

Updated July 13, 2018

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON Problem Elimination & Reduction Team – 2018



In response to the community concerns of aggressive behavior, public health concerns, and criminal activity the City has identified specific actions that can be taken internally as well as community partners and resources to reduce the impact to quality of life and expense for residents, businesses and visitors to the City. (work began May 1, 2018)

Issue	Objective	Action Item	Timeframe	Financial & Staff Time Implications	Progress Notes	Measurement - Deliverable &/OR Outcomes
RV parking enforcement & impound	Reduce violations of parking ordinances Eliminate blight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate current code Clear communication of enforcement process Define storage and disposal process Ensure enhanced enforcement capacity – through parking enforcement, CSO's Identify budget for disposal Solve issue of impound of RV's by suspended license drivers Discuss Urban Ave parking issue 	By May 31	60 hours \$1k per vehicle \$5k per year	Completed process paper – standardizing process of enforcement, tow to City Shop, and disposal New process utilized with good success	Reduced time in process of each case
Encampments PUBLIC PROPERTY	Reduce instances of unlawful encampments in park property Track encampments Retain environmental health of critical areas Coordinate City Department response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID additional manpower and tools for tracking Review trespass policy Consider trespass admonishment process management Critical area policy compliance ID budget sources Outsource clean ups Parks Code of Conduct Additional FTE assigned through solid waste utility 	By June 28	1 FTE in Solid Waste Utility 1 seasonal in Solid Waste Utility (\$70k) Solid Waste disposal costs (\$15k) Tablet or smart phone for designated police staff member (\$1k) Contract with Bio Management NW for assistance with encampment clean up (\$10,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS process in place for mapping Continue with warnings and trespass admonishment Critical area policy reviewed Contract signed with Bio Management Northwest to assist in large clean ups Draft Park Code of Conduct being reviewed and will be presented to City Council for adoption Met with Dike Dist #1 – collaborative agreement formed to cover costs FTE approved by City Council on June 27, 2018 	Reduce occurrences Reduce impact to environment, city staff, and city residents
Encampments PRIVATE PROPERTY	Reduce impact to City government (see above under PUBLIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research billing capability Prepare communication methods to property owners: Educate CPTED, provide referrals for clean up increase partnership 	By July 31	55 hours \$1000 in printing and productions costs	Small committee formed to produce a code enforcement process, referrals, engagement with property owners.	Reduce occurrences Increase private property owner engagement and compliance
Utilize Authorization to Act as Agent	Obtain permission proactively to more efficiently address issues on private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Attorney's office, Mayor, and Crime Prevention work together to define uses Produce standard process 	By June 15	20 hours staff time	Draft competed Need process to be written and adopted	Reduced time in enforcement of law on private property
Tobacco Free Riverwalk	Reduce trash and health hazard	Discussed with City Council May 30 –continue to explore recommendations from staff including ability to enforce				
Pedestrian Interference enforcement	Reduce pedestrian interference to motor vehicles in travel on high safety risk roads in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent multiple daily patrols and enforcement Engage with WSP for assistance in enforcing State laws on on/off ramps 	Immediately	1 hour per shift	Communicated directly to patrol staff WSP confirmed they will enforce law - pedestrian on a limited access highway	Significant reduction in offenses
Trespass admonishment	Streamline process Increase citywide communication Enforce Code of Conduct in City buildings and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve management of data – complex Structure communication (interdepartmental) De-conflict social services trespass Figure out internal communication with photos Discuss with Skagit 911 	By July 31	80 hours staff time	Process reviewed, is as efficient as it can be with data tools we have Booking photos are protected from release by PRA – look for State law change Continue process as is	Ensure streamlined system for police, and city staff

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Resource officer downtown OR Parks Law Enforcement Ranger ✓	Concentrated police coverage of downtown and subarea Reduce calls for service in Downtown area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy & job description Discuss with Guild Explore park ranger models – Mukilteo, Everett Budget amendment and council action COPP to increase foot patrols Fire Dept Station 1 to increase foot patrols Zone officers to increase dedicated time in zone as patrol demands allow 	May – July	\$100k per officer \$75k per ranger Possible funding partners in Skagit Transit and Skagit County	City Council supports – approved new FTE park ranger position on July 11, 2018. City is commencing hiring process June 1- Sept 1 emphasis downtown for this year using zone officers and COPP volunteers Meet with Downtown Association on July 17	Reduce calls for services in downtown area
Shopping Cart Theft reduction plan ✓	Reduce theft and abandonment of property Hold retailers accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with retail loss prevention group to discuss law, retrieval, partnership, prevention before legislation is recommended Review ordinance requiring retrieval in the event of lack of self-compliance 	Scheduled for June 19, 2018 MVPD Roll Call NOON	55 hours engagement time	Met with retail theft group on June 19, 2018 City will collect carts for now and notify shops that if not retrieved, will recycle	Reduction in shopping carts collected by City Staff
High & persistent number of nuisance complaints in near proximity to Friendship House originating from Friendship House activities	Form collaboration with Friendship House, City, and surrounding neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate nuisances code and enforcement options Facilitate dialogue with Friendship House Board of Directors, City, and Neighborhood Authorization to Act as Agent for neighboring properties 	May – July Board meeting June 27, 2018	45 hours of engagement time	Meeting held with Friendship House Board, Mayor, City Councilmembers on June 27 Instituted weekly meetings between Friendship House Director and MVPD Lt. going forward Desire weekly neighborhood meetings to check in and address any collective concerns Interaction with BNSF roadmaster for ideas and assistance on loitering at the BNSF tracks	Reduction in calls for services to Friendship House and surrounding 3 block radius
Faith – Non-profit engagement ✓	Educate faith community on issues City faces Enhance support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene a meeting of all Mount Vernon churches and faith based non-profits for lunch and learn (quarterly) Participate in MV 7th Day Adventist led Community Conversations group 	June 26, 2018 Hillcrest Lodge Ongoing Friday mtg	\$150	Meeting conducted on June 26 – group decided to convene again in August to discuss partnerships and actions	More engagement and assistance from faith community in providing support to homeless population
More legal support	Quicker assistance to police for civil process, enforcement and questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find contract attorney to assist police 	By June 30	\$10,000 per year	Interviewing ongoing	Faster assistance to police in civil matters including drug abatement and nuisance violations
Partnership with Skagit County Govt ✓	Partner to provide more strategic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with Skagit County public health discussing: Day shelter services, Mental health funding and programs, Housing, Jail programs 	ongoing	ongoing	Continue to advocate through permanent supportive housing project, day center concept	Influence change in social service delivery models
Derelict vehicles on Urban Avenue	Eliminate vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enact no parking along east side of Urban Ave 	By August 8, 18	10 hours	Council supports – as soon as ordinance is drafted will present to Council. Anticipate July 25 or August 8 adoption	Elimination of abandoned vehicles along Urban Avenue
Outreach Coordinator embedded with police ✓	Continue the MSW position and engagement with homeless individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew contract with Skagit County 	July	City pays 1/3 of FTE (\$30k annually)	Completed July 11, 2018	Ongoing statistics through MVPD