

ORDINANCE NO. 105, 2023
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES IN THE GENERAL FUND TO CONTINUE
THE ENCAMPMENT SITE CLEANUP PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, prior to 2019, the City did not have a separate encampment fund, rather the costs of cleanups came from regular operating budgets for Natural Areas, Parks, Neighborhood Services, and other departments where cleanups were occurring; and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2018, a mid-cycle adjustment was requested for a dedicated fund to utilize in 2019 with the joint offer being submitted by Neighborhood Services, Parks, Stormwater, and Natural Areas who provide staffing; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, a dedicated encampment fund has been utilized though funds expended, which have varied over the years likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the growing number of site cleanups became an emergent issue with the turnaround time of site identification to actual cleanup taking up to 3 months; and

WHEREAS, since Fall 2022, a weekly tactical team of staff from Social Sustainability, Natural Areas, Police Service, Neighborhood Services, Parks Rangers, Transport, the City Attorney's Office and partners such as Poudre Fire Authority and Outreach Fort Collins meet to coordinate cleanup prioritization and to identify hot spots; and

WHEREAS, the process in coordinating cleanups includes a pre-cleanup stage in which members of the tactical team will tag items in an identified spot for the purpose of determining valuation and providing notice according to Policy 9.0--Lost, Abandoned, Unclaimed or Unattended Tangible Personal Property, adopted by the City Manager and kept on file in the City Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, in January 2023, a pilot program was implemented to move towards weekly cleanups with a goal of reducing turnaround time from up to 3 months to 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in April 2023, the turnaround time for cleanups was lowered to an average of 12 days and by July 17, 2023, the turnaround time had been further reduced to an average of 8 days; and

WHEREAS, to date, a total of 560 camps have been cleaned with 365 cubic yards of waste, 880 sharps, 119 shopping carts and 27 cubic yards of metal collected and diverted from Natural Areas, Parks, and other locations in the City; and

WHEREAS, if the current pilot program continues, it is on track to divert 100% more trash, 79% more shopping carts and 20% more metal than in 2022; and

WHEREAS, in February 2023, the Fort Collins Police Service has created a pilot program, led by Sgt. Annie Hill, called H.O.P.E., which stands for Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement; and

WHEREAS, H.O.P.E uses compassionate-based policing to meet people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in the field, homeless encampments, and nuisance-related calls to address not only the complaint but also to connect them to appropriate resources, build relationships with PEH, and to get a better understanding of their needs; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of the H.O.P.E. team's time is dedicated towards mitigating environmental impacts such as tagging and accompanying Natural Areas staff on site cleanups, which allows the team to provide direct outreach to PEH, especially to those that are not regular clients of the Murphy Center, Outreach Fort Collins, or other organizations and encourage them to utilize these resources; and

WHEREAS, the Point In Time numbers were released and have shown an increase of PEH from 2022 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 263 sheltered and 84 unsheltered individuals, which increased in 2023 to 272 sheltered and 120 unsheltered individuals; and

WHEREAS, the issue of homelessness and the prolonged impacts it has on those experiencing homelessness and the community should continue to be addressed with a holistic city and community approach to include the continuation of the site cleanup program; and

WHEREAS, this appropriation benefits the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Fort Collins and serves the public purpose of continuing the site cleanup pilot program; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9 of the City Charter permits the City Council, upon the recommendation of the City Manager, to make supplemental appropriations by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year such funds for expenditure as may be available from reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has recommended the appropriation described herein and determined that this appropriation is available and previously unappropriated from the General Fund and will not cause the total amount appropriated in the General Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues and all other funds to be received in this Fund during this fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That there is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the General Fund the sum of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) to be expended in the General Fund to continue the Encampment Site Cleanup Pilot Program.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 15th day of August, 2023, and to be presented for final passage on the 5th day of September, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Chief Deputy City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 5th day of September, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk