

Overview of City Partnerships & Strategies to Address Homelessness

City Council Worksession
January 25, 2022



Background

- **1930s home in Spanish Colony, the “Guadalupe Center”, operated by Catholic Charities offers overnight stays for those in need;**
- **Over time other shelters emerge to support ‘niche’ emergency housing needs:**
 - **A Woman’s Place; Cold Weather Shelter; the Greeley Family House; new Guadalupe Community Center**
- **The City of Greeley has devoted significant funding from its federal grants in support of such services**



Partnership Approach

- **2015: UWWC convenes community blue-ribbon task force to explore strategic approach to homeless service delivery**
- **2016: UWWC Committee issues “Weld’s Way Home” plan to address homelessness with “housing first” focus**
- **2016 – 2021: UWWC facilitates Northern Colorado Continuum of Care designation to facilitate a regional partnership and funding focus to address homelessness, secures multi-yr. lease for Cold Weather Shelter and establishes the Housing Navigation Center**
- **City approves Strategic Housing Plan with continuum of housing strategies**



Challenges








- **Growth in number of encampments, trespass and property damage from persons living outdoors**
- **Increase in nuisance behaviors and crimes associated with homelessness**
- **Increased impact to first responders responding to unsheltered individuals with mental/physical health issues**
- **COVID**
- **Non-renewal of lease for Cold Weather Shelter**

Actions & Initiatives

Protecting Private Property Guide: steps property owners can take to limit trespass and protect property from unwanted access was developed.

Guide has been shared with DDA, City of Evans, Weld Co Apartment Ass'n, and offered to the Greeley Area Board of Realtors, among others



 PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY: TIPS	
ACTION	HOW IT HELPS
	Start with signage . Clearly post a notice to mark areas on your property where access to the general public is not allowed. This makes clear the restricted areas on your property and allows the Police Department to assist with enforcement.
	Motion detector lights installed at key spots around your building offers both illumination as you enter a darkened area but also conveys that you are paying attention to unauthorized movements in such areas. It also suggests to visitors that their movements are being watched.
	Fencing can be installed to limit access to areas where you do not want any unauthorized persons to enter. Placement of some types of landscaping along fence lines also can deter efforts to access these areas. This also is a good place to post a No Trespassing sign.
	Security cameras offer an additional means of monitoring activity around your property, especially in places you don't always have in your direct view. Cameras come with a wide variety of functions from motion detection to recording. You can also register your camera with the GPD as part of the City's Neighborhood Watch program: https://greeleyod.com/neighborhood-watch-camera-program/
	Cover and secure outdoor electrical outlets to prevent unauthorized access and theft of your electrical service. Covering outlets also limits the tendency for individuals to loiter in such locations while waiting for electrical devices to charge.
	Install key pad dead-bolt locks on entries to rental properties and areas for restricted access. This will help deter unwanted access into main foyers and prevent access to other parts of a building. The success of this security tool depends on the consistent efforts of all building tenants to resist sharing the code with guests, prop doors open for visitors or deliveries or for convenient loading/unloading.

Clean up & Costs

- **Power-washing Downtown Plazas :** costs explored to clean plazas 2-3x/week and as needed to remove waste in areas problematic for businesses
- **Regular monitoring of common encampment sites on public land to initiate clean-up/removal** when deemed a health hazard (needles, bio-hazards, etc.)
- **Cost of Service Schedule** created to track costs to measure the impact of dealing with homelessness in financial terms



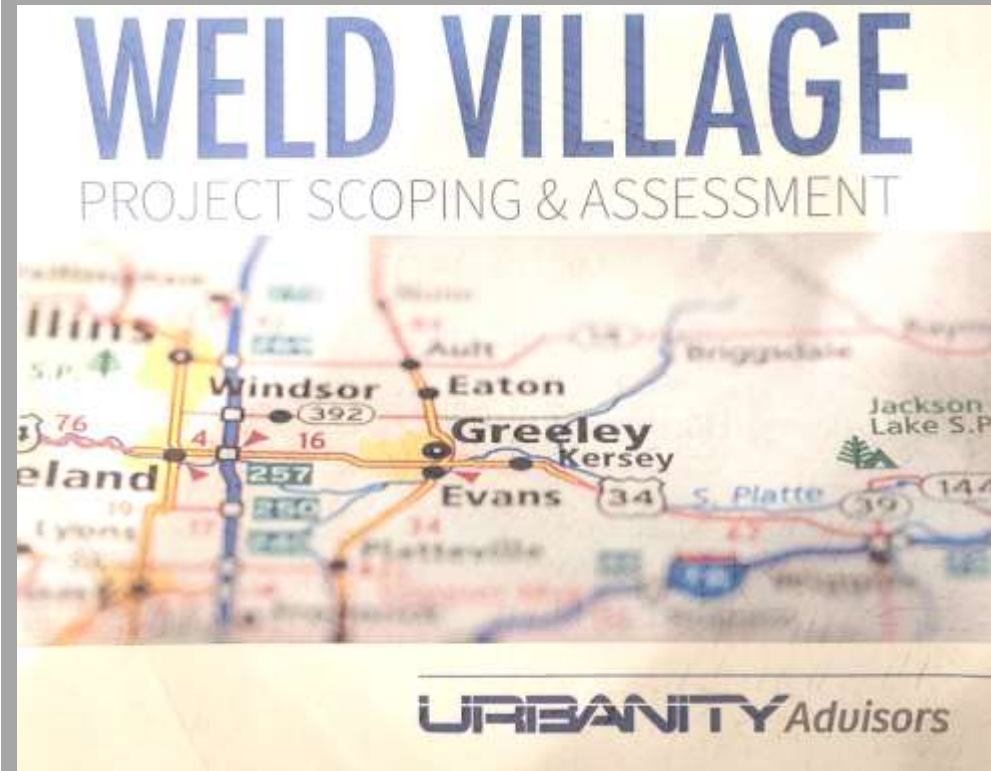
Relationships

- Support the establishment of a homeless street outreach team to investigate encampments, contact Greeley's unhoused population, and provide resources to unsheltered persons
- Continued agency case-management funding support from federal grants to limit the number of persons experiencing homelessness



The Long Game

- **“Weld Village” Scoping and Assessment:** with the assistance of a third party consultant, the City has begun a scoping and assessment process evaluating current homeless and housing data, determining market and financial viability and feasibility, and estimating capital and operating costs for possible sheltering and housing alternatives. The scoping and assessment will also include community input sessions throughout the process which will last approximately six months.



Summary

- **The City Homelessness Team meets 2x/month to discuss strategies and assignments to help address impacts from homelessness;**
- **Staff joins UWWC in its monthly check in with the Housing Navigation Center to stay connected, share info & resources;**
- **The City's NB2 Team meets monthly to tackle issues in the field;**
- **The Weld Village Scoping and Assessment is underway and will report out its findings mid-year**





Questions/Discussion