

Attachment 2 – Public Safety and Engagement Team Focus

The Public Safety and Engagement Team will help ensure that quality of life is maintained, City facilities are being used in a safe and enjoyable manner, problems in the parks and public areas are addressed quickly and efficiently, and community members are behaving in accordance with applicable City codes and ordinances. Issues arising from unlawful panhandling, camping, abandoned personal belongings and vagrancy will also be addressed.

Homeless Engagement – The Team will engage individuals experiencing homelessness daily with the goal of connecting the individual to resources – housing and supportive services – in order to exit the condition. This engagement will also include identifying encampments on public property and coordinating the requisite noticing and lawful clean up necessary to restore order in the public realm to allow the public spaces be used for their intended purpose. Where encampments have been removed, the Team will coordinate frequent return visits to ensure encampments are not reestablished. The Team will work with the City Attorney’s Office to permanently post notices that encampments and storage of property will be removed as permitted by law.

Public Disorder – The Team will proactively address signals of public disorder including unleashed dogs, vandalism, graffiti, illegal behavior in the public, unlawful activities, and other similar nuisance activities. The Team will also engage members of the community to understand their concerns in public places so that the proper follow up activities can occur to address issues of concern. For example, if a member of the public indicates that a street light is not operable or a landscape area in a park is overgrown, the Team will communicate with the appropriate department via the 3-1-1 Call Center to ensure that the issue is corrected. Further, where the Team encounters conditions or activity on private property that negatively impacts order in the public realm, it will proactively address those issues accordingly.

Criminal Activity – Throughout its engagement activity, the Team will address criminal activity as it is encountered. Whether it be a public park, a sidewalk, or other public property, the public realm should be a place where all members of the public are able to go about their daily activities free from public safety concerns. Where the team encounters criminal activity, it will address and/or coordinate an appropriate response with the Riverside Police Department. It is important to note that this Team will not replace regular patrol officer activities, but will maintain an active presence throughout the City.

The Team will undertake its activities in the following areas and under the following criteria.

Guiding Principles

- Engage individuals in a constitutionally compliant manner
- Treat individuals with utmost dignity and respect
- Maintain order in the public realm, upholding the law
- Respect private property rights

How Engagements May Be Identified

Inputs for the Public Safety and Engagement Team will be funneled through the 3-1-1 Call Center in order to keep a record and help prioritize its engagement activities. Inputs will be received from:

- Mayor and City Council
- 3-1-1 Call Center Service Requests

- Public Agency Partners

Criteria for the Public Safety and Engagement Team to Engage Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

- Where individuals are inhabiting a place not suitable or substandard for habitation
- Any encampment area that consists of one or more individuals, with temporary or makeshift shelter
- Where individuals have accumulated materials or personal belongings that are left unattended at such location or where there exists an accumulation, abandonment or storage of trash, rubbish or junk
- Any condition which is or may prove to be unsafe or dangerous, or which blights the neighborhood, or creates an environmental hazard

All requests for service that do not meet this criteria will be diverted to the Office of Homeless Solutions (City Manager's Office), Code Enforcement Division (Community and Economic Development Department) or Riverside Police Department, as appropriate.