

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 4, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Temporary Suspension of Encampment Resolution Efforts**

Following CDC protocols, The Dallas Police Department, Office of Homeless Solutions and City contracted vendors have jointly decided to temporarily suspend encampment resolution efforts in the month of December.

The OHS Street Outreach teams will continue to engage with persons experiencing homelessness, following all current COVID-19 protocols and procedures, to provide proactive clean-up and connections to resources and shelter. OHS will continue to monitor, assess and provide sanitary products to known encampment locations to limit the potential spread and effects of COVID-19. At present, the Office of Homeless Solutions have seen a major surge in COVID-19 cases from persons that are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

The current CDC guidance for encampment service is:

- If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are.
 - Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.
- Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual.
 - If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at increased risk for severe illness to individual rooms or safe shelter.
- Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments.
- Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day.
- If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol)

The OHS Service Request dashboard can be utilized to track the encampment status in the City.

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Councilmembers, Staff and Residents can access the dashboard using the link below:
<https://dallasgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ccd41f0d795f407a94ae17e2c27bf073>.

If you have any questions about the encampment resolution process or the dashboard please contact Kevin Oden, Interim Director, Office of Homeless Solutions.



Kimberly Bizer Tolbert
Chief of Staff

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors