



# Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency  
**Situation Report # 17**

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande  
**Operational Period:** March 2025

**New Emergency Orders (if any)**

2023-03-007 relating to the closure of 1.27 acres of public property commonly known as ‘The Sound Wall’

**Emergency Response**

- We have lost 10 people since the Homeless Memorial in December 2024
  - 6 in the month of March
- VFD Data: Year-to-date Fire calls for service = 134 and EMS/Rescue YTD calls = 708
- VPD Data:

**Police Events and Time on Events with Unsheltered Homelessness Involvement**

|                              | March 2025      | Year to Date    |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| # of Events                  | 1,112 (11.7%)   | 2,952 (10.6%)   |
| Time Spent on Events (hours) | 2,243.7 (19.7%) | 5,818.2 (17.7%) |

- The blue row provides the **total number of events** officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of March and year to date (YTD), as well as the **percentage of all events these events represent relative to all police events** in March and YTD.
- The green row provides **total number of officer hours spent on events** officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of March and year to date (YTD), as well as the **percentage of time spent on these events** relative to all events in March and YTD.

## **HART Activities**

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
  - Decommissioning and closure of the Mill Plain sound wall area
  - Area around W 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and Jefferson, King, Lincoln streets
  - Burnt Bridge Creek Trail system near Andresen Rd
  - Coordinated with Construction Services regarding Jefferson realignment project and safety of those unsheltered in the immediate area
  - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver

| <b>Tons</b> | <b>of solid waste removed from public spaces</b>          |
|-------------|---|
| 30.76       | removed during large scale health and sanitation cleanups |
| 9.97        | removed by HART's Encampment Response Coordinator crew    |
| 99.35       | <b>Year-to-date</b> total tons removed                    |

- Responded to 110 My Vancouver app submissions in March; YTD: 315
- Handed out 22 naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to 8 individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health's Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program. \*  
*\* [This program supports access to naloxone for people who are likely to experience or witness an opioid overdose by providing free naloxone to organizations and community groups for distribution to clients and community members.](#)*
- Participated in a one-day training by Edgework with Parking Enforcement brought by City Risk Management on strategies for engaging with people in crisis, de-escalation, violent encounters, and more

## **Community Engagement**

- Provided a tour for Washington State University student attempting to learn how to engage more students in volunteerism at Safe Stays
- Presentation to the Community Health Action Collaborative (CHART) who advocates for elder, disability, caregiving, and other family services about HART's role, services, and partnerships
- Hosted dozens of 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students from Hough Elementary School at City Hall for an introduction to City Hall, City services, and during our portion of the tour, talked about homelessness response and the HART

### **Winter Shelter – total served Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>**

- Chkalov SOS **served 70 individuals** – 59 adults and 11 children
  - Veterans: 3
  - Chronically Homeless: 22
  - Youth (18-24 years old): 5
  - Physical Disability: 27
  - 3 exits to housing
- Arts Hub **served 140 individuals** – 117 adults, 19 children, 4 unknown ages
  - Veterans: 9
  - Chronically Homeless: 55
  - Youth (18-24 years old): 4
  - Physical Disability: 49
  - 24 individuals transferred to non-seasonal shelter
  - 15 exits to housing
- NOTE: Winter shelter operations ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Safe Stays/Safe Park**

- The Outpost:
  - 1 resident transitioned to housing in March
  - 5 residents approved for housing through Everybody In pilot partnership with CFTH and VHA and will likely move into housing during April/May
  - 2 residents obtained IDs
  - A former soundwall camp resident graduated from Community Court and was invited to participate in an interview, “From Soundwall to Safe Stay.” They are motivated to maintain sobriety and move to the next chapter of their journey.
  - LifeLine Connections meets weekly with residents on-site
  - Staff met with the Humane Society regarding support for residents with pets and have created volunteer opportunities for residents who would appreciate the pet support.
- Hope Village:
  - 1 resident transitioned to housing through Everybody In pilot partnership with CFTH and VHA
  - 1 resident moved in with a friend
  - 2 residents moved into other housing programs, for a **total of 4 housed in March from this site**
  - 6 other residents are in-process for housing and should move in over the coming month
  - 1 resident obtained ID; 2 residents obtained Social Security Cards
  - 1 resident is interviewing for employment
  - Some residents volunteered at Retails to sort art supplies being donated to Safe Park
  - Key Bank conducted a presentation to residents on personal budgeting
- Kiggins Village:
  - 1 resident transitioned into housing — a Veteran who has experienced homelessness for several years.
  - 5 residents are in-process for housing and should move in over the coming months

- 2 residents obtained IDs; 2 residents obtained Social Security Cards
- 2 residents participated in detox services
- Residents have been engaged in community-building by creating recreational opportunities for all to participate in, preparing for spring gardening, and spring cleaning
- 415 West:
  - 4 residents transitioned into housing through Everybody In pilot partnership with CFTH and VHA
  - 1 resident transitioned into other permanent supportive housing, for a **total of 5 housed in March**
  - 2 of the individuals who moved into housing this month previously came from the Sound Wall camp.
  - 4 additional residents have been approved for other housing options and are in-process
  - A Veteran on-site, who has experienced homelessness for 10 years, learned they will move into housing in April
  - 1 resident obtained ID
  - 2 residents participated in detox services
  - New Life Recovery generously donated new coats to each resident
  - Staff met with the Humane Society regarding support for residents with pets and have created volunteer opportunities for residents who would appreciate the pet support
  - The HOST team provides services on site weekly, supporting individuals with SUD assessments and other services necessary to move forward in various programs
- Homeward Bound – Safe Park:
  - 91 total individuals served: 73 adults and 14 children
  - 4 residents transitioned to housing
  - 3 residents transitioned to other shelter programs (WHO, Hope Village)
  - Homeward Bound has enjoyed community participation and volunteerism as follows-
    - Compassion to Action organization provided a concert and BBQ for residents
    - Crossroads Church volunteers provide donuts and coffee on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays
    - The Red Cross is providing smoke detectors and installation in vehicles for additional safety and plans to provide CPR training to residents in the near future.

### **Bridge Shelter**

- Completed Phase 1 (Schematic Design) and have moved into Phase 2 (Design Development), which should result in an updated budget and be completed sometime in May.
- Clark County Council funding request was approved by the County Council.
  - Mental Health Sales Tax: \$2.1M
  - County Opioid Settlement: \$2.75M

## **Community Court**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Newly cited/referred into Court                            | 51 |
| Opted in to Community Court                                | 18 |
| Graduations (successful completion)                        | 19 |
| Community Service hours completed                          | 83 |
| Obtained Temporary Housing                                 | 6  |
| Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed | 16 |
| Accessing/participating in treatment services              | 3  |

## **Court Highlights for March:**

- Participant gave birth in March and visited Court with her baby. Currently doing well and staying in shelter.
- Previous participant was originally terminated from this program, but re-entered a year later and is now graduating, and has maintained sobriety!
- Another graduate is beginning peer support training and plans to “give back” by serving as a peer

## **Property Closures**

- Under Emergency Order 2023-003, the City Manager declared additional publicly owned property closed. The list of properties which have been closed by emergency orders can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

## **Our Appreciation**

- Highlighted for March is Risk and Safety. The Safety Program Manager helped bring a one-day training from Edgework for our HART team members as well as Parking Enforcement Officers. We learned strategies for engaging with people in crisis, de-escalation, best practices for handling violent encounters, and more. Team members found the training to be valuable and are grateful for support from Risk and Safety!

In recognition that the City's Homelessness Response team could not accomplish what it does alone, especially during this declared emergency, HART would like to express its appreciation for the many departments and individuals who partner in the work:

- Economic Prosperity and Housing Department
- Public Works – grounds, streets, greenways, parks, environmental services, transportation, and more
- Vancouver Police Department
- Vancouver Fire Department
- Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Code Compliance
- Parking Services
- General Services
- Information Technology
- Planning
- Budget
- Legal
- Procurement
- Administrative Assistants
- And countless others who are critical to our mission