The City of Portland is taking a compassionate and comprehensive approach to address homelessness, including increased renter assistance, enhanced shelter options, improved community mental health services, addiction treatment, and more permanent housing. As the federal government retreats from its commitment to housing and mental health, we cannot stand by and do nothing. While the local level can’t solve this issue, we are doing everything we can.

House Bill 4054. We have heard from many constituents regarding House Bill 4054 and I want to take this opportunity to explain what this bill will mean for Portland. This bill allows the City to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to help address the impact of camping on public property.

Responsibility for managing land within the City of Portland is held by any number of jurisdictions public or private. This bill allows for the City of Portland to take over the management of camping on ODOT property and use our best practices.
The City of Portland Response to Homelessness includes articles and information from several sources:

- The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS)
- A Home for Everyone
- Transition Projects (TPI)
- JOIN
- Central City Concern (CCC)
- City of Portland Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP)
- Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT)

This newsletter is intended to help outline the City’s response to homelessness and to inform the community on what the City, County, and their non-profit partners are doing to promote public health and safety, livability, and to provide shelter for those experiencing homelessness or living outside.

For more information on homelessness services in Portland, visit: http://ahomeforeveryone.net/

**MAYOR’S MESSAGE continued from Page 1**

There are three notable advantages to the City’s approach. The first advantage is transparency between the City, those experiencing homelessness, social service providers, and the public. Unlike ODOT, if a camp is reported, the City notifies social service agencies that can provide outreach before the camp is posted and cleaned.

"Our priority is to focus our resources on the greatest public health and safety impacts."

Over the past few years the City has created a reporting system that lets the community and social services know when a camp has been reported, if it is going to be posted, and when and if it is going to be cleaned. ODOT has not previously had the capacity to report out as efficiently to residents and service providers.

The second advantage is the close coordination between the local agencies responsible for monitoring and maintaining public spaces and the nonprofits that work directly with clients, connecting them with shelters and housing services.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) has implemented a standing weekly call to discuss and prioritize encampments to better coordinate social service engagement and clean-up activities. This engagement approach addresses concerns of public health and safety created by some encampments, while minimizing the negative impact on individuals, their belongings, and to get them connected to resources.

The third advantage is the quick and responsive system for prioritizing the limited enforcement and clean up resources to the highest-impact encampments. In turn, encampments that are small, clean, and well-maintained rely on outreach, engagement, and mobile trash pickup services to avoid needing to be posted and removed. While camping is not legal, our priority is to focus our resources on the greatest public health and safety impacts.

It is beneficial to all involved to bring ODOT property under the City’s procedure so there is a humanitarian and consistent approach to camp clean up notification periods, services provided, enforcement practices, and property storage policies across the city.

Mayor Wheeler at a meeting of A Home for Everyone.
The investments in A Home for Everyone and the creation of a City of Portland/Multnomah County Joint Office of Homeless Services have made a difference for thousands of people who might otherwise be experiencing homelessness.

In the 2016-17 fiscal year, for the second year in a row, partners in A Home for Everyone helped record numbers of neighbors back into housing, find a safer night of sleep, or keep from becoming homeless at all. Nearly 4,900 people obtained housing — hundreds more than the goals A Home for Everyone set before the year began. That number is also 65 percent higher than the 2,967 people placed into housing the year before A Home for Everyone launched.

Additionally, 6,139 people began receiving prevention services last year. This is almost 2,000 more than the year before and more than 1,000 people more than expected. And 8,532 people accessed emergency shelter in fiscal year 2017, almost 2,000 more people than the record number of people helped the year before. Three years ago, that number was just more than 4,000 people.

The Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP) is a City-run program that helps reduce the impact of homelessness in our community. HUCIRP runs the One Point of Contact reporting system and is responsible for campsite cleanup coordination and responding to community complaints.

In the first quarter of 2018, HUCIRP received and responded to approximately 5,062 community reports about issues surrounding homelessness throughout the City. Additionally, between January and March 2018, HUCIRP was able to post and clean approximately 300 campsites throughout Portland.

To see a rolling map of all of the locations that were reported in the last twelve weeks, please visit our time aware map here.
OUTREACH CONNECTIONS WITH CAMPERS PAY OFF WITH STABLE HOMES

Every day, outreach workers undertake the compassionate work of reaching out to neighbors living in our community without shelter, in hopes of building the trust needed to engage that neighbor with the kinds of services and interventions that ultimately lead to housing. Each year, those relationships and that dedication helps thousands of people leave the streets and stay in homes of their own.

The City of Portland and Multnomah County fund some of that outreach work with partners including JOIN, through the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOIN and other agencies that lead outreach work and place people into housing also receive private funding to provide their services). Portland, Multnomah County, and the City of Gresham also work with Home Forward, the region’s affordable housing authority, to provide short-term rental vouchers that keep people from becoming homeless in the first place or move back into housing as they can.

Hundreds have been helped. Below are stories of two clients who’ve moved from tents to apartments, as told by a pair of outreach workers at JOIN.

Richard

Richard was homeless along the Sandy River at a place known as “Thousand Acres.” He’d been there for 27 years straight. I had been tramping through the mud out there and visiting his camp for more than 12 years. When chatting at his campsite, sipping coffee around his campfire, he often told me that he wasn’t going anywhere and he was certain he would die out there. Then last summer, he had a stroke by the river — the paramedics had to hike in over a mile to get to his tent and, because it was nighttime and pitch black, they had to leave little flashlights in the trees so they could find their way out again. After his stay in the hospital, Richard resolved that he was not going to die homeless by the river and so did I.

Luckily, we had a housing voucher, and after a lot of searching, we found a willing landlord. We moved Richard and his girlfriend, Theresa (who had been camping outside with him for the last year), and their two dogs into their new apartment. They are beyond happy in their place. It is extremely hard for me to communicate how jarring (in a good way) it is for me to knock on his front door and visit with him in his beautiful apartment (complete with a dishwasher, microwave, etc.) after more than 12 years of sloshing through the mud and searching for his grubby tent in the woods.

I found a photo of a mountain goat and knew I had to get it for Richard’s apartment because it reminds me of him — tough, kind of solitary, a bit gruff, and used to living in difficult conditions. But that last part isn’t the case anymore, and I couldn’t be happier for him.

- Mike O’Malley
JOIN Outreach Worker

Heather

I met Heather at Jantzen Beach. She was living in a tent with her dog, Bugsy. She had been homeless off and on for most of her life.

She had no income but was committed from day one to working hard to reach her housing goals. She mentioned that she used to drive school busses a long time ago and believed she could get a job as a long-haul truck driver. We began studying for the CDL permit exam diligently. We would even meet inside JOIN so that I could quiz her.

After a few failed attempts, she disclosed that the chaos of life on the streets was making it hard for her to think straight or to retain any of the information. With this truck driving goal in mind, we decided to move her into housing with a six-month Short Term Rent Assistance (STRA)-funded housing voucher.

Having her own space and furniture gave her such a greater sense of peace. Within a month of moving in, she finally passed the truck driving exam and had a boost of confidence I hadn’t seen in her before. She pursued her training through a company that offered her a job! Just goes to show what a difference a stable home makes in a person’s life as they try to accomplish their goals.

- Erin Brecht
Former JOIN Outreach Worker
Overall, dozens of community volunteers stepped up. They joined employees from the City and County and worked alongside staffers from the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), Multnomah County Emergency Management, the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, the Department of County Human Services, and other offices.

Volunteers took shifts at all hours. Some showed up before dawn, offering friendly faces and providing safety while people slept. Others worked to set up spaces at night and then cleaned them in the morning. The commitment was to provide shelter for anyone who needed it, and to reach as many people as possible with that offer.

JOHS and Transition Projects initially opened three warming centers with room for more than 300 people at Bud Clark Commons, Imago Dei in Southeast Portland, and Sunrise Center in Gresham. Those three warming centers are always the first to open when severe weather is declared. But those sites filled up fast. By Tuesday, February 20, a fourth warming center opened at a Department of Community Justice building near SE 122nd Avenue and Salmon.

“Every bed provided, every visit by an outreach worker, every ride offered to a shelter – they all made a difference,” said JOHS Director, Marc Jolin.

211info also provided support for the community. Working directly with people in need or with concerned residents calling on behalf of someone in need, 211info shared information about where and when shelters were open. They also helped arrange transportation to shelters as needed.

Outreach teams that contract with JOHS and other independent groups visited homeless camps to offer supplies, spread the word about warming centers, and check on vulnerable people as they navigated dangerous conditions. Portland Police officers and Multnomah County Sheriff’s deputies also shared resources and took people to shelters.

Several other organizations including faith groups, nonprofits, and neighborhood groups, also opened warming centers. Centers included downtown’s Union Gospel Mission, St. Peter & Paul Episcopal in Montavilla, and All One Community, which hosted a shelter at Portsmouth Union Church near St. Johns.

“It’s humbling and inspiring to see so many people doing whatever it takes to save lives,” said Jolin.

In January 2018, Mayor Wheeler attended the US Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington DC. While there, he met with representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Mayor also held a meeting with the West Coast Alliance of Mayors to discuss the issues that exist in other West Coast cities, including homelessness, infrastructure, and immigration.

We’re trying to create a compassionate response for truly vulnerable people.

In February, Mayor Wheeler spoke at the Gateway Area Business Association to address issues of crime and homelessness.

“We’re trying to create a compassionate response for truly vulnerable people with help social services, mental health services, and addiction services,” he said before a crowd of community members.

Read more in the article in the East Portland News here.
Would you like to report an abandoned vehicle? Simply file a request for inspection on the Abandoned Auto System via the online reporting form on the Portland Parking Bureau’s website. Once the request is filed, the case will be referred to the Abandoned Auto (AA) or RV Vehicle Inspection Team (VIT) and assigned to the correct officer in the area. The officer will service the request in a “first in-first out” inspected order. **Entering the same vehicle multiple times extends the response time for the inspection as each entry requires separate evaluation and assignment.** The criteria a vehicle needs to meet for inspection are on the Portland Parking Enforcement website. More than 50% of cases reported are “Gone Before Arrival” resulting in delayed responses to other cases.

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VIT Inspections Year-To-Date

- **N, NW, SW Single Case**
- **SE Single Case**
- **NE Single Case**
- **Unassigned Single Case**
- **Square = Multiple Cases**
Abandoned Auto and Vehicle Inspections

Year-To-Date

N, NW, SW Single Case
SE Single Case
NE Single Case
Unassigned Single Case
Square = Multiple Cases

ABANDONED AUTO AND VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018

AA and VIT

Conbind New Cases
Gone (GOA)
AA only Towed
VIT only Towed
Central City Concern’s (CCC) Clean Start program (CS PDX) is a mentored work experience that fills cleaning and maintenance needs in the Portland metro area. Volunteers from CCC’s Community Volunteer Corps have the opportunity to earn a regular paycheck, work collaboratively with co-workers, and engage with the public in a positive manner. The program also contributes to each participant’s work history and confidence to pursue future employment opportunities. Peers provide mentoring and are positive examples of clean, sober, healthy, and productive living. CS PDX provides many services including:

- Addressing trash in the community.
- Finding sustainable solutions to issues around safety, graffiti abatement, and district cleaning.
- Developing relationships with those experiencing homelessness to provide trash bags and regular clean-up schedules.
- A six-month training program for formerly homeless neighbors re-entering the workforce. Participants receive one-on-one assistance in finding a permanent, full-time job through CCC’s Employment Access Center.
- Temporary storage lockers for people who have no place to call home to put their belongings for a few hours while they work or seek employment.

The City of Portland, Clean and Safe, Multnomah County, Trimet, and Metro have also launched a pilot program for safe syringe disposal.

Clean and Safe District Report

The Clean and Safe District encompasses 213 blocks of downtown Portland. Central City Concern (CCC) is contracted to provide the cleaning throughout the district.

This program is a “homeless to work” program that puts individuals with barriers back to work for up to six months. Many of CCC employees have not worked in a while or have never had a job. The program helps build skills and confidence, and provides real opportunities for people to become self-sufficient.

During their time at CCC, employees learn soft skills such as operating on a schedule, working on a team, and proper communication with supervisors. Additionally, they work one on one with an employment specialist at CCC Employment Access Center, who helps them take the steps necessary to be successful in their career goals.

Half of the employees are in the training program and the other half are regular employees that are part of the AFSCME union.

From January 1 through March 12, 2018, Clean and Safe removed:

- 13,058 bags of trash
- 7,149 needles
- 10,397 pieces of drug paraphernalia
- 7,990 graffiti tags
- 2,299 bio hazards

In 2017, Clean and Safe removed more than 48,000 bags of trash, 27,000 needles, more than 45,000 graffiti tags and cleaned up more than 51,000 bio hazards in the district.

Central City Concern’s Clean Start Program Offers Hope, Opportunity

Central City Concern’s (CCC) Clean Start program (CS PDX) is a mentored work experience that fills cleaning and maintenance needs in the Portland metro area. Volunteers from CCC’s Community Volunteer Corps have the opportunity to earn a regular paycheck, work collaboratively with co-workers, and engage with the public in a positive manner. The program also contributes to each participant’s work history and confidence to pursue future employment opportunities. Peers provide mentoring and are positive examples of clean, sober, healthy, and productive living. CS PDX provides many services including:

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Clean Start Trash Cleanups

CS PDX is one of the first responders to many of the reports that are received through the City’s One Point of Contact reporting system. Upon request, the 11-person CS PDX team responds to the reported area, assisting campers in cleaning their area, providing trash bags, scheduling regular trash pickups, taking pictures, and performing an objective assessment of the campsite for the City while tracking the amount of garbage and materials removed. The team also receives dispatch calls from Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) officers to clean up abandoned camps and/or trash related to camps.

Many CS PDX employees have experienced homelessness themselves so in addition to addressing trash issues, they offer resources and advice to camp occupants on how they were able to overcome homelessness. At the time this report was compiled, Clean Start had removed 8,261 bags of trash weighing a total of 157,508 pounds (through March 12, 2018). Additionally, they have removed 3,668 needles and addressed 1,523 reports from the City. In 2017, they removed 36,995 bags of trash, 14,761 needles and completed 4,801 reports.