

Homeless encampment clean up policy

Presentation to Clark County Council

Clark County Public Works

September 18, 2019



Framing the Issue

- Lack of affordable housing
- Homeless encampments are on the rise in Clark County
- How do we protect the rights and integrity of every human person?
- How do we protect our public spaces?
- How do we keep our employees and the general public safe?
- Seeking council direction for adopting countywide policy on homeless encampments



History in Clark County

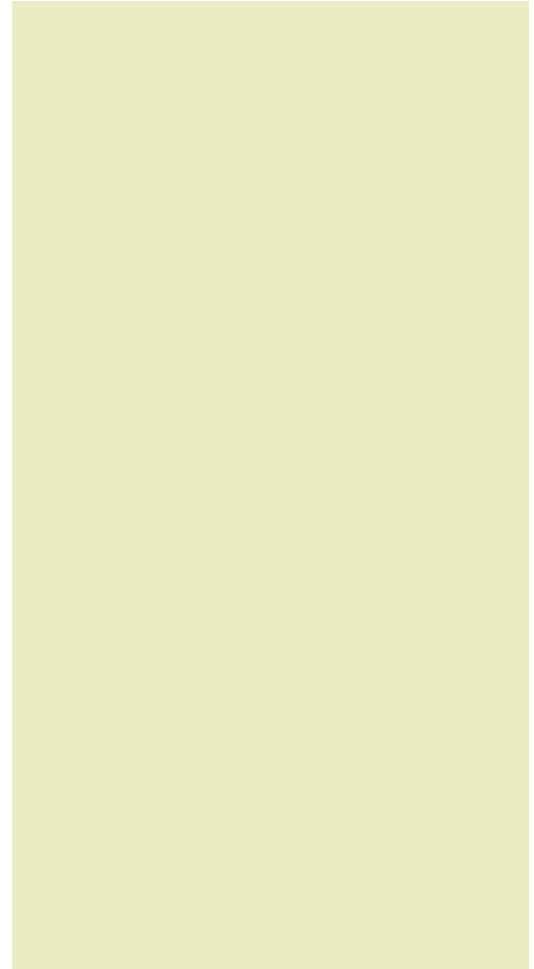


1. Ellis v. Clark County, 2014
2. District Court Corrections Procedure, 2016
3. Martin v. City of Boise, 2018
4. Current Practices



Current County Code

- Park Rules (CCC 9.05.100) - unlawful to camp except in such areas as may be provided and designated for such purposes by the county, unless authorized through a park and facility use permit
- Potentially a nuisance under CCC 32.04



Options: Draft Policy and Procedures

- Protect county workers, general public and public property
- Respect rights of homeless individuals
- Clear definitions
- Provide 72 hours notice prior to clean up
- Provide resources (e.g. garbage bags and resource guides)
- Contracted clean up service
- Set aside and save abandoned property
- Exceptions for hazardous situations



Options: Possible Code Changes

1. Camping allowed at night only
2. Add storage of personal property to list of violations
3. Allow non law enforcement individuals to do camp clean ups
4. Add clarity to current ordinance: camping prohibited on all county property, define camping
5. Specifically address Recreational Vehicles (RVs)



Options: Other Policy Considerations

1. Inform social service providers of pending clean-ups and schedule
2. Record of available shelter beds and estimated number of individuals in need of shelter
3. Procedures for posting notices (e.g. length of time, languages, etc.)
4. Legislative finding in any ordinance change



What Others are Doing

- **City of Vancouver**

- Vancouver Police Department and Code Compliance Officer visit encampments
 - First visit: warning posted
 - Second visit: citation
 - Third visit: arrest and clean up
- City staff or contracted clean up service through Rapid Response Bio Cleaning, LLC
- City code against daytime camping on public property



What Others are Doing

- **City of Portland**

- Homeless and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program
 - Impact-reduction services
 - Campsite clean up
 - Communication and transparency
- Mission to reduce impact of unsanctioned urban camping within city through education, collaboration, coordination with outreach providers, and risk mitigation
- Clean up by Rapid Response and assistance for campers by Central City Concern



Next Steps

1. Direction from council on how to proceed
2. Future work sessions on draft policy and procedures
3. Code changes



Thank you!

Comments and questions

Clark County Public Works

Parks & Lands Division

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