

Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande

Operational Period: August 2025

Situation Report # 22

New Emergency Orders

None. The list of existing emergency orders can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

Emergency Response

- We have lost 23 people since December 2024 Homeless Memorial
 - 4 in the month of August
- Vancouver Fire data: Reporting quarterly – next update in October for 2nd quarter.
- Vancouver Police data:

Police Events and Time on Events with Unsheltered Homelessness Involvement

	August 2025	Year to Date
# of Events* (percentage of all events)	967 (10.0%)	7,783 (10.1%)
Hours spent on events** (percentage of all police event hours)	1,811.0 (16.2%)	15,800.5 (17.7%)

*Total number of events officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of August and year to date (YTD), as well as the percentage of all events relative to all police events in August and YTD.

**Total number of officer hours spent on events officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of August and year to date (YTD), as well as the percentage of time spent on these events relative to all events in August and YTD.

HART Activities

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - Area around W 11th, 12th, 13th, and Jefferson, King, Lincoln streets
 - Marine Park and nearby wetlands area
 - Several smaller sites addressed by HART's rapid response crew
 - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver

HART Encampment Cleanups and Solid Waste Removal

Type of Operation	Tons Removed
Coordinated health & sanitation encampment cleanups	13.29
HART Encampment Response Coordinator – rapid response crew	9.93
Year-to-date	214.37

- Responded to 101 My Vancouver app submissions in August; YTD: 819
- Handed out 43 naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to 18 individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health's Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program.
 - 1 overdose was reversed by HART using these naloxone kits in August
 - OEND 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.
- Beginning talks with Vancouver Fire/EMS around partnering with HART in the field on client engagement

Community Engagement

- HART participated at the Open House Ministries Annual Block Party where we provided information to attendees, including people experiencing homelessness and other service providers, on the City of Vancouver's Homelessness Response (HART, Safe Stays, Safe Park, upcoming bridge shelter, Community Court partnership). We were also able to connect with former clients who have moved through parts of our system.
- Met with a representative from the City of Baton Rouge, LA who is in the early stages of developing resources in their city, like HART and our Safe Stay Communities
- Attended Saint Paul's Lutheran Church "Blessing of the Socks" and distribution of several thousand pairs of socks donated by Bombas
- Connected Sakura 39ers with the VPD Chief's Diversity Advisory Team (CDAT) who sought Chuukese community representation on the CDAT
- Presented about the HART program and services to the monthly Southwest WA Trueblood collaboration Taskforce & Providers meeting

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- The Outpost:
 - 2 residents transitioned into housing.
 - 1 resident successfully completed detox and mental health stability, which is huge progress in their recovery journey.
 - Staff noted challenges that highlight the need for additional engagement and retention strategies, specifically related to conflict resolution and community living.
 - Staff continue to support residents in job-seeking, community building, pet care, self-care and hygiene, and many other goals they set for themselves.
- Hope Village:
 - 1 resident reconnected with family out of state and was approved for Section 8 in their home state. Staff helped get client back home and into permanent housing near natural supports.
 - 1 resident transferred to another program of care.
 - 1 resident seeking employment had an interview.
 - 1 resident graduated from outpatient
 - 1 new resident has already obtained employment and is on track for self-sustaining
 - Staff report experiencing and witnessing significant impacts stemming from the temporary loss of Columbia River Mental Health's Mobile Health team, particularly with the simultaneous increase in clients with more complex and/or acute needs. They are working to connect clients with alternative providers during this period of transition, and note those services are also somewhat limited or take longer to access.

- Hope Village has expanded partnerships with the community, increasing involvement in their Meal Train, hosting bingo and movie nights for community-building experiences, and the Red Cross visited to discuss fire safety and install or repair smoke alarms in the units.
- Kiggins Village:
 - 2 residents transitioned into housing. One of these was this site's longest-staying participant (1.5 years) and their dog. They have settled into housing and visit the site weekly to visit with staff and support the village.
 - All other participants have been there for under a year, 90% moved in within the last 3 months
 - 2 residents obtained IDs, and 2 residents obtained Social Security Cards.
 - 3 residents participated in detox services.
 - Staff noted that the adjustment to community life in the village has been challenging, but staff and residents have all been working together to help with the adjustment. Many residents have done a great job making the space their home for now through gardening, beautification projects, and helping with some of the upkeep of community spaces at the site.
 - Helping Hands hosted a BBQ and art event with residents, and more community groups have expressed interest in helping at the site with meals, haircuts, etc.
- 415 West:
 - 1 resident transitioned to assisted living housing.
 - 6 residents have completed all paperwork for referral to various housing programs. These referrals include:
 - a veteran youth who received a VASH voucher, is actively looking for an apartment, and is also being supported by Janus Youth and the VA
 - a resident with stage 3 cancer that has been referred to the Everybody In pilot program; staff is helping them apply for long-term care to ensure they have in-home support when housed.
 - 1 resident obtained ID, and 2 residents obtained Social Security cards.
 - 1 resident obtained employment, and 2 residents were approved for ABD (State disability cash benefits).
 - 1 resident enrolled in treatment services.
 - Celebrated 2 residents, originally referred to shelter from Community Court, who graduated from Community Court this month. Another 2 residents who are Community Court participants completed their community service hours (44 total hours) at 415 West and the Outpost.
 - Staff noted challenges with helping residents access detox services, as well as some residents experiencing challenges adjusting to new routines/structure and conflict resolution.
 - OI Staff and artist, Benji, started an art class on-site, called Inside Out, teaching residents how to draw.
 - Almost all of the residents attended and participated in the Bingo/BBQ day, which was noted as the highlight of the month.

- Homeward Bound – Safe Park:
 - 52 total individuals served, including 8 children, and 33 pets lived on-site this month.
 - 3 residents transitioned to housing
 - After receiving an inheritance, 1 Vietnam veteran achieved his dream of buying a nice sprinter van to move out of state, travel and live comfortably, not homelessly, on the road with his dog.
 - Staff assisted another veteran with getting a VASH voucher after much advocacy.
 - Our longest-staying resident, who is also a veteran, has been approved for housing and is just waiting on a unit inspection to be completed to get a move-in date from his landlord!
 - 5 residents had employment interviews.
 - 2 residents have accepted employment who were previously unemployed.
 - 1 resident opted to go to inpatient treatment, a huge step for them.
 - 1 resident living in a small trailer, that had been gifted to him for shelter, obtained transportation (a running car) and is now working towards proper licensing.

Bridge Shelter

- Invitation to Bid (ITB) for general contractor is out. and bidding opens on September 30th at 11am
- City's purchase of the bridge shelter property completed

Community Court

Community Court outcomes	Total individuals
Newly cited/referred to Community Court	62
Opted into Community Court	26
Graduations (successful completion)	12
Community Service hours completed	42
Obtained Temporary Housing	3
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed	15
Accessing/participating in treatment services	1

- Community Court would like to thank the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program for their great support since day 1! Like many organizations, they are facing constraints in program capacity and will be scaling back their weekly involvement at court while still supporting individual participants as they can.
- Clark County Food Bank has taken over management of the Community Court Meal Train web page. Their nutrition division will be providing a nutritious hot meal to our participants once monthly, beginning in September. CCFB president Emily will observe Community Court on 09/26/2025.

Property Closures

None. The list of properties closed by emergency orders can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

Appreciation

This month, we recognize Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, specifically at the Firstenburg Community Center, for their ongoing support of the City's response to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

For many years our Parks Department staff have engaged with our unsheltered community when they visit city facilities for various reasons. Many of our Parks & Rec staff know our unsheltered by name, have heard some of their stories, and will often contact HART to engage with them for various needs. Recently, an unhoused person had a significant health event and was transported from the Firstenburg Community Center to the hospital. They were afraid their personal property may be in jeopardy of theft, and when they got out of the hospital, they would have to start all over again. Staff let them know they would secure their property and if they couldn't keep it for long, they would turn it over to HART for safekeeping. Parks staff later let HART know the person was released from the hospital and stopped by to collect their things. Staff said they expressed their gratitude for the help they received from the Firstenburg and let them know they had been accepted into shelter and would no longer be on the streets.

In recognition that the City's Homelessness Response team could not accomplish what it does alone, especially during this 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, 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