th</sup> & Tacoma Ave



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12<sup>th</sup> & Tacoma Ave



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## 7<sup>th</sup> & Tacoma Ave



## Context

- Focus on providing a safe, clean and healthy community.
- Response to Homeless encampments:
  - Identification
  - Notification (24-48 hours)
  - Clean-up
  - Connection to Resources
  - Monitoring



## Background

- Resolution No. 36947 (passed in 2006)
  - Established Encampment Elimination
  - “Housing first” model
  - Organizations to provide services:
    - Metropolitan Development Council (33 beds)
    - Greater Lakes Mental Health (17 beds)
    - Pierce County (35 beds)
    - Tacoma Rescue Mission\* (15 beds)
- City beds reduced to 23 over the last four years
  - Metropolitan Development Council\* (16 beds)
  - Greater Lakes Mental Health (7 beds)

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## Background

- 2005 – Homeless Task Force
- 2006 – Housing First and Encampment Elimination Ordinance Introduced
- 2013 – Encampment Clean-up Revision
- 2013 – 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% MHSUD Tax
- 2014 – Temporary Homeless Camp Ordinance (Tent City)
- 2015 - Positive Interactions Program
- 2015 – Site Reclamation Program

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## 2015-2016 Budget

### Clean-up

- Open Spaces \$ 50,000
- City-Owned Property \$ 70,000

### Site Reclamation

- Art as encampment mitigation \$ 125,000
- Crime Prevention Through
- Environmental through Design
- Site Hardening

### Total Investment

\$ 245,000

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## 2015 – 2016 Human Services Funding Meets Basic Needs (General Fund)

Agency	Program	2015-2016 Allocation
Mercy Housing Northwest	Service-Enriched Housing	\$72,000.00
Tacoma Community House	REACH Housing 4 Success	\$186,000.00
Shared Housing Services	Housing for Unaccompanied Youth	\$200,000.00
Associated Ministries	Access Point for Housing	\$268,500.00
SUB-TOTAL		\$726,500
The Salvation Army	Jarvie Family Emergency Housing	\$104,000.00
YWCA	DV Shelter	\$117,000.00
The Rescue Mission	Emergency Services	\$160,000.00
The Rescue Mission	Family Shelter	\$220,000.00
Korean Women's Association	Case Management/SEAS	\$60,000.00
SUB-TOTAL		\$661,000
TOTAL		<u>\$1,387,500</u>

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## 2015-2016 MHSUD Funding Reduce Chronic Homelessness

Agency	Program	2015-2016 Allocation
Greater Lakes Mental Health	Permanent Options for Recovery-Centered Housing	\$50,000.00
Metropolitan Development Council	Housing First	\$210,000*
Metropolitan Development Council	Housing First Risk Reduction Fund	\$40,000.00
Metropolitan Development Council	Randall Townsend	\$100,000.00
New Life Transitional Housing & Support Services	Housing & Supportive Services Program	\$40,728.00
New Phoebe House	Phoebe Family Reunification & Resiliency	\$100,000.00
Tacoma Community House	REACH Housing 4 Success	\$40,000.00
Mentor House	Jessie's Place	\$105,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$695,728</b>

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## 2015-2016 MHSUD Funding Co-Occurring Disorders/Housing

Agency	2015-2016 Allocation
Metropolitan Development Council	\$870,000
Catholic Community Services – Nativity House	\$680,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

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## Encampments

**Yellow:** Level 1  
**Orange:** Level 2  
**Red:** Level 3

### Annual Count

2013: 175  
 2014: 86  
 2015: 73



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## I-705 & Dock Street



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## Bayside Trail



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## Approach

- Site Reclamation
  - Identification
  - Notification
  - Assessment
  - Clean-up
  - Monitoring

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## Challenges

### ■ Homeless numbers

- 2015 Annual homeless point in time (PIT) count:
  - Total Number of Households: 885
  - Total Number of Persons: 1,283
    - Males: 723
    - Females: 538
  - Chronic Homeless Individuals: 191

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## Challenges

### ■ Housing/Shelter Capacity

- 6 Shelters in Tacoma
  - The Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Nativity House, Family Housing Network, YWCA (DV), KWA (DV)
  - Serving Pierce County including Puyallup, Lakewood, Fife, University Place, Gig Harbor, Bonney Lake
  - South King County (Federal Way)

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## Challenges

### ■ Housing/Shelter Capacity

Agency/Shelter	Families	Individuals	Turn-Aways per Day
The Rescue Mission – Adams St /The Lighthouse	80	205	50 Families 30 Individuals
Salvation Army – Jarvie Family Shelter	14 family 25 overflow	6 women	8 Families
CCS – Family Housing/New Nativity House	5 families	117 men 50 women	55-80 Individuals
YWCA (DV)	75		6 individuals
Korean Women's Association (DV)		19 women	Unavailable*

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## Challenges

### ■ Sustainability of Clean-ups

- Over 230 encampments cleaned since 2013
- Varying time, cost and duration of clean-up

### ■ Boundaries

- Multiple property owners
  - BNSF, WSDOT, Private Property Owner

### ■ Other Barriers

- Mental Health/Substance Use
- Sex Offender Registrants

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## Next Steps

- **Site Reclamation Plan (SRP):**
  - Prioritized encampment cleanup, beginning w/hotspots
  - Tailored approach to public site reclamation
    - Art as encampment mitigation
    - Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)
    - Landscaping
    - Site hardening where appropriate

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## Next Steps

- Establish SRP Team
  - City staff (NCS, CED, TPD, PDS, PW, ESD)
  - Community Partners
  - Residents (outreach and engagement)
  - Proper notification
- Long Range Plan for Human Services
  - Needs Assessment
  - Policy Direction

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# **Encampments and Site Hardening**

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