

# Discussion and Possible Action Removal of Homelessness Camps

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City Council Meeting  
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# Summary

- Question
  - With the increase in the Homeless person population in Leon Valley, what steps can we take to abate the problem?
- Options
  1. Hire outside contractor to routinely remove camps
  2. Continue to have Public Works clean out camp areas
  3. Other

# Background

- Homeless persons have been in Leon Valley since 2016 or earlier
- Never had encampments – just street corner pirates
  - Evers and Loop 410, Bandera at Loop 410, Eckhert and Bandera
- Encampments started in 2016, under Bandera Road bridge inside Loop 410
- Police encouraged homeless persons to leave area & Public Works cleaned out culverts

# Background

- Homeless persons were encouraged to contact Haven for Hope for help
  - Had Haven for Hope van at site
- Most persons refused the help, but did leave
- Police & Public Works were called back several times to clean out same area
- Comfort Café moved into 5616 Bandera Rd and homeless persons started camping behind the cafe

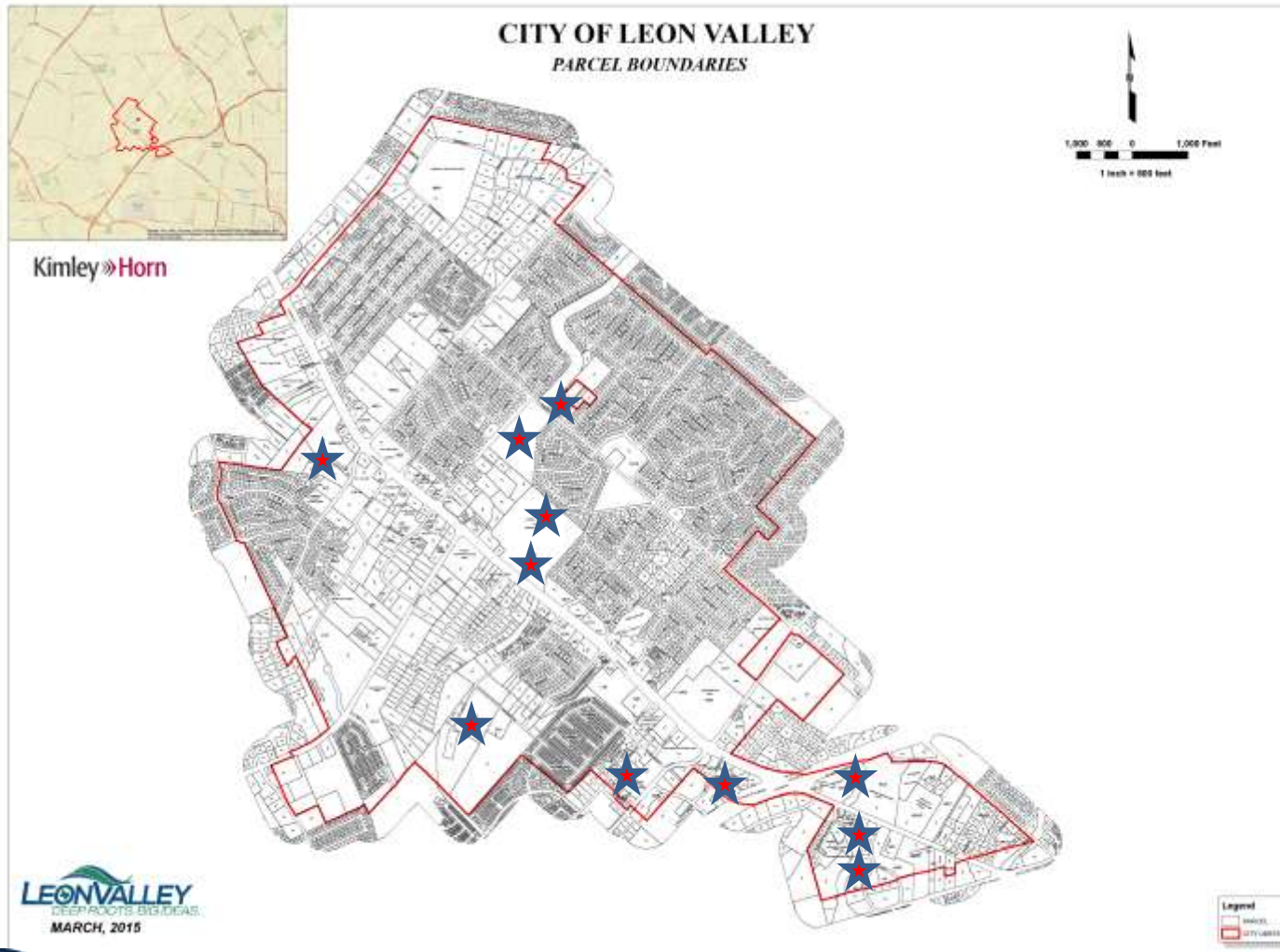
# Background

- Camping in drainage culverts continues under Loop 410 and under Zarzamora Creek bridge on Bandera
- Homeless persons also started camping:
  - Behind gas station at Bandera & Loop 410
  - Bandera Rd. Bridge at Huebner Creek
  - In vacant lot on Wurzbach at Blackberry
  - At library parking lot
  - In Raymond Rimkus Park on benches and in restrooms
  - In Huebner-Onion Natural Area with tents
  - At old Sonic restaurant
  - At 6530 Samaritan

# Background

- City Council passed law prohibiting overnight stays on city-owned property and in drainage ways
  - No more camping at the library
  - Camping lessened in Raymond Rimkus Park
- PW Crews respond immediately when called to remove camps
- Fire Department responds to calls for fires from cooking over open flames or for heat source

# Encampments





# Materials Collected





# What does it Cost?

- The frequency of clean ups has increased
- There have been four large cleanups in the past four months
  - Bandera Rd. / Huebner Creek (10/25/22) -\$1,714.90
  - 5000 NW Industrial (11/10/22) - \$3,002.77
  - 5711 Samaritan (2/14/23) - \$700.40
  - 5711 Samaritan (2/15/23) - \$1,662.61

\*Costs include labor, equipment, and disposal. PW Only—does not include other City Departments.

# Temporary Solution?

- Hire a contractor to routinely clean out these sites
  - Monthly?
  - Quarterly?
- Contractor would also be on call for unexpected events
- Would cost approximately \$2500 per event
- Estimated yearly total: \$25,000 - \$30,000

# Recommendation

- Recommend getting estimates and hiring contractor on 2 week basis to start then lengthen to every quarter
- Will need budget adjustment

# S.E.E. Statement

Social Equity: Cleaning up homeless camps promptly protects all citizens from fire danger

Economic Development: The removal of homeless camps may encourage businesses to relocate to Leon Valley

Environmental Stewardship: The removal of homeless camps reduces the amount of debris and nonbiodegradable refuse from entering our creeks