




INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	October 16, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments (HSC24027(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rob Mastroianni (905) 546-2424 ext. 8035 Danielle Blake (905) 546-2424 ext. 3731
SUBMITTED BY:	Al Fletcher Acting Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

INFORMATION

Mayor's Directive

"6) To explore the development of and/or identify a centralized system to coordinate supportive services similar to those being provided at encampments;"

Council Direction

"Report back on the one (1) km setback from Outdoor and indoor temporary shelter beds"

Co-ordinated Support Services

To end homelessness a coordinated systems approach is required. This needs to include coordination of the services provided to meet the needs of clients served, ongoing monitoring and performance evaluation to ensure appropriate services are meeting targets established, coordinated entry into the system, provision of a broad range of services and the use and collection of data across the service. The temporary outdoor shelter will be operated in a way to ensure each of these pieces is in place and coordinated.

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Many of the services required by clients will be provided by the operator of the Temporary Outdoor Shelter, however, negotiations with the provider continue at this

time so more certain details aren't yet confirmed. A contract will be established with the provider. Included within that contract will be a detailed Schedule "A" which provides for the operational expectations. Through the operations plan, the operator will hire the necessary staff to provide the support on site as well as the operator will then work to co-ordinate the community services available brought to the site to support the needs of the clients that are accommodated. Housing Services Division staff will work with the operator on how to best support the residents on an ongoing basis through the full suite of services.

Encampment Distance Separation

Through Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments Report HSC24027(b)/FSC24028/PED4162), ratified by Council on September 25, 2024, council approved to expand capacity in the emergency shelter system by creating 192 temporary shelter beds and 80 temporary outdoor shelter beds. As part of this, staff recommended prohibiting encampments within a 1-kilometer radius of this temporary outdoor shelter site to prevent the further concentration and intensification of encampments near this fully supported location. Staff recognize that the temporary outdoor shelter is a unique undertaking, requires substantial effort to implement, will have unique operational considerations and through the distance separation will minimize impacts on and from the surrounding area. The parks impacted by this separation include Bayfront Park, Pier 4 Park and Central Park as permitted locations under the encampment protocol.

At the September 26, 2024, Council there was direction received regarding a review of the distance separation from the facilities which will house the 192 temporary shelter beds and existing protocol permitted encampments. The 192 new temporary shelter beds will be located within existing facilities that currently operate shelter and transitional housing programs. No new facilities will be created. However, the majority of emergency shelter beds are within Wards 2 and 3 in the City and this means these temporary beds will be within this area too. This further intensifies the impact of housing services within these wards.

If a one (1) km distance separation was to be used to minimize impacts around existing shelters housing the new temporary beds, there would be impact on service. If such distancing separation was considered for the facilities housing the new temporary shelter beds the impact on parks compliant with the protocol would be substantial. If such a restriction was in place, prohibiting encampments within one (1) km of the new

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beds the area affected by the distance separation would generally be bounded by the following:

East – Lottridge Street/Sherman Avenue North
North – Burlington Street East/ Cannon Street East
West – Hess Street
South - Escarpment

This would result in 66 currently compliant parks and spaces would becoming non-compliant. The other unintended consequence could be moving people away from services as many housing support services are within this geographic area. The implementation of the distance separation could push unhoused individuals into areas of the city where they may become isolated from vital services and supports.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A