

## **Contingency Planning**

### **Scenario 1: Establishing an Emergency Encampment at Port's Cornwall site.**

In this scenario, the Bellingham Occupied Protest ("BOP" a.k.a. "the Collective or the Collaborative") is able to identify an organization entity that is able to enter into a both license and service agreements with the City to provide a very-low to no-barrier emergency encampment until Spring '21 (end date uncertain) at the Port of Bellingham's property located at Cornwall and Laurel. Encampment would have 25 tiny houses or pallet shelters and common facilities serving up to 28 individuals.

City/County/Port would provide the following to facilitate the encampment:

- a. Site (Port)
- b. Site prep and utilities (City)
- c. Pallet shelters or modular tiny houses (County) and necessary support/community facilities (City)
- d. Funding for credentialed professional(s) with experience working with chronic unsheltered to review operational plans, train volunteers, provide on-site professional guidance and act as a resource to address emergent issues (City/County).

BOP would take applications and move up to 28 current campers from City Hall/Library lawns to this new encampment upon establishment (date uncertain).

Concurrent with the establishment of the encampment (but before occupancy), the City would facilitate a coordinated effort to bring service providers, case workers and the HOTeam to the City Hall/Library site to encouraged those campers who have not been selected for the Cornwall Encampment to reconnect with existing services (i.e. Base Camp) and other case managers and programs.

After selected campers are relocated to the Cornwall encampment and those who remain select to return to Base Camp or other programs, BPD begins to implement the planned tagging and removal of tents and materials from City Hall/Library sites.

Ultimately, the last holdouts are trespassed, and the site temporarily fenced to allow restoration of the lawn areas and to prevent reentry.

**Team:** Brian, Eric, Amy, Kurt, Rebecca

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How and when does the City and its partners message this process? Should messaging be incremental? When should the "end date" be disclosed?
- What agreements, licenses and contracts need to be in place for the encampment to be established?
- What steps are needed to get Cornwall site operational? What is a reasonable timeline?
- What Conditions need to be in place (as part of the license) to ensure safe operation? How should the following issues be addressed:
  - How do we assure that the Cornwall encampment will end in Spring?
  - Should occupancy of the encampment be conditioned on an agreement with BOP to vacate City Hall/Library lawn – date specific?

### **Scenario 2: Phased Shutdown of City Hall/Library Lawn Encampment**

In this scenario, the Bellingham Occupied Protest (“BOP” a.k.a. “the Collective or the Collaborative”) is not able to identify an organizational entity that is able to enter into a both license and service agreements with the City to provide a very-low to no-barrier emergency encampment. Negotiations likely stall as requests to provide sites and support without having appropriate legal agreements is not negotiable for the City.

The City subsequently communicates to the BOP that the City Hall/Library lawn encampment will be coming to an end (is an end date provided at this time?) and that alternatives for shelter are available. It is likely that tensions will escalate with the protest organizers and the City can anticipate significant opposition to be voiced during public comment at next available City Council meetings and at the County’s Homeless Strategies Workgroup. Anticipating this, the City and its partners proactively circulates their position and supporting rationale through press releases, social media and its website in advance of opportunities for public comment.

Concurrent with notifying the BOP and initiating the communication outreach effort, the City facilitates a coordinated effort to bring service providers, case workers and the HOTeam to the City Hall/Library site to encouraged those campers to reconnect with existing services (i.e. Base Camp) and their case managers and programs.

Immediately after the effort to invite and reconnect campers with existing services occurs, BPD implements its phased plan to notice and remove illegal tents.

Ultimately, the last holdouts are trespassed, and the site temporarily fenced to allow restoration of the lawn areas and to prevent reentry.

**Team:** Peter, Rick, Melissa Bianconi (Nicole is out this week), Tara, Janice, Shane

**Discussion Questions:**

- How and when does the City contact the BOP? What is a reasonable timeline?
- What should be the focus of our message and communication strategy?
  - How can we ensure broad circulation of our position?
  - What is the strategy for Council communication and Homeless Strategies Workgroup?
- Do we announce the encampment end-date early on? If not, when should it be announced?
  - When announced, should we anticipate a legal challenge – temporary injunction? If so, does that effect timing of the announcement?
- How can we organize service providers and case managers to visit the site to reconnect with folks? Anticipating a hostile reception, who should they be escorted by? How does the City respond if protesters “blockade” the site (as at Cal Anderson Park in Seattle)?
- Do we close City Hall during the period from notice given until site is cleared for safety of employees?