



Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency
Situation Report # 11

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande
Operational Period: September 2024

New Emergency Orders (if any)

NONE

Emergency Response

- We have lost 39 people since the Homeless Memorial in December 2023
 - 4 in the month of September
- VPD Data:
 - Data collection began 7/8/24 – data below only includes figures from that date forward.

Events and Time on Events with Unsheltered Homelessness Involvement

	September 2024	Year to Date
# of Events	1,127 (11.4%)	3,556 (12.8%)
Time Spent on Events (hours)	2391.9 (21.7%)	7,143 (22.9%)

- The blue row provides the **total number of events** that officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of September and year to date (YTD), as well as the **percentage of all events that these events represent relative to all police events** in September and YTD.
- The green row provides **total number of officer hours spent on events** that officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of September and year to date (YTD), as well as the **percentage of time spent on these events** relative to all events in September and YTD.

HART Activities

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - The Mill Plain sound wall area west from Esther to Lincoln, and around the blocks of W. 11th, 12th, 13th Streets near Jefferson, King, and Lincoln.
 - Arnold Park (Discovery Trail area)
 - Numerous other smaller sites throughout the City
 - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver
- 11.92 tons of solid waste removed from public property in September by contracted crews during large-scale health and sanitation cleanups
- 6.39 tons of solid waste removed from public property in September by HART's internal Encampment Response Coordinator crew outside of scheduled cleanups
- Year-to-date: 290.18 total tons of solid waste removed from public property.
- Responded to 133 My Vancouver app submissions in September; YTD: 1084
- Handed out 27 naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to 11 individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health's Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program. *

** This program supports access to naloxone for people who are likely to experience or witness an opioid overdose by providing free naloxone to organizations and community groups for distribution to clients and community members.*

Community Engagement

- Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH) – SWWA Power Building Conference
 - Jamie participated as a panelist to discuss the effective utilization of community engagement to reducing stigma and health disparities for people with substance use and mental health disorders.
 - SWACH develops and support programs that help Washingtonians achieve whole-person wellness in our region. One such program is the Preventing and Recovery

Alliance of Clark County (PRACC), which brings together many organizations in our community, including HART, with the ambitious goal of achieving zero overdose deaths in Clark County.

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- The Outpost:
 - 3 people exited to housing this month
 - 1 resident transitioned to Open House Ministries
 - 1 resident received a needed hearing aid, and another resident battling cancer was gifted new tires for the vehicle they need to attend the many medical appointments for treatment they have.
 - AA/NA meetings are now being held on-site in the evenings, and participation in those has grown over the month.
 - The Outpost residents hosted a craft night and made wreaths for the upcoming holidays.
 - Narcan training was provided on-site for residents
- Hope Village:
 - 2 residents exited to permanent housing; another resident was approved for HUD VASH and an apartment – move-in scheduled in October.
 - 1 resident obtained employment at Retails, which has been an excellent support and community partner for our Safe Stays, and multiple other residents had job interviews.
 - 1 resident received a much-needed surgery that had been a long time coming.
 - 1 resident is nearing completion of outpatient treatment, working on Peer certification, is meeting all legal obligations, has obtained employment and medical insurance through employer, and has been approved for recovery housing. Some of this resident's individual achievements have been highlighted in other Situation Reports, but I thought it important to highlight the holistic support provided at Safe Stays.
 - Monthly Foot and nail clinic for residents has been coordinated w/ a podiatrist and will begin next month.
 - Several residents attended the Hands Across the Bridge event.

- Staff are working through the process of obtaining long-term care for several residents.
- This site is hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event open to the community on October 31st from 5-7pm. There will be candy, food, and other activities for kids/families.
- Kiggins Village:
 - 2 residents exited to housing
 - 1 resident obtained employment
 - 5 ID's, 3 Social Security card, 1 birth certificate and several other services obtained by participants
 - 2 residents are working towards reunification with children.
 - 4 residents are actively engaging in substance use disorder services, 1 of whom celebrated 90 days of sobriety.
- 415 West:
 - 2 residents exited to housing (1 into their own apartment; 1 into recovery housing), and 3 new residents moved in – all from the Mill Plain sound wall camp.
 - 2 residents obtained full-time employment
 - 2 residents celebrated 120 days of sobriety
 - 1 resident completed detox
 - 1 resident graduated from Community Court
 - The SWWA Victory Garden Project assisted residents in harvesting the vegetables they had grown. Residents decided to donate a portion of their harvest to FISH in order to give back to their downtown community.
 - Residents were engaged around what they would like/need in a larger congregate shelter. They contributed many ideas on what the ideal shared shelter space would look like for individuals struggling with homelessness.
 - Highlight of the Month: welcoming back one of the first 415 West graduates as a teammate through their partnership with Partners in Careers (PIC)
- Road2Home-Safe Park:
 - 4 residents exited to housing
 - 2 residents obtained employment

- 1 resident obtained ID
- Safe Park residents volunteer to participate in weekly trash pick-up in their neighborhood to promote community and help keep their neighborhood clean.

Bridge Shelter

- Request for Proposals for primary operator closed 9/11; Phase 1 (program design and consulting on physical design) of that contract has been awarded to Do Good; Phase 2 will return to Council at a later date.
- Request for Qualifications for Design and Engineering opened 8/28 and closed 10/9; Review and scoring of those proposals will occur over the next several weeks, and that proposed contract will come back to Council sometime in November/December.
- Phase 1 Community Engagement events have been scheduled; details and links to RSVP can be found on the City’s [Be Heard Vancouver](#) page.
 - In-person Event:

Saturday, November 16th, 10:30am-12:00pm (doors open at 10am) @ Walnut Grove Elementary School
 - Virtual Event:

Tuesday, November 19th, 6:00-7:30pm on Zoom

Community Court

Newly cited/referred into Court	14
Opted in to Community Court	13
Graduations (successful completion)	3
Community Service hours completed	24
Obtained Temporary Housing	5
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed	16

Accessing/participating in treatment services	8
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Columbia River Mental Health Services – Community Response Team (CRMHS – CRT)

- CRT was funded through a grant from SAMHSA. The funding was for one year and ended on 9/29/24. The team’s last day in the community was Wednesday, Sept 25th. Columbia River Mental Health e-mailed a survey to more than 20 businesses and organizations that CRT developed relationships and partnerships with over the last year.
- While the CRT program, as it has existed for the last year, is ending, City staff and CRMH are utilizing information, data, and experiences from that year, as well as survey responses from business and organizations, to inform the new scope of work and staffing needs for continued behavioral health response and community support in the Fourth Plain Corridor and beyond.

	Aug 26 – Sept 25	10/1/23 – 9/25/24
Calls that were Screened	6	162
In Person Interventions and Outreach	15	290
Public Engagements	32	330
Public Engagement Contacts / Individuals	40	1004

- Final Stories of Impact from CRT staff:
 - In early September, CRT engaged with an individual who was in desperate need of resources such as clothing and a sleeping bag. The team was able to provide a few items and also the name and location of St Vincent de Paul. Later the same week, the team encountered this individual again who shared that they had found many of the items they needed at St Vincent de Paul, and they were appreciative and thankful to have been able to get their needs met.
 - Reflecting on the last 7 months, it is evident that our team's work has had a profound and positive impact on the community. The consistent engagement with local businesses and community partners, as demonstrated at March’s Community Forum, laid a strong foundation for building collaborative relationships that were

crucial for effective outreach, especially during times of extreme weather. The transition to focusing on static locations and the successful milestone of engaging with 120 unique individuals in June highlight the team's adaptability and dedication respectively. Each step, from facilitating access to new resources to fostering community support through local collaborations, underscores a commitment to sustainable community development.

- We have been approached multiple times by individuals who were openly weeping and thanked us for helping them get connected. They spoke about how good they have been doing, about how much better they feel, and expressed gratitude for our service. This honestly is a job of “planting seeds” that will grow and blossom in the future. As a person who spent over 20 years cultivating plants, I can truly see this. And, as Audrey Hepburn said, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

Property Closures

- No new properties were closed in September. The list of properties which have been closed by emergency orders can be found on the City’s [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.