



## Update on San Francisco's Street Response Under Grants Pass

Today, the Ninth Circuit officially modified the injunction against the City to be in line with the Supreme Court's Decision on Grants Pass. While the Supreme Court handed down its decision a few weeks ago, the injunction against San Francisco technically was still in place and needed to be modified. Now that the injunction is officially modified, the City will adjust its practices to be in line with Grants Pass.

San Francisco's street response will consist of offers of services and support on a daily basis, targeted encampment resolutions, and coordinated efforts to prevent re-encampments and new areas from being encamped.

San Francisco's tent count is at its lowest level since before Mayor Breed took office, thanks to the City's consistent approach and expansion of shelter, housing, and other resources. But with 2/3 of offers of shelter being rejected after years of encampment outreach, more must be done. Encampments are not healthy or safe for people on the street, and they are not acceptable for neighborhoods.

### **City Street Operations Under New Policies**

**Continued Daily Encampment Operations:** San Francisco will continue to conduct encampment operations in the same way it has previously done by offering shelter and services to those on the street. Over the last few years, since the pandemic, these operations conducted by the Healthy Streets Operations Center have helped thousands of people move from the street into shelter. However, a majority of the times that HSOC staff encounter someone in these encampments, their offers of shelter are refused. In the last year, this number has risen to 67% of encounters. These outreach and cleaning operations will continue, targeting the largest encampment areas.

**Preventing Re-encampment:** Under the new rulings, HSOC staff and other city staff will be able to better enforce laws when refusals of shelter occur. This will include being able to follow up at a later time to an area that has recently been cleared to prevent re-encampment. The goal of this enforcement is for people to accept offers of shelter and know that they cannot remain where they are. Staff will not be required to re-offer shelter in an area where they've recently been working to clear an encampment if individuals return to that same area.

**Continued Daily Services Outreach:** San Francisco has a robust network of street outreach teams that proactively go out into community and who respond to calls for service with a services-first approach. This includes teams like the HEART team, a dedicated team that responds to homelessness related 311 and 911 calls, and the BEST team, a public health team that proactively goes out to offer treatment and care in the community. These teams will continue on a daily basis to try to bring people into San Francisco's system of care.

**Addressing Smaller Encampments:** SFPD officers will work with Public Works staff to address smaller encampments on a daily basis. The goal of these engagements is to prevent re-



encampments for areas recently cleared and to prevent small encampments from becoming larger ones through consistent coverage of the area. District station officers will conduct regular canvases of the areas to identify any encampments, and then work with Public Works staff to clear the areas. SFPD will be able to offer connections and information about shelter or services and Public Works staff will follow all bag and tag policies. This strategy that will be evaluated and modified for effectiveness based on outcomes.

### **Goals of Enforcement**

San Francisco will continue to offer services to people on the streets, including shelter and treatment. Outreach crews to encampments and to individuals will continue every day and will include recently launched nighttime outreach services like DPH's Night Navigator program, which sends outreach workers out to connect people on the street with treatment and telehealth appointments.

Enforcement against camping on San Francisco's streets will consist of progressive penalties. Warnings will be followed by citations. In some cases, citations could be followed by escalating penalties, including arrest. The goal is not punishment, it is compliance.

### **What is Not Changing: Bag and Tag Policy Remains in Effect**

In the Coalition on Homelessness litigation against the City and County of San Francisco, there were other categories of legal issues involved beyond the Eighth Amendment claims addressed in Grants Pass, including Fourth Amendment issues around the City's bag and tag policy and storage or disposal of unhoused people's belongings.

In Grants Pass, only the Eighth Amendment issues and enforcement of anti-camping laws were considered. The Fourth Amendment bag and tag issues were not considered in Grants Pass or changed. Those rules and practices are still in place.

### **Outreach Statistics**

San Francisco has a robust network of outreach, operations and services. Examples include:

- **Expanding shelter and treatment:**
  - Increased shelter capacity by over 60% since 2018 up to 4,000 shelter beds.
  - Increased housing slots for the formerly homeless by over 50% since 2018, so that SF has more PSH per capita than any other city in the country besides Washington DC.
- **Consistent Daily Outreach**
  - HSOC teams conducted nearly 500 encampment operations in 2023, helping over 1500 people into shelter. So far in 2024, they've continued that outreach, with hundreds of operations and over 750 people helped into shelter.
  - Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) conducted more than 2,100 housing assessments, made 2,400 shelter placements and transitioned 85 clients into permanent housing last fiscal year