



Report on Mobile Outreach, City of Alameda
JULY 18, 2017
UPDATED REPORT

Abatement

The residents of the Beltline (Jean Sweeney Park) were served with eviction notices on June 9th, 2017, to vacate the field by July 10th. Each resident's picture was taken with the eviction notice by Alameda Police Department. Most of the clients were understanding about the notice and knew that the clearing of the park had been planned for a long time; however, a few individuals were agitated. Our Staff responded by starting to help individuals, and gradually folks seemed to settle down. Operation Dignity offered every client two 30-gallon bins, which OD would store for them, and they would have access to with 24 hours' notice. 15 bins were issued to 8 individuals. Ultimately, OD's Mobile Outreach team transported 8 bins to public storage, where we will store for them until the clients request them back. On July 10th, all residents began packing their sites in order to move from the Beltline, with two individuals expressing agitation and reluctance to move. For those who were packing, Operation Dignity assisted with heavy lifting and moving their property. By Tuesday morning, July 11th, every person was out of the Beltline with all of their property that they wished to keep.

Follow Up

Operation Dignity has made it a priority to continue to assist as many individuals as possible that were displaced from the Beltline cleanup. Prior to the eviction, we estimate that there were approximately 30 individuals living at the Beltline. On the day of the eviction, we worked with approximately 15 individuals who were still there and had not packed or left. We are working on housing solutions for eight individuals as follows:

- As previously reported, we successfully housed a family of 4 into our transitional housing at Dignity Commons, and we are now working extensively with our case managers to help the family obtain permanent housing. From these efforts, one member of the household has obtained a full-time job, and his son is now enrolled in school.
- We are working to house two additional individuals with verifiable disabilities with Alameda Point Collaborative as soon as their physicians submit confirmation of disability.
- We are in the process of clearing another veteran for transitional Grant and Per Diem housing with OD.
- One individual is in the process of relocating with family, with OD's assistance.

While Operation Dignity strove to secure housing for as many Beltline residents as possible, the shortage of affordable housing options meant that many residents were unable to secure housing or shelter before July 10th. Since the park's clearing, we have worked with the Alameda Police Department and City staff to identify as many individuals as possible who were displaced to other areas of the city, as well as newly reported individuals.

- OD has transported the gentleman living behind the U.S. Bank Branch on Webster to a shelter in Berkeley.
- We have attempted contact with the individual who has been living in a tent behind Ploughshares Nursery, spoke with employees who knew her, and will continue to outreach in the area.
- Operation Dignity has received reports of homeless individuals on Webster St. in Alameda. We followed through and the only contact made was with one individual behind the Roadway Inn. He

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became aggressive with our outreach team on multiple occasions, and no further contact has been attempted at this time.

- Several individuals from the Beltline have moved across the street behind Wind River. A few clients have been seen in Oakland; however, they have since returned near Little John Park, Alameda Point, and a couple others are near the rock wall in the area. The outreach team continues to engage these participants.
- After investigating reports of new tents at Atlantic and Constitution Way, we determined that the reported property belonged to one individual and was already being removed.
- The outreach team continues efforts to locate all the former residents of the Beltline whose locations are currently unknown.

Challenges/Barriers to Success

- *Lack of available and affordable housing.* Without low-barrier, timely housing interventions, it will remain extremely difficult to provide effective long-term solutions for Alameda's homeless residents.
- *Drug use and/or untreated mental health concerns among individuals makes it difficult to track individuals consistently.* We continue to deploy Harm Reduction and progressive engagement to build relationships with these hard-to-reach individuals.
- *Difficulty in ensuring client information is accurate due to initial lack of trust with outreach team.* As the outreach team has built a rapport with more individuals, we expect that people will be willing to share more information to assist with referrals.
- *Locating individuals removed from the Beltline as they move to new locations.* As stated above, our outreach team is diligently following up on referrals from the city and APD, as well as outreaching to new areas.
- *More support needed in identifying all homeless encampments throughout Alameda.* As we expand our focus from serving the Beltline to serving residents throughout the city, we propose a closer partnership with the City, APD, and the community in identifying as many encampments as possible where services are needed.

Plan Of Action

Operation Dignity will continue our efforts to build relationships within Alameda. There are 30-50 clients that OD continues to work with; this includes individuals who are on the streets, in cars, couch surfing, and/or precariously housed.

We are in the process of setting up a meeting with Chief Paul Rolleri, his APD Homeless Liaisons, and our Executive Director and Operations Director, in order to keep an open line of communication between our efforts to locate and assist the homeless, and to be responsive as issues arise. We particularly seek a closer collaboration and referral process when housed residents report concerns about homeless people to the police, so that we can provide the social services and referrals needed. Such a partnership would lessen the burden on police time and ensure those in need more access to services.

Operation Dignity is actively engaging with new clients throughout Alameda, and we welcome the input from longtime Alameda residents and employees in order to provide the best care to the homeless individuals of Alameda, and to develop the long-term housing interventions needed to ensure all Alameda residents a home.