



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: November 20, 2023

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Council Consideration Request on Encampment Abatement Notification Policy

SUMMARY:

On February 23, 2023, Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez submitted a Council Consideration Request calling for the establishment of an encampment abatement notification and reporting policy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In FY 2023, the Department of Human Services (DHS) coordinated 680 site abatements of encampments that are assessed to pose a health and safety concern to the community and to the residents of the encampment. Since 2018, DHS has coordinated an interdepartmental response to homeless encampments, which includes assessment of health and safety concerns, prioritization, outreach and connection to resources, notification of impending abatement at least 48 hours in

advance, and site abatement.

The FY 2024 Budget increased resources to DHS and to Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) to respond to encampments, with a goal of 700 site abatements in FY 2024 to address the health, safety, and environmental issues encampments pose to inhabitants and neighbors.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez's CCR called for "the establishment of [a] notification and reporting policy for scheduled encampment abatements within a Councilmember's respective District. In addition, summary reports should be presented to the City Council quarterly. Notification should be sent no less than 48 hours in advance, when possible, with a goal to notify Councilmembers as soon as they are scheduled. Information in the notification and quarterly reports should include, but may not be limited to:

- Location of the encampment;
- Estimated number of people sheltered at the encampment;
- Number of outreach attempts;
- List of entities conducting outreach and date of attempts;
- Number of encampment residents who accepted or denied assistance and/or shelter;
- Reasons for denial of services
- If an abatement is recurring, how much the sweep(s) will cost."

ISSUE:

DHS will brief the Governance Committee on recent updates to the site abatement process, specifically, weekly posting to the DHS Urban Encampment Abatements Page (and linked at www.sa.gov/dhs) of upcoming scheduled site abatement events, which launched October 1, 2023.

DHS will also brief the Governance Committee on current data reporting efforts. With input from the Governance Committee, DHS will continue quarterly reporting to City Council district offices summarizing the results of street outreach engagement, site abatement events within the district, and housing outcomes systemwide.

In FY 2024, the Homeless Response System will increase and diversify housing solutions for the unsheltered and sheltered populations as a solution to reducing and ending individuals' experiences of homelessness.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For briefing purposes only

ALTERNATIVES:

For briefing purposes only

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff has implemented key aspects of this policy request and recommends continuing with encampment abatement notification and reporting.