

LAGUNA ENCAMPMENT MITIGATION MEASURES CONDUCTED SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

AFTER ACTION REPORT
Meeting Date: October 7, 2021

Attendees:

City Staff: City Manager/Attorney Larry McLaughlin
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
Public Works Superintendent Dante Del Prete
Police Sergeant Cameron Fenske
Police Aide Michelle Beckman

West County Community Services (WCCS)

Tim Miller
Danielle Danforth
Jennifer Lake
Arnis Ronis

Interdepartmental Multi-Disciplinary Team ("IMDT")

Joseph Hegedus
Will Gayowski
Terri Graves
Alan Powell

Agenda for Meeting:

1. Introductions
2. Role of Each Agency
3. Strengths of Event
4. Weaknesses of Event
5. Follow up Actions Recommended

Recap of the Role of Each Agency:

Police Department:

Prior to Event:

- Talking with personnel in the Laguna in months leading up to this
- Trying to get a feel on who is in the Laguna
- What is the living situation is like for those in the Laguna
- Determining where camps are located
- Keeping track of events as they progressed (more and larger camps, who people are, what their backgrounds are, etc.)
- Sorted through legalities (who's property are they on; what legal requirements need to be met before the City could move them somewhere else)
- Involved meetings with attorneys with City and County
- Preparation of Notices Needed to be Offered
- Approval from City Management
- Letters went out a week prior to the event
- In person communication

- Keeping track of things between when notices went out and event

Day of Event:

- Being on scene for security
- Enforcement Team – goal no one would be getting arrested or going to jail or getting ticket
- Keeping track of what is happening, progress, form needed residents to sign (property abandoned or not)
- Storing property

Interdepartmental Multi-Disciplinary Team (“IMDT”)

- On site
- Mutual collaboration involving all the right agencies
- Right people at table worked well
- City for logistics for property
- Pre work was very helpful and informative

Day of:

- Strategy check in with everyone
- WCCS to have equipment set up for staging area
 - Paperwork
 - Resources
 - Discussion of tasks for each agency
 - Great information where people were location
 - state for rally
- Surprising number of total people accepting services and placement
- Higher ratio than usual
- Successful smooth operation
- Smooth easy event working camp
- People easy to work with
- People not happy disappeared early – not able to assess
- Effective
- Appreciative

Public Works:

Prior to Event:

- Coordinated having a storage container delivered to the Police Department
- Coordinated placement of Debris Box on Morris Street
- Did have some unauthorized dumping of articles in debris boxes – not all of the items in the unshoused persons belongs were in there

Day of Event:

- Staffed worked closely with Police Department for debris clean up
- Role was to gather, removal and haul away the debris that was determined to be abandoned or trash
- Approximately 60 yards of debris hauled away
- Extensive debris on Railroad Forest side of the Joe Rodota trail
- Public Works manpower used for clean-up for four days after event
- Environmental success

WCCS:

- Started early on with messaging by Arnis and Jennifer
- Identifying campsites before notices went out
- Information to campers (options)
- Some went to shelter before he sweep
- Some picked up and left (remnant of unoccupied camps)
- Resources
- Coordination
- Meetings
- Common language
- Why happening
- Issues at hand
- Give notice effective in least possible way and get services
- Not lose belongs
- Trauma
- Networking
- Trying to correct people knee jerk reactions
- Reasons why out there – help them

Day of Event

- Various places day off
- Staff split up in different locations
- Trucks to help people move their belongings
- All hands on deck
- Different areas in Laguna
- Showing them areas for resources
- Not a lot of action at ends
- Available
- Went well
- Work done ahead of time effective
- People appreciative
- Continued to help for a few days after that
- One person got into ACS – person waited three days to make decision
- Identified, assessed, checked up
- Many thanks from participants for services
- Daniel Barwick and Pat Jones from PV were present and helped with the agency van and truck.

Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS):

- Provided emotional and logistical support
- Helped people sort through their things
- SAVS also provided two vans, bottled water and food bags at the resources area.

City Management:

- Appreciative of efforts
- Well-coordinated/Well done
- Discussed storage of items
- Issue at last minute

- Dealt with effectively
- Thanks to City staff, WCCS and everyone
- This was very well done

WCCS:

- Impressive
- Only involved in one sweep – defined area
- Laguna – different areas
- Trash most different issue
- Thanked everyone for how well it went

STRENGTHS:

Overall comments:

IDMT:

- Early recon and outreach from WCCS
- Instrumental to accessing everyone
- Good collaboration with team in the field
- Interactions with officers and unhoused went well – no provocation, no altercations and patience
- Law enforcement presence was great – handled clients well
- Preparation work from West County
- Strategy Meetings
- Split up of Tasks
- Good planning
- Pre planning meetings (although difficult to schedule and organize) were critical
- Raised questions
- Did as much as possible to prepare
- Coming to table with adequate resources to offer persons
- Good grasps of what was available between different organizations and information was shared among this group
- United front
- Volume of campers (small group)
- If volume is high the problems compound
- Volume small – large team – plenty of resources – went well
- Good experience
- Different issue if planning for Morris Street:
 - Logistics
 - Obstacles
 - A lot of people
- Someone can accept placement for up to two weeks after event
- Understanding timelines
- IDMT timeline and emotional timeline of clients
- Working after the sweep
- People took long time to decide
- IDMT still trying to place one individual to ACS
- For planning purposes, remember this is to be expected in the future
- Team still working two weeks afterwards

Police and Public Works Departments:

- More work than anticipated
- Communication internally between City staff
- Collaboration between agencies excellent
- First time done by staff
- Pre-sweep intel helpful
- Knew people well
- Knew names, history, what is important to them
- Brought in additional staff to work street
- Quick adaption for Ninth Circuit Ruling
- Appreciated WCCS speaking to reporter/Well written article

WCCS:

- Credit to Sebastopol Police for demeanor of Officers
- Helpful
- Caring place
- What can we do to help to do this
- Not a heavy hand but open heart
- Across the board
- That approach made a huge difference
- Not confrontational place
- Not a lot of combative /or defensive responses
- Behind the scene support
- Team work
- Not fragmented
- SAVS did a great job
- Stayed on script
- Made at least harmful or stressful of being displaced
- Collaboration
- Options for campers

Key Things to Work on/Weaknesses of Event:

Police/Public Works Departments:

- Last minute decision to get storage container
 - Should be done in advance
 - Rushed decision
- Lack of communication in some specific areas
- Was informed that Public Works thought SAVS or WCCS would do clean up and then Public Works would clean up what was left
- Not sure that was communicated well what was expected of Public Works
- Ended up having personnel do what they did not expect to do
- Internal communications- most of the department did not know specifics – knew in general
- Did not think ahead of what to do with the property/how/where to store property
- Felt rush getting notices out
- Created late – tried to get advice from attorneys – helpful but was in court all day

- Need to understand clear roles
- Need better understanding of our legal obligations for collecting and storing property
- Write up list of available resources prior to the sweep
- Have a better game plan about how we're going to hit the camps on the day of the sweep

IDMT:

- Structured agenda for meetings
- One or two page process flow
- Less running around in terms of notices
- Confusion in terms of coordination

WCCS:

- Understand more of process (different sites; ACS; referral process)
- Not understand fully what everyone else is doing
- Not clear understanding of ACS or Sites
- Had a plan that social service first and police reinforce
- Have a plan until you get hit in the face
- Impossible to stick with one team as planned
- Everyone pulled in different directions
- Can do better at planning
- Second clearance as agency
- Learning
- Experience is greatest weakness
- Problem of always evolving court decisions regarding homelessness that muddy the waters in terms of legal rights and services.

City Manager/Attorney McLaughlin

- Not understanding what the City's continuing responsibility for the belongings being stored in container provided by the City
- Duties in that regards not understood until last minute

WCCS Response:

- 90 Days
- Marked with Names
- Access

Statistics:

People accepting services and placements:

- 3 placed at Holiday Inn Windsor
- 1 accepted Services
- 3 placed at ACS enroute to NCS
- Total: 6 ACS enroute to transitional placement

WCCS: 8 beds were available at COTS but none were used

- 2 people went to shelter before sweep
- 3 people went after the sweep
- 1 accepting services
- A couple people are on a waiting list

11 ACS or Shelter
5 More Accepted Services

Recommended Follow Up Actions:

- People need to continue to work after the sweep because there is always follow-up with occupants who don't always accept help right away.
- Look at opportunities for Funding