

## Unanswered Questions from the May 7<sup>th</sup> LHCB Meeting

- 1) **Question:** Has there been a policy change in the way that HSH, SFPD, and DPW engage with clients in encampments? Has the Mayor, directed such a change in policy?

**Answer:** No there has been no policy change in the way HSH engages with people experiencing homelessness in encampments.

- 2) **Question:** Does HSH still take the lead in resolutions, leading with services when engaging with people in encampments?

**Answer:** HSH continues to lead with social services when working to resolve encampments in partnership with Public Works, Public Health, and SFPD.

- 3) **Question:** How can the public participate and be a part of HSOC?

**Answer:** HSOC will be hosting informational meetings for the public and community advocates in the coming months

- 4) **Question:** What services were offered to clients during the sweeps?

**Answer:** Whenever HSH works to resolve an encampment our staff offers people staying in encampments the following resources:

- Shelter or Navigation Center placement
- Connection to health care services (sometimes provided onsite through health fairs)
- Information about meal programs
- Assessments for housing placement (Coordinated Entry)
- Other service linkages made by request

- 5) **Question:** How can people be involved in the formulation of policies instituted by the HSOC? What are the advisory committees that exist within the HSOC and each department involved in the HSOC?

**Answer:** The public can receive updates from HSOC and give feedback and input at the public informational meetings that will be hosted by HSOC.

- 6) **Question:** Who is setting policy, where is the policy coming from, and who is responsible? Where is the mayor's office in this conversation? (*As it is obvious they are the ones behind the shift in policy that these departments are carrying out*)

**Answer:** HSOC policy is set by the HSOC Policy Committee made up of senior staff from multiple City Departments including HSH, SFPD, Public Works and Public Health.

- 7) **Question:** Why is it okay to harm someone in moving their tent and not having placements for them and a place to go?

**Answer:** It is not ok for anyone to be harmed in the operation of an encampment resolution. Every effort is made to connect people to shelter and services prior to an encampment resolution.

- 8) **Question:** How can private-public partnerships be further developed and how can the business community be further incorporated into encampment resolution solution?

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**Answer:** The business community is welcome to join the HSOC public informational meetings for updates and as an opportunity to give feedback.

- 9) **Question:** How can parks and public spaces be incorporated into the encampment solution? Since mini-parks are viable places of refuge, places for people to be without being harassed during the day when not in shelters or SRO's?

**Answer:** We refer to you to the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to discuss the role of parks in providing public spaces to the community.

- 10) **Question:** Whose idea was it to have only seven-day shelter placements offered to people during the sweeps, what was the plan for people after that 7<sup>th</sup> day? What measures were taken for accountability for the plan and client placements?

**Answer:** People living in tents throughout the Mission District have been actively outreached to for 10 months and offered placement into Navigation Centers and shelters. The group remaining on the street had not taken HSH up on these offers. A final effort was made to offer people a safe alternative location (shelter) prior to the resolution of the encampment.

- 11) **Answer:** How are complaints of encampment recorded? Are complaints from homeowners and housed community members unfairly weighed when reporting to the police?

**Questions:** Complaints are generally recorded in 311. A number of factors are taken into consideration when determining which escapements will be resolved, including health, safety, number of people, and the length of time the encampment has been present.

- 12) **Question:** What are the baseline principles for the engagement of clients in encampments? How can clients be referred to a shelter for 7 days and have no housing outcomes or exit plans?

**Answer:** Please see the [Encampment Resolution Team overview](#) on the HSH website.

- 13) **Question:** How can Caltrans property be used to support future encampment communities?

**Answer:** With the passage of AB 857 last year, San Francisco can utilize unused Caltrans property for homelessness services. Our first projects that will take advantage of this legislation are the Division Circle Navigation Center and the Bryant Street Navigation Center. Both sites will be on Caltrans property and will provide critical shelter and services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in SF. The Division Circle site will have 125 beds and will be open in June 2018 and the Bryant Street site will have 86 beds and is due to open in the late summer/ early fall 2018. These Navigation Centers will offer people living in encampments alternative safe locations out of encampments and services.

- 14) **Question:** Why does SFPD use rhetoric of criminalization to describe encampments and encamped individuals?

**Answer:** This question should be directed to the SFPD.

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15) **Question:** Could parking garages and using space on the top floor be used as potential spaces for short-term shelter?

**Answer:** This question should be directed to the SFMTA. HSH does have health and safety concerns about using parking garages as shelter facilities.