



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 1

Agenda Date: April 11, 2024

In Control: City Council Special Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and update on the state of homelessness services and encampment clean-up

SUMMARY:

Staff will provide a briefing and update on homeless outreach and services and the encampment abatement process. The FY 2024 Budget included funding for additional homeless encampment abatement events, coupled with funding for strategies to prevent homelessness and provide shelter options for the unhoused population. This item is briefing only.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 2018, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has coordinated an interdepartmental response to homeless encampments, which includes assessment of health and safety concerns, outreach and connection to resources, notification of impending abatement at least 48 hours in advance, and site abatement. The FY 2024 Budget included funds support 700 site abatements in FY 2024 to address the health and safety issues encampments pose to inhabitants and neighbors. The City committed to addressing reported encampment sites within two weeks and increased housing and shelter resources to provide stability for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, to include through the SAMMinistries low-barrier, non-congregate shelter.

In December 2020, the City Council approved the Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. An update on the state of implementation of that plan and on encampment abatement process was most recently presented to the Planning and Community Development Committee in November 2023. In January 2024, Governance Committee considered Councilmember Pelaez's Council Consideration Requests (CCR) regarding a homeless education campaign, and in March 2024, the Committee considered Councilmember Alderete Gavito's CCR to discuss the prioritization of abatement in sensitive areas. This briefing item will include and update on the Council Consideration Requests referred from the Governance Committee .

ISSUE:

This briefing item will provide an update on homeless response system priority topics to include:

- Increased site abatement capacity
- Expanded low-barrier, non-congregate shelter capacity
- Coordinated central shelter bed navigation and access
- Expanded system shelter and housing option
- Improved communication and education to the community through online dashboards

Staff will gather Council policy direction on the prioritization of abatements in sensitive areas, as referred by the Governance Committee.

ALTERNATIVES:

For briefing purposes only

FISCAL IMPACT:

For briefing purposes only

RECOMMENDATION:

For briefing purposes only