

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 12, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Pioneer Cemetery Encampment**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City Council with an update on the Pioneer Cemetery & Park encampment next steps and a resolution concerning all encampments on Parks land.

Next Steps

Normal response time for an encampment on Parks land is 72 hours. As this was not an existing encampment but an unsanctioned protest, OHS spent 2 1/2 days offering the above services and served notice to vacate with a verbal 24 hour timeline at 1pm on March 11th, 2021. It was also communicated that protesters were welcome during park hours but not after close, with cemetery hours taking precedence (park hours are from 5am to 11pm and cemetery hours are “one-half hour before official sunrise, Central Standard Time, until one-half hour after official sundown, Central Standard Time, daily.”)

DPD, Parks, and OHS were on site starting at noon today, March 12th, 2021, for removal of the site at 1pm. Several residents removed their belongings prior to the 1pm deadline while others continued to pack their items while a final notice to vacate was issued by the OHS street outreach team, accompanied by DPD. At that time, several protesters stepped in, escalating the situation. DPD took over to enforce the encampment removal with Parks coming in to clean the site afterwards. Only four tents needed to be removed, with all others cleared by residents.

Through OHS’ direction to area resources, 12 residents received rapid response COVID-19 testing, 15 received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 2 went into emergency shelter, and 2 were provided resources for gaining an ID at the Stewpot this coming week. Notably, one of the 2 ID applicants, was a Mr. Henderson, familiar to the OHS team and interviewed on Fox News during the encampment about needing an ID.

As of this evening, the park and cemetery have been cleared and cleaned and it has been reiterated to protesters that they are welcome to occupy the site(s) until closing. DPD officers remain posted to guard against any future attempts at establishing an encampment.

Resolution on Park Encampments

All encampments on Parks land pose a health and safety risk due to the high traffic in these publicly utilized areas. Therefore, it is in accordance with the encampment resolutions memo released by the City that they be removed. Per CDC guidelines,

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housing via shelter services will continue to be offered to all encampment residents by OHS. Sites will be addressed by Parks and OHS in order of magnitude, decided by location, size, and issues unique to the individual areas.

The Office of Homeless Solutions will continue to keep the City Council apprised of any actions with daily updates and talking points as needed.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christine Crossley, Director of Office of Homeless Solutions or Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager, CMO.



T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

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| Chris Caso, City Attorney | Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager |
| Mark Swann, City Auditor | Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager |
| Billierae Johnson, City Secretary | Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services |
| Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge | M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer |
| Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager | M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion |
| Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager | Directors and Assistant Directors |