

Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande

Situation Report # 14

Operational Period: December 2024

New Emergency Orders (if any)

2024-1: Regarding Temporary Extension of Safe Stay Communities

Emergency Response

- We memorialized 53 people at the Homeless Memorial in December 2024; 50% of these were due to overdose/substance use.
 - This number is not complete, as we are waiting for Council for the Homeless to run a report to capture any other deaths that may have been reported in HMIS throughout the year.
- We've lost 3 individuals since the Homeless Memorial; 2 of those were from overdose.
- We opened select City facilities as Winter shelters, adding 60 beds to the community's winter shelter total. The Winter shelters will be open through March. We have identified additional City facilities as Severe Weather shelters should the need arise.
 - **Arts Center Winter Shelter** has served **63 individuals** since opening December 14th.
 - **Chkalov SOS** has served **28 individuals** since opening December 14th.
- We are finalizing pilot partnership with Council for the Homeless, VHA, and Safe Stay operators to expand through-put from Safe Stays to housing, more rapidly freeing up Safe Stay capacity to support encampment decommissioning process. This is expected to support up to **50-55 additional individuals** or households in transitioning from Safe Stay to permanent affordable housing over the year.
- **VFD 2024:** 3,167 calls for service related to unsheltered homelessness
 - Fire: 428
 - Rescue & EMS: 2,739

- **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

	December 2024	Year to Date
# of Events	932 (10.3%)	6,607 (11.8%)
Time Spent on Events (hours)	1,848.1 (18.8%)	13,343.1 (21.2%)

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

HART Activities

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - o 33rd street and Watson street area
 - o NE 72nd Ave about 40th street
 - o 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.
 - o Burnt Bridge Creek trail area both east and west of Andresen (NE 92nd Ave to Thunderbird Village)
 - o Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver
- Increased collaboration between HART and VPD Patrol during cleanups
- **22.62 tons** of solid waste removed from public property in December by contracted crews during large-scale health and sanitation cleanups
- **5.71 tons** of solid waste removed from public property in December by HART’s internal Encampment Response Coordinator crew outside of scheduled cleanups (down two employees in December due to on-job injury and transition to permanent housing and employment for another)

- **Year-to-date: 410.69 total tons of solid waste removed from public property by contracted and internal cleanup crews.**
- Responded to **94 My Vancouver app submissions** in December; **YTD: 1,499**
- Handed out **35 naloxone kits** and provided awareness on overdose response to 20 individuals in December 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

- Clark County Crisis Collaborative – presentation to group about HART
- Slavic Christian Academy – Q&A with HART at City Hall during tour of government
- Neighbors On Watch (NOW) - HART presentation of “City’s Response to Homelessness Crisis”
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library – HART briefing with administration and security
- Forum with VITA Elementary regarding the arts hub winter shelter
- Boy Scout project to increase volunteerism regarding unsheltered

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- The Outpost:
 - o **3 people exited to housing** this month
 - o 1 new resident received needed medical care and their ID
 - o **6 residents referred to housing program through new pilot program with VHA/CFTH — working on housing placement now**
 - o YMCA friends hosted a craft night making ornaments, and also a holiday party
- Hope Village:
 - o Cowlitz Tribe partnered with them to provide gifts to residents for holidays
 - o Memorial held for prior residents who had passed this year
 - o While no move outs to housing occurred this month, **6 are projected to in January with the new pilot with VHA/CFTH.**
 - o 1 resident obtained employment
 - o 2 residents obtained proper identification; 3 obtained health insurance; 2 obtained SNAP benefits
 - o **6 residents celebrated sobriety milestones** ranging from 2 to 6 months
 - o Hope Village hosted a foot clinic for wound care and other medical attention
- Kiggins Village:
 - o 1 year anniversary celebrated on December 18th

- **2 residents exited to housing** — both individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and had been in the village since its opening last year
- 3 residents obtained IDs
- 1 resident obtained employment
- **4 residents participated in detox services; 2 entered into treatment**
- Added garden beds and an awning for the office to increase community building
- 415 West:
 - **5 residents referred to housing program thru new pilot program with VHA/CFTH**
 - 1 resident referred to FCS housing program
 - 1 resident obtained an ID for the first time in 25 years
 - 1 resident obtained social security retirement benefits
 - 4 residents became Community Ambassadors
 - Couve Collective is providing regular Recovery Support Circles on-site
 - **2 team members awarded Health Connect Pathways Award by SWACH**
- Road2Home – Safe Park:
 - **11 residents exited to housing**
 - 1 resident obtained employment
 - 1 resident obtained ID
 - Held various holiday events for participants to both receive and engage in

Bridge Shelter

- Contract for Design and Engineering was approved, and design process is underway
- Purchase of the proposed property to be utilized for the bridge shelter was approved by Council

Encampment Decommissioning— Mill Plain sound wall

- 8 individuals from the sound wall transitioned to Safe Stays in the month before the sound wall by-name list was created
- 52 individuals placed on by-name list week of 10/22/24 (list was locked that week)
 - 9 individuals from the by-name list have transitioned into Safe Stays
 - 6 individuals have declined offers of shelter and have been cited into Community Court
 - 2 individuals are ineligible for referral to Safe Stays
- 17 total individuals have transitioned into Safe Stays from this camp

- All individuals along the sound wall have been informed that they will be required to relocate when the area is closed to camping.

Community Court

Newly cited/referred into Court	34
Opted in to Community Court	20
Graduations (successful completion)	7
Community Service hours completed	52
Obtained Temporary Housing	3
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed	8
Accessing/participating in treatment services	4

Property Closures

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