



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council Work Session
Meeting Date: 12/18/2023
From: Sean Lundry, Interim Chief of Police
Nunpa AntFarm Executive Director
Valerie Salazar AntFarm Housing & Crisis Manager
Subject: Homelessness Response Partnership with AntFarm

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:

1. To brief the Council on an emerging partnership between the Sandy Police Department and AntFarm in which, on a trial basis, AntFarm is providing social service response to homelessness-related police calls for service that have no criminal or public safety element.
2. To brief the Council on additional work AntFarm is doing in Sandy and other rural Clackamas County communities to provide transitional housing, trauma informed care, individualized reentry programs, and wrap around services.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

In Sandy, as in other areas of Oregon, many of our neighbors, friends, relatives, and community members experience the outcomes of poverty, addiction, mental health struggles, and discord that often result in housing instability and homelessness.

This larger social issue led to the formation of a Homelessness Task Force several years ago, which has been working in consultation with city staff, social service organizations, and governmental partners on this topic. This task force, along with the City Council, held a [community listening session on homelessness in April 2022](#).

The information obtained in the listening session led to the Sandy Police Department engaging AntFarm in conversations to build an alternative process to respond to calls for service related specifically to homelessness. That spurred a pilot program, now underway, in which all homelessness-related police calls for service with no criminal or public safety element are referred to AntFarm for response. AntFarm then provides all follow up and case management wrap around services for those calls, promoting long term solutions. AntFarm is also exploring options for measuring progress and tracking success of such cases over time. Information will be shared with the Council on this pilot program during the work session.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

Staff consider this opportunity to partner with AntFarm for response to homelessness-related calls (that do not include criminal or public safety concerns) to be of enormous potential benefit to the City. The ability to refer certain calls to AntFarm allows our officers the ability to focus their time and efforts on other important priorities instead. Thus, there are obvious efficiencies to be gained for the Police Department. Additionally, in some cases AntFarm personnel may be better positioned to successfully resolve homelessness-related calls for service than uniformed officers would be, increasing the chances of positive outcomes for our community.

BUDGET IMPACT:

None currently.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

Staff recommends that the Council receive the presentation from AntFarm, and use this opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion about the future direction of this emerging partnership.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Presentation Slides