



Introduction of Encampment Ordinance

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024





National City's Efforts to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness





Homeless Point In Time Count

2020 – 125 UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

2022 – 149 UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

2023 – 159 UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

2024 – 174 UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

OF THE 174:

18 VETERANS

14 WOMEN

9 YOUTH



Homeless Outreach Funded

<u>Year</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
2016-2019	Alpha	National City	\$120,000	30 month contract. 2-person full time outreach team, referrals and requests from NC
2020	Alpha	HEAP	\$430,000	3-party agreement with NC and CV. Outreach, case management, housing navigation, hotel vouchers, TBRA (Tenant Based Rental Assistance)
2021	Alpha	HHAP	\$179,000	3-party agreement with NC and CV. Outreach, case management, housing navigation, hotel vouchers, TBRA
		PLHA	\$60,000	
	McAlister	PLHA	\$313,532	Outreach, case management, emergency housing
2022	Alpha	PLHA	\$60,000	Outreach, case management, emergency housing
	McAlister	PLHA	From 2021	Outreach, case management, emergency housing
2023-2024	McAlister	PLHA	From 2021	Outreach, case management, emergency housing

Homeless Housing Programs Funded

<u>Year</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
2014	TBRA I	HOME	\$162,480.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management
2015	TBRA II	HOME	\$200,000.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management
2017	TBRA III	HOME	\$169,713.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management
2019	TBRA IV	HOME	\$334,268.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management
2020	TBRA V	HOME	\$557,941.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management. Included COVID-19 rental arrears.
2021	TBRA VI	HOME	\$415,116.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management
2023	TBRA VII	HOME	\$400,600.00	30 month program. Housing navigation, rental assistance, case management
2023-present	EHV	HUD	\$656,000.00	32 vouchers for homeless. Number represents annual disbursement
2026-2046	VASH	HUD	\$647,424.00	24 units for Union Tower. Vouchers for homeless veterans. Number represents estimated annual subsidy

San Diego Rescue Mission

- SOUTH COUNTY LIGHTHOUSE
 - A thirty day shelter with 162 beds that assists families with children and adults
 - Opened in July 2024
 - Currently has the staff capacity to house 77 individuals
 - Serves County of San Diego



Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF-3) Grant Application

Total Request-

\$15.5 million

Expenditure categories-

Outreach/Case Management: \$5 million
Interim Housing: \$1.5 million
Permanent Housing: \$8 million

Grant Partners-

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), PATH (People Assisting the Homeless, SBCS, Family Health Centers, San Diego Rescue Mission, National City Police Department and HOME (Homeless Outreach & Mobile Engagement) Team

50% of the grant for permanent housing subsidy is needed due to higher rent

-2019 Section 8 Fair Market Rent for 1 bedroom: \$1250

-2024 Section 8 Fair Market Rent for 1 bedroom: \$1740



ERF-3 Grant Objectives and Outcomes

Primary Objectives: To provide housing resources to encampment residents and promote health and safety of both residents and community.

Target Population: Approximately 180 encampment residents. Expected 120 additional inflow over grant period.

Encampment Location: 5, 805, and 54 freeway corridors. Encampment intra-migration observed throughout.

Strategy: A by-name outreach approach alongside service provision and referrals, with a robust rapid-rehousing component of both interim and permanent housing.

Outcomes: Up to 300 encampment residents contacted by outreach and case management staff. 250 to enter interim housing and 120 placed in permanent housing. Reduction in calls for service related to this population and less reliance on City resources.



Funding for Substance Use Disorder

- High need for medical beds to treat substance use disorder.
- Currently there are only “social” detoxification beds offered in the South Bay.
- City is receiving ongoing funding from a State of California Opioid Settlement Fund.
- To date, \$405,930 has been received.
- The City will put out an RFP in the next quarter for the provision of medical detox beds.
- Staff will work with the County of San Diego and other agencies to prioritize SUD treatment and longer-term case management.



National City's Homeless Encampment Response Team

Neighborhood Services- HOME Team

National City Police Department

National City Fire Department

Public Works





Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement (HOME) Team



HOME Team

- The City of National City established a Homeless Outreach & Mobile Engagement (HOME) team designed to help with the calls for service associated with quality of life issues our officers typically handle on a daily basis.
- The HOME Program is structured to have an outreach coordinator, and a code enforcement officer working together in our community.
- Both members of the HOME team were brought to the City in May 2023.
- The HOME team responds to non-emergency calls for service related to homelessness that come into the National City Police Department.
- As appropriate and safe, the HOME team works directly with those experiencing homelessness and offers them an array of services such mental health and substance use services, case management and housing opportunities.



HOME Team Outcomes

Discharge Destination	# of Clients	Percentage
Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside)	2	1.13%
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter	12	6.80%
Safe Haven	1	0.56%
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	1	0.56%
Long-term care facility or nursing home	1	0.56%
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	2	1.13%
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	1	0.56%
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	3	1.70%
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	7	3.95%
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	2	1.13%
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	11	6.21%
Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	12	6.78%
No exit interview completed	116	65.53%
Other	1	0.56%
Deceased	2	1.13%
Data not collected	3	1.70%
Total	177	100.00%
Total discharged to housing:	35	19.77%



National City Police Department



Homeless Related Calls for Service

- In March 21, 2022, the National City Police Department started using a new CAD system to record calls for service data.
 - Due to this change, data needed to be pulled from both the old and new system to cover the desired timeframe of 3 years.
 - However, since we are dealing with data from two different systems, there are some limitations and potential inconsistencies.
 - Therefore, the data presented below should be viewed as an estimate rather than a precise figure.
- From 1/1/2021 – 8/24/2024, there have been at least 5,327 calls for service containing the word ‘homeless’ or ‘transient’ in the narrative of the call for service.
- Our HOME Team officially began on October 1, 2023. As a result, the calls for service information presented below includes data on incidents where our two HOME Team members were either dispatched by the department or chose to create a self-initiated call. This data reflects their activities and responses since the program started.
 - HOME Team members were dispatched to 1,291 calls for service since they started in October 2023.
 - 1,064 are self-initiated calls
 - 90 calls were for officers requesting assistance from the HOME Team
 - 137 calls were police related calls that the HOME Team was dispatched to (ex: Disturbance & Check the Welfare calls)



Homeless Related Crime Cases & Arrests

Common Homeless Related Issues (as Suspect)

- Mental Issues (5150)
- Outside Agency Warrants
- Drunk in Public
- Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance
- Burglary
- Vandalism
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Restraining Order Violations
- Theft
- Robbery
- Battery

Common Homeless Related Issues (as Victim)

- Domestic Violence
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon
- Battery
- Robbery
- Theft

Notes

- From 1/1/2021 – 8/24/2024, there have been at least 1,283 crime cases (listed as victim, suspect, witness, other, etc.) in which ‘transient’ was listed in the address section of the report.
- During this same time frame, there have been at least 748 arrests in which ‘transient’ was listed in the address section of the report.



National City Fire Department



Homeless Encampment Fires



- Vegetation, Commercial and Residential Incidents encountered as a result of these types of fires.
- Incidents range from single unit response to multiple alarm incidents.
- Disrupts freeway and surface street traffic
- Resources, time and money are utilized to mitigate incidents.
- Hazardous material, waste and debris left on properties or into waterways-quality of life.
- Danger to Firefighters, Police Officers and other city and county workers responding to service requests/clean ups.
- Danger to business and residential properties.

Homeless Encampment Fires



- Stardust Inn 1st Alarm Fire: 152 Hrs. of personnel time on one incident alone
- August 2019 Vehicle Fire as a result of suspicious fire – 36 vehicles lost estimated value of \$1,000,000
- Units respond to multiple incidents of warming and cooking fires daily, especially in winter months
- Civic Center Drive/Interstate 5 Underpass Fire

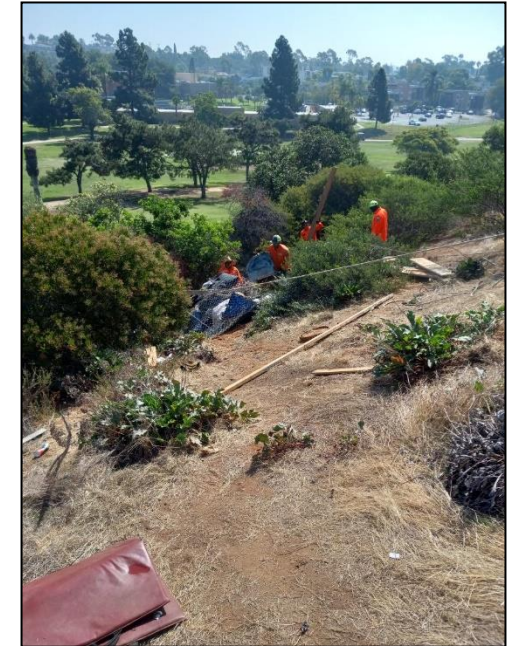
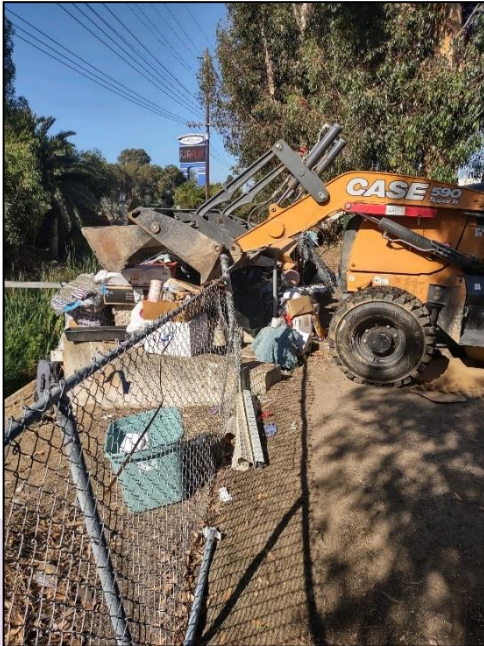


Public Works



Public Works

- Public health, safety and environmental impacts
- Diverts critical resources from preventative maintenance responsibilities
- Weekly cleanups in parks, greenways, drainage channels and other public spaces
- Debris removed in FY 2024 estimated at 60 tons
- Costs for clean-ups in FY 2024 estimated at \$400,000





Proposed Encampment Ordinance



Update to the Law on Homelessness

- **Martin v. City of Boise (2019)**
 - The court found that criminalizing the act of sleeping outside where no shelter space is available is a violation of the Eighth Amendment (cruel and unusual punishment)
 - As a result, ordinances that completely prohibit the act of sleeping on public property when an individual has no other option have been deemed unconstitutional
 - Provides limitations on how municipalities can regulate sleeping in public, but it does not amount to a total ban on a city's right to regulate
 - Cities can continue to impose reasonable time, place and manner restrictions even on individuals that are unsheltered
- **Johnson v. City of Grants Pass (2023)**
 - The court's decision upheld and expanded its decision in the Boise case by determining that the prohibition of sleeping accessories (e.g. cardboard, blankets & pillows) and the administrative enforcement of sleeping in public is unconstitutional



The Supreme Court's Grants Pass Decision

- SCOTUS overturned the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the Johnson case by ruling that enforcement of generally applicable laws regulating camping on public property does not constitute “cruel and unusual punishment” prohibited by the Eighth Amendment
- The rule from the Martin case, which was expanded by the Johnson case, is no longer applicable
- Jurisdictions are now allowed to enforce laws regulating camping on public property and shelter bed availability is not required



Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-1-24

- State agencies and departments that are subject to the governor's authority are directed to adopt policies that include:
 - Site assessment to determine whether an encampment poses an imminent threat to life, health, safety or infrastructure
 - If an imminent threat is present, provide as much advance notice to vacate as reasonable
 - When no imminent threat is present, post notice to vacate at least 48 hours prior to removal
 - Contact service providers to request outreach services for those residing in the encampments
 - Collect, label, and store for at least 60 days the personal property collected at the removal site that does not pose a health or safety hazard
- Additionally, it encourages local governments to adopt policies consistent with the Executive Order and to use all available resources and infrastructure to remove encampments from public spaces



Proposed Ordinance

- In order to protect the health and safety of all people in National City, the proposed ordinance will:
 - Make it unlawful for any person to camp in or upon any public property
 - If an encampment poses an immediate threat or unreasonable risk to any particular individual or to public health or safety, the ordinance will be enforceable at all times
 - Additionally, the ordinance would make it unlawful, at any time, for any person to camp or to have unauthorized encampments in the following locations:
 - Within two blocks of schools
 - In any waterway or natural area abutting a waterway
 - Within any transit hub, on any trolley platform or along any trolley tracks





Comments and Questions

