

# HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIES

Council Discussion

# WHAT WE KNOW

- ▶ Homelessness is a national crisis.
- ▶ Camas has homeless individuals and families at all levels.
- ▶ Roughly 8% of our total homeless community are from outside the Camas/Washougal area. Most have family or community connections here.

# WHAT WE WANT

## ▶ COUNCIL VALUES

- ▶ All community members feel supported within Camas city limits.
- ▶ Homelessness is not a crime and individuals shall be treated with respect, dignity, and compassion and strive to minimize harm and trauma.
- ▶ There is nothing compassionate about letting people sleep in a tent.

## ▶ DESIRED OUTCOMES

- ▶ No homeless in Camas.
- ▶ CPD and City Staff are trained and have access to support programs and resources to support those in need.

## ▶ UNWANTED CONSEQUENCES

- ▶ Not financially sustainable.
- ▶ Program solution meets the program needs rather than create more problems.

# NEXT STEPS FOR CAMAS

- Discussion with council.
- Frequently Asked Questions response sheet developed and distributed to staff and council. Final draft in progress.
- Council consider adopting the new CMC(Camas Municipal Code) Chapter 12.34 related to unlawful camping and storage of personal property on public property that effectively offers support to the homeless while protecting city parks, open spaces, public property to ensure intended use and in compliance with State and Federal laws. This proposed ordinance is in progress and will be discussed at a future workshop meeting.
- Mayor, CA, and Police Chief identify and train appropriate staff to know how to offer resources and/or enforce city code and ordinance.
- Encourage the mayor's work with ECHO, Ending Community Homelessness Organization, and it's partners and providers to help facilitate connection to proper services for those in need.
- Explore multi-agency Inter-Local Agreements.

# APPENDIX

## LOCAL SUPPORT

- ▶ Available Programs - list of rental assistance programs and other support resources
- ▶ ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Organization) - Clark County Commission/City Mayor collaboration
- ▶ Bybee Lakes Hope Center
- ▶ Lifeline Connections
- ▶ Rainier Springs
- ▶ Gresham, OR - A Home for Everyone

## OUTSIDE AREA PROGRAMS/RESOURCES

- ▶ JustCARE - King County Regional Homelessness Authority
- ▶ Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless
- ▶ Pallet Shelter Village - Sonoma County, CA
- ▶ Camping Ordinance - Seaside, OR, Shelton, WA

QUESTIONS?

