

YEAR END REPORT – December 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	Objectives	Action Items	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, CSOs Identify budget for disposal Solve issue of impound of RVs by suspended license drivers Discuss Urban Ave parking issue 	By May 31	60 hours \$3,005	<p>Completed process paper – standardizing process of enforcement, tow to City Shop, and disposal</p> <p>New process utilized with good success</p>	<p>Reduced time in process of each case: 3-4 weeks of time per vehicle</p> <p>Noticeable reduction in vehicles in town</p> <p>7 cases in 2018</p> <p>Net cost to City: \$3,005</p>
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	<p>1 FTE in Solid Waste Utility</p> <p>1 seasonal in Solid Waste Utility (\$70k)</p> <p>Solid Waste disposal costs (\$15k)</p> <p>Tablet or smart phone for designated police staff member (\$1k)</p> <p>Contract with Bio Management NW for assistance with encampment clean up (\$10,000)</p>	<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 Park ordinance (contains code of conduct) adopted by Council on Sept. 26, 2018 Met with Dike Dist #1 – collaborative agreement formed to cover costs Solid Waste FTE approved by City Council on June 27, 2018. Hiring complete. Solid Waste employee trained in and engaged with CWP needs for encampment clean ups - employee allows CWP coverage 7 days per week with 2 per shift 	<p>Reduce occurrences & scope</p> <p>Reduce impact to environment, city staff, and city residents</p> <p>Staff reports reduction in impact: 286 clean ups & checks 1037 hours of labor \$12,127 supplies</p> <p>\$34,793 labor and supplies</p> <p>Anecdotally since Sept 1, 2018 the scope of clean ups has gone down due to FTE being dedicated to consistent patrols</p>
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	<p>\$1000 in printing and productions costs</p> <p>296 hours spent in clean up (May-Sept)</p>	<p>5 dumpsters delivered to private property owners for clean up.</p> <p>Clean up kits produced and contains: garbage bags, gloves, sharps container, crime prevention information, referrals card for homeless individuals, one time coupon for 1.5 yard dumpster haul from solid waste, no trespassing sign</p>	<p>Reduce occurrences & scope</p> <p>Increase private property owner engagement and compliance</p> <p>Solid Waste employee & Police volunteers engaged with 70 property owners along Kulshan Trail – Offered crime prevention education, clean up kits, support</p>

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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	120 hours staff time	<p>Document completed</p> <p>Deployed to 108 businesses in the downtown core</p>	<p>Reduced time in enforcement of law on private property</p> <p>108 businesses have completed document</p>
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	<p>1 hour per shift/ per day</p> <p>182 hours x \$53.90 = \$9,809</p>	<p>Communicated directly to patrol staff</p> <p>Each shift is monitoring and stopping to discuss with offenders. Dozens of warnings issued.</p> <p>WSP confirmed they will enforce law - pedestrian on a limited access highway</p>	<p>Reduction in cited offenses</p> <p>2017= 6</p> <p>2018= 4</p> <p>City successfully defended ordinance in Court challenges twice this year to date</p>
Trespass admonishment	<p>Streamline process</p> <p>Increase citywide communication</p> <p>Enforce Code of Conduct in City buildings and places</p>	<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	5 hours staff time	<p>Process reviewed, is as efficient as it can be with data tools we have</p> <p>Booking photos are protected from release by PRA – look for State law change</p> <p>Use ArcGIS application to build app for easy data use by parks, police, library staff</p>	Ensure streamlined system for police, and city staff
<p>Resource officer downtown OR</p> <p>Parks Law Enforcement Ranger</p>	<p>Concentrated police coverage of downtown and subarea</p> <p>Reduce calls for service in Downtown area</p>	<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	<p>\$93,172 per ranger</p> <p>Possible funding partners in Skagit Transit and Skagit County</p>	<p>Park Ranger FTE approved by City Council on July 11, 2018. Hiring process currently underway</p> <p>June 1- Sept 1 emphasis downtown for this year using zone officers and COPP volunteers</p> <p>Met with Downtown Association on July 17</p>	<p>Reduce calls for services in downtown area</p> <p>400 patrol hours –proactive</p> <p>159 hours COPP - proactive</p> <p>Reduction each month of patrol emphasis, over 34% reduction overall in June – September</p> <p>OT shifts in Oct, November = \$15,000</p>
Shopping cart theft reduction plan	<p>Reduce theft and abandonment of property</p> <p>Hold retailers accountable</p>	<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 x \$53.90 hour = \$2,964	<p>Met with retail theft group on June 19, 2018</p> <p>City will collect carts for now and notify shops, if not retrieved, will recycle</p> <p>Police met with Safeway management on Sept. 12, 2018 – Safeway agreed to several of our requests: calls for service, prosecution of theft, CPTED suggestions</p> <p>Significant reduction in abandoned shopping carts</p>	<p>Reduction in shopping carts collected by City Staff</p> <p>Staff collected 29 carts from July to date.</p> <p>Recycled by Skagit River Steel – recovered approximately \$30 per ton</p>

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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	<p>45 hours of engagement time @ \$53.90 hr = \$2,425</p> <p>Emphasis patrol update: estimated 400 patrol hours @ \$53.90 = \$21,560 proactive costs do not include reactive calls and processing criminal activity</p> <p>159 hours COPP - proactive</p> <p>Street lights= \$15,760</p>	<p>Meeting held with Friendship House Board, Mayor, City Councilmembers on June 27</p> <p>Instituted bi-monthly meetings between Friendship House Director, staff and MVPD Lt. going forward (6 held to date)</p> <p>FH reduced meal service to 1x per day Sept 1</p> <p>Reduction in calls for service in surrounding area and Red Apple Market</p> <p>Adding 3 street lights to neighborhood</p> <p>BNSF roadmaster will allow City to modify barrier with fencing – they will not financially contribute – Street Dept developed prototype and will install as time allows in schedule</p> <p>Participated in 2 neighborhood meetings, continued monthly neighborhood meetings to check in and address any collective concerns</p>	<p>Reduction in calls for services to Friendship House and surrounding 3 block radius</p> <p>AUG '18- SEPT '18 = 50% decrease in calls for service in neighborhood surrounding Friendship House</p> <p>SEPT '17 – SEPT '18 = 35% decrease in calls for service</p> <p>AUG '18 – SEPT '18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RED APPLE MARKET CALLS = 34.5% decrease in calls for service SAFEWAY CALLS= 8% decrease JERRY's GROCERY= no change D&D GROCERY= 1 additional call/50% increase
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 12 staff hours @ \$53.90 = \$646	<p>Meeting conducted on June 26 – group decided to convene again in August to discuss partnerships and actions</p> <p>Second meeting August 21, 2018 at Hillcrest Lodge- no further updates from group at this time</p> <p>Will convene another meeting March 21, 2019</p>	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	\$60,000 per year	<p>PT employee included in 2019 City budget to assist 20 hours per week - \$60,000</p> <p>Employee started Feb 2019</p>	Faster assistance to police in civil matters including drug abatement and nuisance violations – measure in 2019 with PT employee on board
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, 2018	10 hours	<p>Council adopted ordinance, July 25, 2018</p> <p>Signs are ordered - \$2,300 for materials and time to install</p>	<p>Elimination of abandoned vehicles along Urban Avenue</p> <p>No cases reported in 2018</p>

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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 \$30,000 per year	Completed July 11, 2018	Ongoing statistics through MVPD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 950 contacts in 2018 • 30 people connected to treatment • 36 assisted in obtaining ID • 7 people returned to home county or state • 5 placements in apartments
Downtown Association	Long term collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a pro-active business/resident watch program • Actively engaged in crime prevention • Fund private security 			Downtown Association working to organize a Business Watch, and working to hire private security Police contacted 70 businesses downtown individually the week of Oct 15, 2018 to facilitate communication Additional lighting added to Pine Square Parks staff patrol Pine Square at least twice daily	

Working document