



Legislation Text

File #: 15-0088, **Version:** 1

Resolution to Support Best Practices in Response to Homeless Camps in the City of Ann Arbor
Whereas, A significant percentage of Washtenaw County's homeless population remains unsheltered;

Whereas, Ultimately, the most effective means of addressing homelessness for most persons is to provide affordable housing;

Whereas, Wait lists for affordable housing are extensive and often closed;

Whereas, Local shelters cannot provide year-round shelter for all unhoused persons in Washtenaw County;

Whereas, Some homeless persons are not suited or eligible for the temporary shelter options provided in Washtenaw County;

Whereas, There are multiple strategies for responding to homeless camps, including humane displacement, short term accommodation, and long term arrangement;

Whereas, Humane displacement tools include formal and advance notification of the closure of an encampment, engagement by agencies that will help those at risk of displacement find temporary shelter, and commitment to find permanent supportive housing solutions;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor continues to use humane displacement and short term accommodation as tools to work with those who are unsheltered; and

Whereas, The Continuum of Care Board, which includes stakeholders, mental health professionals, law enforcement leadership and elected officials, including the Mayor of Ann Arbor, the Chief of Ann Arbor Police and the Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development, provides an structure to address these concerns.

RESOLVED, That humane displacement of homeless camps on private property is an appropriate response to complaints from private property owners;

RESOLVED, That humane displacement of homeless camps on public land is an appropriate response to citizen complaints;

RESOLVED, That human services organizations will continue to seek out those who are homeless when the temperatures are forecast to be below freezing and the danger of hypothermia is imminent;

RESOLVED, It is not the practice of the City of Ann Arbor to proactively seek out homeless camps for removal, nor to broadly deploy strategies to render areas used as campsites unusable; and

RESOLVED, The Ann Arbor City Council requests a recommendation from the Continuum of Care Board regarding policies related to humane displacement and how to better meet the needs of individuals not currently served by the formal shelter system. This request assumes the participation of key stakeholders in this discussion, including current and recently unhoused individuals.

Sponsored by: Council Members Grand, Kunselman, Warpehoski and Briere

As Amended by Ann Arbor City Council on January 20, 2015