

A Safe Stay Community in Your Neighborhood: Resources for Neighbors



Vancouver is facing an increase in the number of people who are living unsheltered in our community. As one strategy to address this challenge, the City is planning to provide Safe Stay Communities in several neighborhoods in Vancouver. The plan calls for up to three sites in the next year. A Safe Stay Community has been identified in or near your neighborhood, located on City-owned property at **4915 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.** This document is designed to help answer your questions and provide you with some resources to address concerns that may come up around the Safe Stay Community.

Background

- There is broad concern about homelessness in Vancouver. Many of us see some of our most vulnerable residents living unsheltered, enduring extreme weather situations and needing support and stabilization as they seek a path forward for their lives.
- There are a variety of reasons why people might find themselves living unsheltered. Some people are experiencing homelessness because of a lack of affordable housing or employment security, while others struggle with mental illness, substance abuse, or a long-term disability.
- In addition to concern for the safety and dignity of people living unsheltered, there are also concerns about the impact that homelessness is having on livability in our community. The City shares community concerns about safety, trash, hygiene, waste and fire hazards and is working to address these needs.
- The City is partnering with Clark County, local service providers, neighborhoods and community leaders to continue to address the crisis of homelessness in our community.
- To address the immediate challenges of homelessness, the City is pursuing three approaches at the same time:
 1. Establish Safe Stay Communities for the most vulnerable
 2. Expand permanent shelter capacity
 3. Increase the supply of income-based housing
- When selecting a Safe Stay Community location, the City considers the following guidelines:
 - Dispersing Safe Stay Communities equitably throughout the city
 - Access to public transit
 - Potential impacts on residential areas with heightened economic vulnerability
- Public camping is not allowed within 1,000 feet of a Safe Stay Community.
- The City's first Safe Stay Community opened in December 2021, at 11400 N.E. 51st Circle in northeast Vancouver. Since its opening, the community has successfully provided its residents with referrals for permanent housing, job placement support and access to critical health and treatment services necessary to exit homelessness.
- For more information about all the Safe Stay Communities in Vancouver, visit www.cityofvancouver.us/safe-stay-community
- For Frequently Asked Questions related to Homelessness in Vancouver, visit www.cityofvancouver.us/HomelessnessFAQs
- If you would like to volunteer, donate clothing or help provide food or meals for Safe Stay residents, please contact the onsite service provider, **Living Hope Church**, using the contact information on the next page.

Resources and Contacts

Onsite Service Provider – Living Hope Church

Living Hope Church will provide 24/7 oversight of the 4915 E. Fourth Plain Blvd Safe Stay Community. For questions, concerns or volunteer opportunities, please contact: hopevillage@livinghopechurch.com

Homelessness Assistance & Resources Team (HART)

The City of Vancouver's HART staff provides outreach, assessments, and referrals to services for individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, the team serves as part of the community's crisis response system, with a focus on homelessness-related street and encampment crises. The team includes City of Vancouver staff from the City Manager's Office, Vancouver Police Department, Public Works Department, and City Attorney's Office.

Please contact HART staff to report concerns about public camping, including along the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway, or to ask questions related to homelessness in Vancouver. You can reach HART members using the MyVancouver App or using the contact information below:

- **MyVancouver App:** Download the free mobile app or use MyVancouver online at: www.cityofvancouver.us/myvancouver
- **HART Email:** HARTteam@cityofvancouver.us
- **HART Voicemail:** 360-487-8626

Talkin' Trash – Community Litter Removal

Talkin' Trash is a partnership between Share and the City of Vancouver. It employs people experiencing homelessness to help address litter in the community while providing work experience and training to help in the transition from homelessness. The program's crew includes six community cleaners, on-call cleaners, and one supervisor. The crew works from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday cleaning up litter throughout the city. The crew has a weekly route and adds extra stops, based on requests for service. The crew removes litter, but they do not remove camps or personal belongings. To report litter or other issues on public property, please contact:

- **The City of Vancouver Public Works Operations Dispatch** line: 360-487-8177
- **Online Request Form:** Service requests can also be placed online at www.cityofvancouver.us/servicerequest

Code Compliance Report Form

To report a code compliance issue on private property, visit www.cityofvancouver.us/codecompliance

Neighborhood Police Officer

For comments, concerns and questions about public safety, please contact your Neighborhood Police Officer, Corporal Sean Metevia:

- **Email:** Sean.Metevia@cityofvancouver.us
- **Phone:** 360-487-7376

To view an interactive map of crime in your neighborhood or anywhere in Vancouver, visit

- **Vancouver Crime Map:** www.cityofvancouver.us/crimemapper