



FAQs – Bellevue Police Department

EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER

- **Have you seen increases in crime or litter where the shelters are?**

Littering has occurred in the area surrounding the Winter Shelter and it is typically associated with people residing in their vehicles (and not those residing at the shelter). We have had great success in working with staff from Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) and residents of the shelter in policing the littering activity.

With regard to any increases in calls for service or reported crimes in the area of the Winter Shelter, we are currently compiling statistical data from 2010 through mid-year 2016. We expect to share that data by no later than the Council's planned study session on the proposed shelter scheduled for November 28.

- **What can Bellevue Police do to improve neighborhood safety/security?**

Establishing good working relationships with King County Metro, Bellevue College, private security hired by area businesses and most importantly the neighborhood residents is a key element in creating a safe environment. We have refined our approach to neighborhood security through our ongoing deployments of Camp Unity and Tent City 4 as well as the annual Winter Shelter. Our Sector Captain program was established to be a single point of contact for any crime or quality of life challenges arising anywhere in the city. Captain Deb Ingram is the Sector Captain for the Eastgate area and she can be reached at dingram@bellevuewa.gov

Here is our initial multi-point plan for the proposed permanent shelter:

- We will be conducting site visits of other similarly-situated shelters in the region to learn about lessons learned and best practices that we can incorporate into our security plan during the next three years.
- Identify key points-of-contact for the residents, businesses, and Bellevue College and establish monthly meetings to be held in conjunction with the Sector Captain. The meetings will enable the stakeholders to share concerns that we will effectively address before the issues become entrenched.
- The Sector Captain will have timely CompStat crime data that will assist in redeploying resources to address any crime trends that might arise.
- The area has several wooded areas and trails that are not conducive to Patrol car access and they will be regularly patrolled by our five officer Bicycle Team. Any unauthorized encampments will be responded to immediately and case managers from the shelter will be notified concurrently. (See below for more details on our response protocol.)

- BPD has heard from our citizens regarding their concerns of increased crimes of opportunity, loitering, public intoxication and/or drug use, and feelings of vulnerability while walking around in the area. We have found that the best pathway toward compliance with rules, regulations, and laws starts with a respectful, humane interaction. Our officers will be responsive to the needs of all residents including the homeless that are receiving service at the shelter.
- The CFH staff case management process has proven, sustained success in helping men get on the path out of homelessness. As mentioned during the September, 2016 public outreach event, the homeless men are already present in our neighborhoods throughout the city. BPD has a long history of partnering with CFH and other service providers to be a part of the community safety net that both provides assistance and maintains community standards. Providing the Eastside homeless with one location that offers food, shelter, addiction treatment, health care, job skills training and placement, etc. can only help with our on-going efforts to respond in a meaningful way to the increasing homeless crisis being experienced throughout King County.
- We also worked collaboratively with representatives of King County Community and Human Services to create a satellite office at the Bellevue Police Department for staging on-duty field clinicians with the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT). This significantly decreased response time because the team no longer had to negotiate through traffic from their primary office in Seattle. The MCT responds out to the field to assist police officers with persons experiencing a behavioral crisis. Once on scene the clinicians provide triage, intervention, transportation, and stabilization and also develop resource, referral, and safety plans.

BPD is unified in our mission to reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and to enhance the quality of life for those who call Bellevue home. We have the resources and partnerships to ensure that we achieve our mission and we are constantly adapting to new challenges whenever and wherever they appear.

- **Clients will not be permitted to loiter in the neighborhood. Who monitors loitering? What happens when a client is loitering?**

This will be a joint effort between BPD and CFH. We experienced good success in addressing similar complaints in the past at the Winter Shelter. BPD officers will make social contact with a resident found loitering in the area. If the activity is non-criminal, and the loitering is taking place in an area open to the public, we are limited in our response other than to remind the client about the shelter agreement. We will then contact a staff member of CFH to let them know about the loitering and they will impress upon the client CFH's commitment to the neighborhood. If any criminal activity is afoot, our officers will initiate an investigation and make an arrest if appropriate. A foreseeable benefit to the proposed shelter will be the inclusion of a day center that is accessible to all of the men. The opportunities for training in job skills, life skills, and mentoring will likely reduce the amount of loitering.

- **How will you handle unpermitted encampments?**

We have an established, efficient and humane process of responding to any unpermitted encampments that we encounter on patrol or are made aware of by the public:

- 1) We determine who the property owner is and obtain trespass authorization.
- 2) We contact CFH and have an outreach worker respond to the location with a police officer to offer the person(s) services.
- 3) The officer advises the camper that they are trespassing and that a formal trespass notice will follow in 48 hours.
- 4) The officer ensures that the camper vacates the area two days later and reiterates the services offered through CFH.

- **If the project moves forward, could there be a community police substation in Eastgate like the one at Crossroads?**

We have existing police substations at Crossroads Mall and Factoria Mall and the increased police presence at both locations has been appreciated by residents, merchants, and shoppers. Bellevue College Security contacted BPD in June, 2016 and offered up an unused cubicle in their Security building to be used by BPD officers to write reports, check emails, take lunch breaks, and interact with the staff and students in a positive manner. This collaboration will be an effective supplement to the Factoria substation. We will continue to gather call and crime data throughout the area and share information with Bellevue College as they roll out future plans for student housing units. If the analyzed information supports an additional police substation, we will make a recommendation to our Council at that time.