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>> Mayor Reed: Good afternoon. I'd like to call this meeting of the city council to order. This is a special study session on homeless encampments and other issues. So we'll have a different kind of agenda this afternoon but we will start with the pledge of allegiance so please stand. [pledge of allegiance] The first category of work we are going to take on is defining the issues, three perspectives. Leslye Corsiglia is going to have the floor.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Thank you mayor. I think many of you know, reports of homeless encampments are growing and we have been talking to you about this concern. This afternoon, we want to explain the extent and the complexity of the problem. Our response to date and suggested approaches moving forward. Homeless encampments are not unique to San José. Cities throughout the state are struggling to expand and we have been seeing reports in newspapers from Sacramento, Los Angeles, Fresno, and San Francisco, to name a few, about cities that are struggling to respond. In San José, we estimate that there are approximately 70 encampments with some as small as one to two people and some as large as 90 to 100 people. Two-thirds of the known encampments are located along our creeks and waterways. Others are located on land like under bridges or along freeways and sometimes in our parks. Additionally we have experienced some different kinds of homeless encampments. One being RVs and we have found places where a number of RVs line the sides of roads in a somewhat informal encampment. And you one is VTA, bus 22, runs 24 hours a day seven days a week and it's thought to be a moving homeless shelter. I think we may be having trouble getting our presentation up. I'm on the second slide now. If we can go to the second slide. The issue of encampments is complex. Encampments cause environmental damage, particularly along waterways. They also cause concern from our neighborhoods and businesses that are located near the encampments, and they cause concern for the homeless themselves. They're living outside in unhealthy and unsafe environments. Although a portion are chronically homeless that's not the case for all. We do have quite a number of the population of there are newly homeless and we've heard recent reports about babies who have been born along our waterways. Our approach needs to be twofold. In the short term we need to bring our waterways back to their previous condition and respond to other nonwaterway encampments. But in the long run we have to respond to the underlying cause which is homelessness. We have been working towards a plan of ending homelessness but we all know this can't be done overnight. At this point I would like to recognize the staff who have been involved in this effort to date. We'll be talking to a little bit and hearing what they've been doing. We have been hearing from Parks, Recreation, and

Neighborhood Services, the housing department, city attorney's department, transportation department, I mentioned police, fire department, it really spans much of our city. And if the employees who are involved could stand up I really appreciate that. Well, that's a few. But there's like 30 or so. They're all out there responding right now. So it just has been a big effort. So we're going to start the discussion today with a panel that will outline the issue from a variety of perspectives. We'll begin with the community and then the perspective of our homeless residents. We have Brett Clin who is a Spring Brooke resident and Joe Bosenecker, I hope I'm pronouncing that right will talk about it from an employer's perspective. Kerrie Romanow our director of environmental services will talk about the environment from the City's perspective and Chris Elias will talk about what the Water District is doing and their concerns. Then we have Jenny Nicholas who is the executive director of the emergency housing consortium and Jennifer Loving the executive director of Destination Home. I'm going to hand it straight over to Brett to begin the presentation.

>> Thank you for having me here today. My name is Brett Clint. I'm a resident of the Springbrook complex. We are located at the terminus of Phelan Avenue against the Kelly Park open space. In the past year we've experienced a heavy homeless population increase. Including many encampments. At its height we had around 40 permanent structures in the open space behind the complex. During that time we've experienced a large influx of nonpermanent homeless residents to go with that. We've seen a large increase in crime and vandalism within the complex. We went from having less than two police reports a year to averaging quite a few a month, garages were broken into, we've also had to take steps, resealing fences that were cut, we've had home invasions, and we've -- we've been forced to lock off our water supplies and actually recently redid the lighting of the complex to try and improve safety. After several months of asking for help, we did finally get the Water District and the -- some departments of the city to help us. And in July we had moved all of the permanent structures and a good number of the homeless. It was very successful. However, nearly immediately after we started to see reencampment. We asked for patrols from the San José police department. And within the park we've received very little help as far as the after-hours times when we need it. Today, I was out there last weekend. I did not see any permanent structures. But we know that there is homeless reencampment. There are tents, not in the numbers there were before but without enforcement doubtless they will be back, especially with the recent sweeps of the Story Road encampment which isn't far away. I would like to bring to the attention that much of the

enforcement of the homeless within the park has been laid upon the park rangers of which there are four. They are not permitted to approach the homeless unless there are two of them on duty which is a rarity. The park rangers operate completely unarmed and while they do the best they can they did not sign up with this. I spoke to one of the rangers just last weekend and was told not only are they unarmed and expected to police the homeless themselves but when they are requesting help from the San José PD oftentimes the help is not coming. The complex has been a really nice place to live over the years. We've taken as many steps as we can to handle this on our own and handle this with the fuse hardworking people in the city that have been happy to step up and help us. But I don't see a way out of this without more enforcement. I'd also like to take a moment to point out the downtown street team. They are a nonprofit that is been working with us. I think they have been the single most effective force in keeping the park clean and engaging the homeless directly to help us. I've gone out and done a lot of cleanups with them. They are good people doing good works. Thank you for your time.

>> Good afternoon. My name is Joe Bosenecker. I'm vice president of operations for Bay Area news group and the Mercury News. We appreciate you having us here today to kind of tell our side of this dilemma. Our main campus is located at the corner of Ritter park and Interstate 880 in an area that's completely adjacent to the creek channel. We've got about 36 acres there and about one-third of our property is adjacent to the creek where we've had the most homeless density. We fully understand and share the public's concern for the homeless in the Silicon Valley. When speaking about this I frequently put a precursor out there, there but for the grace of God go I. That said, our immediate concern is for the wealth -- I'm sorry for the health and welfare of our employees and the protection of our property and our assets. The homeless encampment in the creek adjacent to the Merc has been a concern of mine since I arrived there in 1999. Back in that day if I had an issue or concern about the homeless folks I would call a sergeant at the police department and ask for a squad car to escort the homeless away. This was a norm for us about every six to eight months for a number of years. Recently we've seen an increase in the number of homeless in and around our property. Occasionally the city would actually mount a formal effort to relocate the homeless from the creek channel up to themselves with a number of officers and a cleanup crew being deployed. The responses and those efforts appear to have stopped completely over the past two years. Not coincidentally the presence and the problems that we've seen with the homeless have significantly increased. Unlike most businesses in the valley, the Merc operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So the

opportunity for our employees to run into some of these folks is probably greater than a lot of businesses here locally. Also, recently, a number of us executives at the mercury has teamed together and we met with the city, we met with the police department, we've met with a number of the agencies and the Water District to try to come up with a mutual solution to try to resolve our concerns with our employees. We've also recently hosed a employee meeting with the city agencies to ensure we've got adequate communication with our employees and that their questions are responded to and they can get any answers that they desire. Also our publisher, Mack Tully, who sends his regrets that he couldn't be here, he sends out periodic e-mail blasts to all of our employees letting them know what the situation is, what resolutions we're working on, and trying to keep our employees informed. Also, our facilities staff, which is limited at best, has been compelled to step up its security of the grounds, and we've also had to tour the adjacency, our property line to the creek, about twice a week just to pick up the piles of garbage, dead mattresses and debris that are strewn up and down our property line. We have escalated our use of the contracted security service guardsmark to provide a 24 hour a day seven day a week security guard to that side of the property. This has had limited success in terms of steering the homeless away from our property and our employees. But it has been somewhat effective, as far as minimizing the number of incidents. This additional security coverage is costing the Mercury News upwards of \$138,000 a year money we felt would be better spent in providing additional news coverage to the community and/or benefits to our employees. I'm going to give you a number of incidents that are verbatim things that we have seen occur just in the last several months. We had a small incident to some in that an employee bicycle was stolen from the bicycle rack. That's a little disturbing since it was taken during the middle of the day we figure somewhere between the hours of 10:00 and 3:00 p.m. We caught it on security video. It's pretty obvious if type of character that was in the video. We had absolutely no luck to make a firm identification so the police had no action that they could take. Another incident which is pretty disturbing, those of you know the Mercury News building know it has an actual moat that goes around the perimeter. It's a beautiful thing, but it's not so beautiful when you encounter a female homeless person washing her hair in it. That person was escorted off the property, in the early summer and never did return. Few weeks ago, one of our employee managers actually a senior manager was out on her even jogging run and she was literally accosted by two pit bulls, dogs while she was jogging. It was all she could do to get away. She was scared to death and a custom of homeless people sprung from the encampment and called the dogs off before anybody got hurt. This was again reported to the police department. Couple of

admonition ago, a nude sun bather was found on our employee exercise course. We've got a beautiful park course adjacent to the property with trees and lawn, well kept. And it's a little out of the ordinary to catch a nude person sun bathing out there. When the person was approached he quickly gathered his belongings and headed off into the creek channel. We allow use of a portion of our property for a paving company that's doing the enhancements to Interstate 880. It's a pretty good arrangement. They're close to their construction, and yet they have repetitively suffered theft and vandalism from diesel fuel to battery to broken gates and broken windows. Recently, while looking into a lack of lighting on the east side of our property adjacent to channel we found that a couple of the street lights, the city street lights were out. So first thing our folks did was call city works, Public Works and try to get somebody out there to replace the lamps. Upon further inspection they discovered that the copper's been stolen out of the light poles completely. And so as of today, no corrective actions have been taken. We are look at additional lighting on that side of the property ourselves. We also this weekend started a devegetation program to take our flora, our tree and shrubs down to about the three-foot level to allow the employees a more secure feeling when they're in the exercise area and to also put additional light and awareness on the creek channel. We continually see the homeless pulling a cart full of empty bottles over to the fire sprinkler water riser, for the Lowe's adjacent to our property. We'd be a little bit concern for the Lowe's store and the fire department in terms of somebody tampering with that fire protection system, because what the homeless are doing is getting their daily water needs right off that fire plug. The last topic I share with you is a little bit more endearing I would hope. We've had repetitive sightings of children living in and around the encampments. A number of our employees brought that to our attention and we share that concern. It is a particular concern because we just learned that the Santa Clara County child development services is doing tenant improvement in a building two blocks from us directly across the bridge on the creek channel. The child development services department is getting ready to open business there, less than a block away from the creek where we know sexual offenders and predators live. I'd like to thank you. We look forward to continuing our work with the city and agencies to find a fair and equitable long term solution. Thank you.

>> Kerrie Romanow: Good afternoon. Kerrie Romanow environmental services. I'm going to shift gears a little bit and as we move forward in our foundation setting talk a little bit about the environmental impact that encampments are having. Before we talk about the encampments I wanted us to think back to the asset that

these waterways are. Our city has an extensive network of creeks and rivers, and these habitats are a valuable asset providing recreation and wildlife habitat for our community. Our creek serves as a natural connection to our history of the valley. The Coyote creek has historically supported and still supports today the most diverse fish fauna among Santa Clara Valley base its watersheds. It supports at least ten species out of the original 18. The Chinook salmon run in Coyote creek may be the last viable run in the South Bay. Upper Penitencia creek, a major tributary to Coyote Creek, is a documented spawning area for a variety of salmon. For our residents our creek offers -- our creeks offer opportunities for recreation and serve as a natural respite upon our upper landscape. Many San Joséans have fond childhood memories of playing in the local creeks. However, that perception has changed. This map represents a snapshot view of the encampment locations. Within our urban service area the Guadalupe river stretches 19 miles in length with 11 trail miles along it. The Coyote creek stretches 31 miles with almost 19 miles of trail. We estimate that 60% of the trails along the Guadalupe are impacted by encampments. The red triangles on this map show known long term encampment locations and their relative size. The yellow lines are open trail lines known to be impacted by sporadic encampments. The dashed green line represents proposed or unfinished parts of the trail system and you can see from this map the nexus of encampments along creeks, trails, and park lands and that this parallels the impacts on creeks and habitat health, community safety, and community access to parks and trails. As these homeless encampments converge and grow along our creeks, the community assets shown in the first slides become in a way a detriment. The top left shows a photo taken from google maps in June of 2011 of a floating raft of trash near Roberts Street just north of Story Road. The top right shows endangered and threatened species are being harmed and poached. As you can see there are shopping carts that are used to catch fish. So they're impacting our fish's ability to move throughout the waterway. The bottom left debris and trash create a dam and obstruct the creek. It makes the waters, again, no longer navigable. The bottom right is the presence of encampment creating safety concerns and parks and trails that are not usable. This is not meant to say, though, that homeless encampments are the only source of trash in our creeks and waterways but they are a contributor. To our grant funded clean creeks and healthy communities project we took a closer look how residents living by a specific section of Coyote Creek feel about this creek. The four-year goal of this project is to lessen the presence of encampments and increase resident engagement and stewardship of their neighborhood creek. Working with the San José State university urban planning program graduate students developed and conducted a survey of that neighborhood residents at the fall

of 2011 and found that many residents have fond memories of the creek and remember playing and recreating in the creek however residents see the creek now as a detriment to their neighborhood and not an asset. Reasons cited for people not using the creek are shown in the graph. Their concern for safety and points other community members have brought forward. The next survey will be completed in fall 2013. As mentioned by some of our community member the makeup of our encampment is changing. They moved from what we used to call a large encampment to up to 20 people to what we call extra large encampment where there is fewer of them but there can be upwards of 100 to 150 people. The Story Road site that we cleaned up about a week and a half ago was estimated to have about 150 residents. The boundaries are mashing together, so instead of sporadic encampments along the creek some waterways you're seeing one long stretch of encampment. Due to these growing environmental impacts regulatory agencies are beginning to express concern. There are a number of laws establish to protect the waters for beneficial use, and I can read them to you, but they include the clean water act, the endangered species act and the California fish and game code. Another way to look and appreciate the environmental impact is the left side picture outlined the Story Road encampment we just cleaned up again about ten days ago. The right side is typical residential neighborhood. So if you compare the Story Road cleanup, which again had about 150 people on it, to a conventional residential neighborhood, the number of residents living in the Story Road area would be equivalent to a typical population of a six acre suburban neighborhood. Typical Americans create waste at about 4.5 pounds of trash per person per day. So for our fictional neighborhood, that would be close to 10 tons a month, and 75 gallons of wastewater produced per person. So in one month our fictional neighborhood would fill half an Olympic swimming pool. A conventional modern neighborhood has access to infrastructure and utility services that remove the waste generated by these homes. In the case of the encampments the waste is unmanaged and goes straight into the creek and environment. Most homes have electricity and natural gas infrastructure for heating and cooking. Encampments utilize propane tanks, car batteries, open flames and cooking stoves, many of which are discarded onsite once used. It's as if you were taking this neighborhood off the grid with no infrastructure or utility services. Everyday human activities are now uncontrolled in encampments and consequently threaten the environment and create a public health concern. As you can see in these pictures, the structures are getting larger as we have heard from our community folks. The structures are becoming more permanent with foundations and cemented posts, and they are clearing vegetation and negatively impacting the riparian area. You guys changed the pictures on me. The tree house that you see in

the middle was taken down in the past two months and took a crew of five people, an entire day to break down. And that was along the Coyote creek just south of Selma Olinder park. Typical activities, again at an encampment, include much as we do at home: Laundry, where you're using soaps and detergents, human waste is sometimes in the encampments plumbed into the creek. Household hazardous waste is discarded, and trash piles up in pits and makeshift landfills, and again, poaching and digging create challenges for our waterways. Our rule point with focusing on the environmental impacts is to just really recognize that we need to do something to intervene to avoid permanent environmental damage, and negative impact to our human health. And with that I'll turn it over to Chris from the Water District.

>> Thank you, Kerrie. Chris Elias is my name. I'm the deputy operating officer for the Guadalupe watershed at the Water District. When our board chair was sworn in at the beginning of this year she identified illegal encampments as one of her top priorities. The board welcomed that and since that time we have taken direction from the board to make it a top priority for the entire district. Why is it a priority for a district? Board policy 4.1 calls for us to protect and restore creek, bay and other aquatic ecosystem. And from there, we have a number of objectives that derive from that policy. As you can see from your slides. We have a number of programs that we as staff have to pursue to comply with our board policy. One of them is the good neighbor program. This is where we have a removal of illegally dumped structures in our properties along the waterways, particularly in the areas that are owned by the Water District. We also have our removal of graffiti and trash and other debris along the waterways that would otherwise pose a flooding risk to the residents. Another program we have is called illegal encampment program. This is where we have a joint effort that's conducted quarterly with the city. And finally we have our SCVURPP program, which is the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. This is essentially an association of 13 cities and the water I be district that are tied together in one district to regulate the discharge of storm water that essentially ends up in the South Bay. Here are some facts that I would like to bring to your attention today, regarding the illegal encampment that's occurring along our waterways. We are noticing just like Kerrie said and has been alluded to by previous speakers that the encampments are getting more entrenched, and they are getting the -- and campers are getting more aggressive. Just so summarize, where we have a vested interest in keeping the creeks clean, and habitats robust, the fact is that the district has limited property ownership. And we have no police powers. What I've asked John to do is to kind of give you a

sampling of some of the encampments where they occur and identification of some of the ownership of the properties that go with the encampments. While he's looking it up, in summary, what we have is that county wide, the district has fee ownership along 30% of the creek ways. The other 30% belong in other public agencies' hands like the county or the city, especially school districts. And yet nearly 30% are in private hands. And as a district, we are unable to provide services on private hands -- on private lands as that will be deemed a gifting of public funds. So what you have in front of you are those very blurred and I do have other displays here that shows where the encampments are and the fee ownerships. The green one for sure belongs to the Water District. The purple color for the most part belongs to the city. And then the brown belongs to the county. And the rest then belong in private hands. John, next one. Okay. While John again is look up the next slide, in summary what we have is along Coyote creek, the district owns about 30%, the property as where we have encampments currently and the other belong either in private hands or in City's hands or county. Along Guadalupe we have about 50% ownership. We are talking about approximately about 500 acres of coverage where the encampments are located, and that's -- 50% of that belongs in Water District hands, another 50% belong either in the city's hand or county or other private hands. John, you can call it off, I think I made my point. The impacts, you can switch now, the impacts we have seen recently is we have an increased amount of threat to our employees that have to work out in the field. They go out to the field to take samplings. They go out to the field to conduct studies, they go out to the field to carry out requirements that are imposed on us by permits that the district has as a result of our flood protection projects. What we are noticing is some of these encampers brandish guns to our employees that's a threat, and we are also noticing obviously increases in threats to the public that use trails adjacent to the creeks. And those are on the increase. But another important point I wanted to point out here is that while those are personal safety issues are on the rise, we are also noticing damages that are occurring on mitigation sites along the creeks. Those are the mitigations that we've paid for, invested in as a community, and when they are damaged, we have to come back and repair them as required by permit condition. Going forward, not to belabor the point, you've heard Kerrie talk about some of the batteries, some of the chemicals discharged, made available on the banks of the creeks. Those chemicals eventually made their way into the waterways. You also heard comments that are made by partners here by the business community as well as residences, that again we have human waste that actually ending up in the creek. Not only are they a threat to wildlife, but also they are a threat to human beings. We have and we've noticed an increase in the amount of sharps that are available along the

creek ways, when our employees go out to work along the creek ways they get subject or exposed to those sharps. And you heard earlier on Kerrie talking about poaching, wildlife poaching that's occurring in along the creeks. Both Guadalupe and Coyote are steelhead creeks and those are all endangered species. What you have before you is just basically a summary of the investments we've just made with just working along with the city. This is our joint cleanup effort. So in the past since 2010 we've invested well over \$500,000 to remove approximately 3,000 cubic yards of loads, garbage, removed from the creeks. That translates to about 377 truckloads of trash that would otherwise have made its way into the bay floating through our local creeks. So what are we doing now? What we've done in the past obviously with the city is to clear the site and what happens then is the encampments come back and reoccupy the site. So lately we have permits that gives us ability to be able to go in and remove vegetation which tends to provide canopy and cover, in working with the city we were able to enlist the services of the police department in cleaning up the site and taking out the garbage that were accumulated over there after they had been posted. Some of the items obviously had become stored in the city storage facility. So what we went ahead and did is lifting up the vegetation so if somebody is passing through on the trail they can see. So what we've noticed since this happened about ten days ago is they have not been reoccupied. So that is one solution that we will be exploring further working with the city and the other regulatory agencies. Future actions. We are looking to continuing to work with the city and other partners and neighbors to prevent a reencampment of these sites when they are cleaned. We are looking to again to work with our partners the city, the county, VTA, to maintain a safe environment to personnel who use these areas that adjoin the creeks. And we are also looking to work with all hands, bringing together all property owners to engage them in looking for some proactive solutions so we prevent these encampments from occurring. Because what ultimately happens is when the encampments take over it does degrade the quality of life for all of us together. So at this time I would like to go ahead and turn it over to the next speaker.

>> I think that's me. Thank you.

>> Good afternoon. I'm Jenny Nicholas, I'm the CEO for EHC life builders. I'm struck as I wait for the PowerPoint to come up -- if you could advance it one for me please -- I don't have a clicker. Okay. I'm struck first of all by how excited that I am that we have the opportunity to come forward to you today and talk about possible solutions. My

job as well as Jen's job here today is to really discuss the people that are in the creeks that are living in encampments and are struggling with many myriad of issues. And to bring human face to the tragedy. Because certainly nobody wants us to see people living as they do. Would like to see people in homes, that's the goal. So our understanding right now is who lives in encampments? We have a lot of different folks as we go out that have a lot of what we would call system failures. They've had repeated denials with their SSI and benefits. They've been denied services because of behavior issues. Many have untreated mental illness and drug and alcohol and substance abuse treatment. And we find that oftentimes there are programs and things that sustain folks in the encampment settings. Feeding programs, medical and social services, and that these sometimes don't occur in partnership with housing solutions. Part of what EHC and destination home and other providers that are in partnership with us today like Bill Wilson center and Vision Shelter Network, downtown streets team is what we're trying to do is organize that effort in such a way that we look at permanent solutions first and look to move people out of those encampments. We also know, that folks that are living as you saw in some of the encampments tend to be in place is that just aren't fit for human habitation. That it is primitive and that there's no utilities and facilities. Some of the folks that we deal with and that we go down to the creeks to speak with have a lot of challenges. In engaging in employment and housing because of the fact they have difficulty treating their mental illness or substance abuse and because there is a growing percentage of the population that have criminal background. That certainly makes our job harder as service providers to find employment and housing for folks and without this kind of a joint way of looking at this, the criminal element in these encampments has a tendency to grow. We also know that sometimes the shelter system is just not accessible to people. EHC and the other providers we work with are in the business of finding people permanent solutions, and emergency shelters are not that. And sometimes there's not enough beds and things that they need to receive services in that moment. So we've come up with other solutions to look at that. But the best solution for them is permanent housing. To that end I'd like to talk with you just a moment about an individual named Santana. You might recognize Santana and we have permission to use his story I should say by his bicycle. His motorcycle. Santana has spent countless hours and continues to spend hours or making his motorcycle look the way that it does. And you may be familiar with him from the downtown area. Santana has lived on the streets off and on since the 1970s. He was willing to trust one of our outreach workers Teresa because she knew him during her time being homeless. Santana was the second oldest of 11 children and he moved to San José in 1956. His mother still lives here in the downtown

area. His history is a bit of a puzzle for all of us. He's been a mechanic. He's done lots of other different kinds of work. But in 1974 he suffered a serious head injury. This left him very unstable. And made it difficult for him to manage his life day to day. And he really fell through cracks. Santana said to us, some of us choose to be on the streets and some of us just don't have a choice. There were times when I chose to live on the streets because where I was living just wasn't good and wasn't good for me. And because there wasn't the help that I needed. He's been on the streets until he was housed in this last few months for 38 years. That's a long time for somebody to live outside in our streets here in San José, without the help they need. What we did was not just reach out to Santana and engage him in a conversation that he was willing to have. We heard what his needs were. In the past people have had to house Santana but it was places where he couldn't maintain and keep his motorcycle so he refused to speak to them or look at any other service. I think that that kind of individualized understanding and attention to what is necessary for people to make that change is really important. Santana is now housed. The importance of outreach to us is that it's a point of entry into our homeless services system. We have to have a place where people begin, where they start, where they connect. It's about building engagement, it's about working with people who have been homeless and understand the system. It lets them know what services are available. And it's a way of developing rapport. Shelly Barbieri from our staff has a great example that she uses with people. When we were young we were taught that if somebody drove up to you in a van and says, I have a house, I have a key, let's go right now I can take you home right now, you were taught to say, "no." Because it's a strange one pulling up with a van with a key. Who knows what that person's really all about? The same is true for people we engage in their homes in these creeks and in the streets and downtown and other parts of the city. We are coming into a place they consider to be their home. And our goal is to engage them enough that they'll accept help. We also identify people who are in need and we really work to get them to appropriate services. We can't just put everyone into the same service. People need what is the right service for them. And that comes from the building of rapport. Our outreach workers and our community partners know these resources in the community and how to best access them for each individual. And because we're linked to the housing 1,000+ destination home every one of those individuals is given an assessment survey so we can eventually hopefully pair them up with the right housing and case management that they need and deserve. The teams that we know are the best tool to respond to our citizens' concerns for the homeless because they know how to engage people and can serve as a mediator between citizens, concerns, and the client's needs and it's

really in a balance between educating the citizens that are concerned and ensuring that a homeless person can access the services they need. As Leslye indicated at the beginning, though, this just doesn't happen overnight. We work with different types of outreach. Routine, hot line response, locating and connecting clients to housing 1,000 and specialized outreach. So the team EHC organization with the City of San José includes the providers that I mentioned and we have standard routes and location electrics that we track and keep track of including the locations of the encampments and where people are living. This is the best way to build rapport because it is consistent contact with the same teams on regular basis. Our hot line response, EHC runs a hot line for the entire city of San José. People can call businesses individuals and give us information and concerns about where people are. This was originally started for just the downtown core over a years ago. It has now expanded to citywide. And we respond to concerns from both citizens and business owners. Like I said, we connect people to housing 1,000, and then we look to do medical, mental health and drug and alcohol and veterans outreach in specific. And we have partners that we connect folks with. Thus far, this serves data just for the downtown outreach because we've just begun the citywide contract. We've had 26, a little over 2600 contacts in the downtown, 226 people, even though we were not supposed to house anyone from that contract, we did and were able to house 21 of those individuals. And since July through September we've had over 500 contacts to at least 120 people. Eight of been housed and 25 have already been enrolled in housing 1,000 or in intensive case management.

>> Hi, I'm Jennifer loving with destination home. Thanks for having me today. So when we talk a little bit about chronic homelessness, sorry, hold on. Or not. So what we really have in San José is a tale of two cities. On one hand we have a lot of wealth and innovation and we solve a lot of problems. On the other hand we have 7,000 or so people who sleep outside with a little over 2500 as chronically homeless. So that slide is -- should be alarming because when we are thinking about what we were doing years ago with homeless encampments we had a smaller homeless population. This is advancing on its own Leslye. So we had a smaller chronic population and now we have a chronic population that's much bigger, even while the spectrum of who we have counted on any given night has really stayed fairly level. And I think that speaks to the fact that just simply returning to the management of encampments in the ways that had been done in the past really aren't going to work. So as -- we've talked a lot about illegal encampments, criminal elements. And I think it's important to balance that. While a

criminal element exists as it exists anywhere in the -- this isn't my fault -- I'm not doing this. I'm not even touching it. While we know that there's a criminal element, and I think it should be underscored that that element is a piece of a population like it is a piece of any population, and I think it's also important to acknowledge that people have dogs, while dogs can be seen as threatening to people that are passing by, dog service protection, weapons, knives are a necessary form of protection, people are surviving out without a safety net and without anyone else to call. And folks that are living in encampments come from all walks of life. We have kids out there and veterans who have been outside since they've ended their tours overseas and seniors and families and folks with mental illness, folks with physical illnesses. It's not a one size fits all. And while yes, folks live in encampments who have done things criminal things this is also because we have legislation that makes it very difficult for them to live anywhere else. When I want it to move, it won't. So housing 1,000. So over the last year we have been implementing the housing 1,000 campaign and this has given us a vehicle to deeply target strategies for chronic homelessness and over the last year we've built a pretty good framework to add to this model. And so one of the examples is St. James park. What we've been able to do there is pick a population and match a partnership to target folks whose primary issue is substance abuse. And create a project to permanently rehouse folks that are living in the park, and we can do those same sorts of strategies in encampments. So housing 1,000 so far we've had -- can you advance the slide, oh, okay. So so far, we've housed 157 chronically homeless folks. And 192 total from the registry. Can you go to the next slide? Just say next slide. And one of the critical things about the housing 1,000 registry really is the database. We've created a system where folks can be registered and when they give us their health information they give us their location information, photograph and consent which is really most important to share this information. So when we look at the data about 228 people that are on the housing 1,000 registry site encampments as their primary residence right now and while we know that that number doesn't cover the span of everyone who's living in the encampments I think it's really important information. Because the sampling even at this small scale show about half meet the chronic definition, and so it's a start, really, of using data to drive our decision making. And it will allow us as Jenny has mentioned to create solutions that are targeted to need rather than one size fits all. I think that's been some of the trouble that we've gotten ourselves into in the past is that we think that folks can all follow the same path, which is silly because none of us can all follow the same path. And it doesn't work when you're homeless either. And so this is why our chronic population has become more entrenched over the last decade. Because it requires a more

comprehensive set of solutions to rehouse folks. But we know that it can be done. And so for housing a thousand about 99% of the folks that have been housed are still in their houses. Can you go to the next slide? So what can we do. We can use the data that we have and we can expand our data pool to be able to deeply target chronic homelessness and encampments, using the housing first model and working within the already established system within housing 1000. With additional resources we can add targeted place-based strategies to the housing 1000 project and target the profiles and the location where the city or the Water District -- can you go back please a slide? You can go to the next one but just stay there. We can target strategies specific to the places you would like to see us addressed. So in closing in the long term it's important that as we start regional planning that we work with all the encampment stakeholders to insure that these strategies are part of our planning process, that will start next year in 2013, but in the short term we can work together to prioritize resources to address long-term encampment dwellers. For example we could do a pilot project for 100 folks and I'm happy to work if directed with the appropriate entities to design what that would look like and also how to measure and execute that. We know that the traditional responses are not going to work, without these permanent solutions. So thank you.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Mayor, that's the end of the presentations. And we can open for questions, or whatever you desire. We have our staff up next to talk about the -- what our response has been to date.

>> Mayor Reed: I think we'll have a few council questions. I think I'd like to take some public comment on this, there's only a few people who want to speak and maybe the council would like to hear the public comment, now. Richard Santos, Robert Hanlon and David Wall.

>> Good afternoon, mayor and city council. Richard Santos director of Santa Clara Valley Water District. I'm just here to support our staff comments and also want to continue with the collaboration that we have together. Very good we'll see you again in December I'm sure to discuss this even further. But during public comments in our meeting, we continue to hear about increasing in crime, vandalism we hear the comments tall time. You have resources, the PD, we need those resources for our safety of our employees when we do the job. Most people believe the Water District are responsible. We're not. As you heard here today we only have a certain amount of easements we don't have the majority so we need your resources. The last thing I would say, and as you know, it

pollutes the creek and so on. So when it goes out to Alviso bay, that's where I live, so I don't like it, so I need some help. The last thing is that when I was a fire captain before I retired, we used to go to the national guard. San José had an agreement where they had like 350 that they housed every so often. Maybe you can reinvent that again or have the national guard along with army reserves. We used to help feed the homeless here at the city teams and so on we had a segregate relationship. I know the number's increased. We're all working towards it, it's a very difficult one, we'll work together to try to solve it, thank you so much.

>> Mayor Reed: Robert Hanlon, David Wall, Leslie Hamilton.

>> Mayor, city council. I wanted to speak today on the homeless encampment currently known as St. James park. It seems like we have obviously a problem down there. I personally live real close to that. My job is to work with the homeless veterans with the state of California as the veterans work service as outreach specialist. As I deal with them every day as far as case management and finding resources for them. The reason I'm coming today is because I was told that if I needed to come and explain myself to the city council if I had a problem with the homeless folks by a San José PD officer and I found that to be a business disconcerting. Basically I was told that they're not doing anything wrong in the park however, this particular person had a pit bull chained to a trolley play structure there, along with two grocery carts from our local grocery Mi pueblo and two bicycles. The bedding area looked like a bedroom with a male adult sleeping there. It was 5:30 in the afternoon. I was told that I should go to another park by this police officer if I needed to take my child there to recreate. I find that wrong. And I was basically questioned about my residency in the city, and what I knew about the homeless problem, and that basically, I should go to another park since the homeless people have been sleeping in St. James park for more than 20 years. I'm not sure if that's lawful, or not. To chain a pit bull to park structures or to chain your bicycle to the park structure, or to chain your grocery cart that you've taken from an establishment. My point is that it seems like we're not working together, between the police, between the services that I know we offer, from the state, and I ask that you look towards that, and find a way that we can help with the problem. And you have my information, I'm willing to volunteer myself to whatever platform we need to do to establish it. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: David Wall. Leslie Hamilton, David.

>> This will be another one of these long-winded meetings in which absolutely nothing will get done in public. But behind the scenes we see contractors lining up to solve this particular problem. This is an intractable problem for the city, and regionally. It requires in my opinion the influx and use of the United States military, specifically to organize stockades to identify the mentally ill people to be sequestered for treatment, to identify the people to be picked up as illegal aliens for further detention and processing, and of course the remainder of the people that are left in the net. This type of program requires a regional aspect because you are going to have to ask the president to give the necessary troop structure to maintain this type of mission. Coming across with some utopian idea of putting someone in a home, the inclusionary structures that are already in place, this is just ridiculous. Some of these people are hard core criminals that need to be sequestered in a situation where they can find work and have a healthy environment. Therefore, a stockade situation is what is required. Any type of other type of ideas and coming across that you have financial resources to deal with this problem, a voucher, any type of talk, we see no talk of money today. You have no money. And people are being victimized. So you have involved the United States military to round these people up with the use of the San José police, place them in stockades, call them urban villages if stockades is not to your palate. Process them somewhere out of the Bay Area where they can't afford to live here for a variety of reasons. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Leslie Hamilton and then David.

>> Good afternoon, mayor and council, thank you for convening this session. I am executive director of the Guadalupe river park conservancy and I hope that many of you saw the recent business journal article where they asked some architects to pick their favor features in the valley. Fortunately I think many of those structures were here including City Hall. But one of them was the Guadalupe river park and that landscape architect said this is best thing in the valley. And it really has that potential. But we are plagued with problems with the homeless encampments. Personally our organization has experienced a great deal of theft in the last year. We participate in the Water District's river cleanup. We've adopted the section from Coleman avenue to highway 880 and I would say at least 95% of the materials we're taking out of the river are from homeless encampments. I would like to say one good thing is thank you very much for the plastic bag ban because we have seen a tremendous decrease in

the amount of plastic in the river. We run education programs. We have about 4000 school aged kids that we bring through, we do place based environmental education and that has been impacted by the presence of homeless. And then finally, that we know that the public is discouraged from using the park because they don't feel safe in the presence of homeless. I was just called for a meeting with the Delmas and Market Almaden neighborhood association members where we talked about taking back the river, what can those folks do to help us? There's a real interest in using the amenity that's intended to be, called out to be San José central park in both the Greenprint and the recent 2040 general plan. It is a tremendous potential to act as an economic driver to help attract employers to this area but it is being severely impacted by the homeless. I appreciate all the providers and the folks that are here today but I really hope we can look at this in the bigger picture and what's at stake. I have a great deal of compassion for the folks who are living on the street but I think we can do better. And one request I would have is that there is outreach to our police department because I'm told that the police officers refer folks to the creeks and rivers as the place to get them off the streets. So if that could -- if we could address that I think that would help as well.

>> David and then Teddy Morse.

>> Hello, Mayor Reed and Madison, my name is David Serano, I'm a homeowner in the La Ragione neighborhood and across the street from my home is the Coyote Creek river. I have come to speak to you, sir, specifically to let you know what I've experienced as a homeowner and what I've witnessed. I've brought information to Madison and given her documentations on the type of contaminants and behaviors taking place in that region. I've personally met with representatives of the water districts and got very little support from the Water District as it seems to be passing the buck type of system going on. The Water District blames the city for not having enough police officers to clean up the area, and sir, I would like to see you put pressure down on the water company to at least clean up what they can. There are barriers that have been deteriorated, broken into, and destroyed by the homeless where they're able to move in vehicles, and conduct all types of different activities and move bigger equipment to do as they please down in this creek. The Water District has a responsibility. It's their property. We pay our share to keep them in business. And I'd like to see funding properly distributed in keeping their areas clean. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Teddy Morse is our last speaker.

>> Thank you for your time. I represent the T.J. Martin park neighborhood association. We're out in the Almaden Valley in District 10. And we've seen an increase in homeless as we're trying to go into the supermarkets in our area and now there's actually an encampment at Coleman and Meridian. And I was relieved to see that the Water District is actually cleaning out the undergrowth which I know they did for revegetation projects. But the youngsters at pioneer high school take their jogging along that trail in the afternoons as part of their P.E. class, there is a senior citizens' home there on the corner, and right across the street they are climbing the fence and going and use the restrooms at the park and there's a little tot lot at the end of that park where tiny youngsters are playing. I know this is a story you're hearing from everybody, but it's serious but I want to on behalf of our homeowners association let you know that we are concerned in our neighborhood and we hope that you'll keep working with the Water District and others to clean out the encampments. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Thank you. That concludes the public comment. Staff I want to make sure everyone supes dweebing the issues, three perspectives. We still have the past approach, phase 1 results, phase 2 moving forward to go.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: That's correct. Although those will go fairly quickly through.

>> Mayor Reed: I think you're two-thirds of the way through the slide decks, hmm?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Yes, that's correct.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Pyle.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you, mayor. If I may I'd like to ask that this be brought up on the screen because this is a good segue between Teddy Morse's comments and give you more of an idea of what we're talking

about. I'm concerned that when you build -- have an encampment that is so close to a school, for example and in this case the Bio site and the red field boundary, you can see exactly where these are, the senior development is right at the intersection of Coleman and Almaden expressway if you can see that. That gives you some idea of how close that is to a school. In particular. Now I think you have to draw the line somewhere. And if there is an illegal encampment anywhere, it is illegal. How we deal with it, I'm not sure yet. But we need to come up with criteria to identify what areas are absolutely Verboten that no one can camp there, period, end of story. So I hope this does help. And that there's a little yellow dot also that you might not see. But that, too, is part of the -- that identifies the boundary. I just want to bring that question up and hope we can address that during the conversations today. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Okay, staff, let's move into the past approach to cleanups category. Councilmember Rocha.

>> Councilmember Rocha: One question. I had a (inaudible) outreach team little bit what constitutes the outreach team? The term outreach system was listed in the handout what does that include?

>> Sorry, my apologies. Consists of providers through EHC Life builders, and it's mostly outreach and engagement workers and then we have case managers that are attached to the project specifically and then we work in partnership with some of our specific outreach. We have some specific partners with the county for example for the St. James park project we refer directly to drug and alcohol department services. Not all those go out on calls but they are resources that are available for access.

>> Councilmember Rocha: So Outreach team really quantifies two different groups, one everybody --

>> Generally the team is of two people they go out together and they are the regular engagement workers and that's true for all of our partner agencies. But then we can plug in these other types of services as needed and with the citywide outreach contract it was expanded to allow us to have case managers to directly with those folks that are referred from the engagement teams as well as housing services at the Baccardo reception center as well.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you, another question I have. The statement that 99% of the people that are housed are still in the housing they were placed in, I think that was your -- yes. And what type of housing is that, transitional, permanent? Or not?

>> Mayor Reed: We need to get you on the microphone Jennifer so the rest of us is hear it.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> Mayor Reed: That's better.

>> It is permanent housing, it is subsidies, subsidies that have been provided by the county, through section 8, through different subsidies, we match that with intensive case management it has been going skins December of 2011.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Can you give me an idea where those are located? Just City of San José or throughout the county?

>> Throughout the county. 69% of our Holmless population is in San José, so percentage wise rent wise most of the housing also is within San José but I can give you a list of all the different locations if you would like.

>> Councilmember Rocha: More of a curious question, thank you mayor.

>> Mayor Reed: I think we'll go into the rest of the presentation. We'll have time for additional council comments, certainly.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Thank you to the panel. They are going to be replaced by the being staff panel, Napp Fukuda, and Steve Hammock, deputy director of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services. And I'll just let them go through with their slides.

>> Thank you, Leslye. Napp Fukuda, acting deputy director of the environmental services department. First slide please. So homeless encampments cleanups are not new to the city. The city's been doing that for over 20 years, and we started in 1990, and it was originally facilitated through the police department. More recently however, the cleanups have been facilitated by the environmental services department. Really just in the role of coordinating the Water District with the PD and getting them to be out there as a security if you will and cleaning up or clearing out the encampment before cleanups occurred. In 2008 the city more formally established their partnership with the Water District in an MOA called the trash prevention removal. And it was specific to deal with homeless encampments and clean those along waterways only. We initially focused on those waterway cleanups and did weekly cleanups of small encampments as defined earlier, movement sorry. About two to six people or so and did monthly large encampments. Last year we did over 96 encampments throughout the year. However we were able to do it because it was strictly a cleanup effort and for the larger encampments we were able to hit those two to three times a year. In March of this year, as you're well aware, we had to suspend our cleanups to look at our approach. There are recent lawsuits in other cities so we met with the police auditor, she gave us some information about the recent lawsuits so we suspended to relook as I said of our approach, look at our protocols, look at how we identified property and look at our agreement with the Water District as well. During that time we were able to develop a guideline, that met the constitutional rights of the homeless, we had to find a storage area, for the property that we were now having to store. We looked at also working with our, as mentioned before our clean creeks healthy communities program to see how we could leverage that into our pilot. And worked very closely with our outside partners such as some members who just spoke, EHC life builders destination home and of course the Water District we've been working very closely with in partnership. This whole process was developed by a citywide team. Leslye thanked a lot of folks at the beginning. Because at first the team was made up by environmental services police and housing. Over time obviously it grew to include D.O.T, coat enforcement, Public Works, finance department. The phase 1 approach was implemented in May to test out the efficacy of the new protocols that we established. To also test out some deterrents because we realized as we cleaned up the

encampments would just be reencamped almost immediately. So test out some pilots to see how we could deter that reencampment from at least happening that quickly. We had to find a place to store the materials as I mentioned. At first we thought it was going to be a lot of material. However, over time we were able to streamline that process to get it down to what we thought were valuables versus abandoned materials out at the site. Just last week -- whoops, okay, sorry. Just last week we cleaned up a very large encampment one Kerrie described as what we would characterize a large encampment prior, however over time it developed into what we would call a very large extra-large encampment. In the past it had been about 100 folks still large but recent estimates is about 150 is what we estimated. So you can imagine the entrenchment, the complex of the site, this is a video of work that happened at the cleanup on the 17th through the 19th of this -- of last week. Have to notice, on the first day, when we arrived at the site essentially a lot of the residents have moved from the site, taking most of their valuables and property or should I say a lot of debris strewn across the whole site.

>> The occupants of the homeless encampment, San José Police Department --

>> Some still remain our police officers helped clear the remaining. It's difficult to tell in this picture but this encampment right here is actually a tree house. I have to say I've been very impressed, of the ingenuity of many of the folks living in the encampment. We have very complex structures, foundations, basements plumbed, toilets in many cases, you can see here a walking pathway, landscaping. The folks in the orange shirts are professional contractors who we hired to help us decommission some of these properties just because they were so large that our staff is just not capable of doing that. In the background you can hear some equipment going. We had three trash compactors on site that made a couple of trips a day. We also had a front-end loader and in some cases we have a crane, right there. One thing we observed during the phase 1 cleanups was quite honestly the safety concerns that we started observing that crystallized mentioned previously a lot of our staff have to nag gave steep terrain to move material up and down, we have to climb into or we avoid to, but oftentimes it is unavoidable getting into encampments to clear property out, to sift through and determine what is truly trash and what is valuable. Right here we have a staff member looking at some bags that were left onsite. We have a protocol established to determine what is valuable, general rules of thumb what would determine the valuable and what would determine trash, in this case we would bag what we believe are property, label these bags with a bag

number date of the encampment site of the encampment and store this property for 90 days. To date we have only gotten one request for property. We have had a couple of inquiries prior but no one followed through with that. So what did we learn from phase 1, what were some of the results? As we mentioned phase 1 included cleaning up five encampments. The first was communication hill. Which was our only land-based cleanup. The second was on Coyote creek near the Selma Olinder park, third was Guadalupe at Julian Street, the fourth Coyote at Bevanbrook where Mr. Clinn spoke about, and the fifth was Coyote at Tully Road which was our large encampment and this encampment took three days to clean up, and quite honestly it could have used a fourth and possibly a fifth. The most recent Story Road cleanup we did, as I mentioned, was 150 residents. We pulled out 50 tons on that site alone, compared to, as you see up on the screen, 80 tons were pulled out of the five sites from the phase 1 site. You also see 180 bags of belongings stored and through that phase 1 the city expended \$632,000. But that just wasn't for cleanup, it was also to offer housing opportunities for some of the residents. As well as a fence at the one Communications Hill site.

>> I'm Jackie Morales-Ferrand with the housing department, and that total you just saw, the 632, does include the total housing cost, and that would be housing for people over a year. As well. So one of the questions we always get when we're working around the encampments is do people would they even accept housing if we offered housing? As you can see through this slide, 30 did actually accept housing, 30 out of 55 people were offered some kind of housing did take us up on that offer. Again we are working with EHC life builders, the Bill Wilson center and the downtown streets team, what they did as part of the outreach team that was actually critical was notifying the residents, getting them involved early as far as participating in the bagging of their belongings prior to coming to the cleanup. I think one of the things we learned was getting there early with the outreach workers was really important. Sometimes we only had two weeks notice before we went out and when we had little time we were less effective. But again, people did take advantage of the housing. We think that's really important to note. In addition to the housing, we also had some other successes in that we broadened our interagency collaboration. So we had already been working closely with the Water District but now we are working even more closely in terms of working on solutions towards this issue. We've also made connections with the VTA, the county of Santa Clara and we've started conversations with CalTrain. All of these agencies have had encampments on their sites within the City of San José and for the first time we are really engaging in

conversations about how we can work better together. Again, we've emphasized our nonprofit collaboration.

Without the nonprofits we wouldn't be able to be working as successfully with the homeless. And we've also had some positive neighbor feedback where we've been participating with neighbors in trying to create positive solutions in getting people engaged in the sites that are near them, in order to keep them activated and alive. One of the things we notice is that when there are people who are utilizing the sites it is less of a possibility that the encampments are created there. And then you can see our homeless outreach and engagement hot line was expanded this summer in order to be citywide. And between July and September we received over 246 calls. 87 of those were encampment related. Our outreach workers have been visited over 66 encampment sites over this past summer.

>> Steve hammock Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services. With great focus and alignment with this phase 1 effort we also deployed our ranger resources to focus on two particular areas. One, with the goal of 100% encampment free, to really benefit all the hard work that has been done to clean these areas up, we enhanced the range are presence at two sites. The Coyote creek area within Kelly park and then at the Guadalupe heading to Julian reach that was cleaned. And we patrolled that daily at Kelly and every three days at GRP. We did have an overall cost of about \$8500 for that month period essentially. We also utilized some of the funding that was put in the budget for part time rangers this fiscal year. Next slide, please. In this slide essentially just gives you a little matrix on our efforts, in doing that in a month's time and the amount of time it had taken. We were accomplished no major reencampment at those two sites, with the ranger patrol as I indicated. But you could see the effort that went into it. There was a lot of hours that were put forward to make sure that reencampment did not occur. Essentially if a day or two was passed another encampment did crop up. Especially with one encampment was being cleaned, we would notice the migration to the other site. Within that month's time you can see we did issue some citations and we do that after an incredible amount of warning and only to the chronic folks that are paying no attention to our warnings. We also are very effective, the rangers are very effective in the referrals to the services that all the stakeholders here have indicated that are available. And sometimes the rangers are the first initiation of that contact. And they do a very good job at it. So I really appreciate their effort this last month. As you know we were reduced in rangers in the city because of the budget

deficit so we did redeploy these rangers to do this service and it did work out very well. I'll hand it back to Napp I guess.

>> One of the things I would like to reemphasize on this slide is the new protocols we had to establish on differentiating or identifying property and storing property. It's just the high resources that we had to dedicate to that to clearly identify what's property and what's not was very challenging to us and quite honestly the protocol slowed us down significantly to our prior protocols. Because of that we could not do the same level of effort we did in the past. Also to emphasize just the types of hazards we ran out there not just for the environment but also for staff out there. We run into hazardous waste out there bio-waste, elaborate structures that our program staff are not skilled or capable of work with. We don't know what types of materials were used on these properties so that was a challenge that we certainly identified.

>> In terms of housing challenges that we faced as we said not everyone did accept the housing. And some of the reasons that people didn't accept it is there were some folks that had mental health challenges, they rejected the housing because they weren't ready, they hadn't built the trust, there were some with addiction disorders that had difficulty maintaining their housing, those with criminal records and chronic homeless who had trouble entering and transitioning into housing. Shelter space was often not considered as an option because of some of the things barriers, some thing is you can't bring your pet, some keep their pets for protection or companionship. Some of the shelters are dry, if a person has an active addiction are not able to stay there. Even with a housing coupon, a promise to pay a landlord, we had potential tenants who could not make it through tenant screenings so they keep getting rejected for housing they applied for, because even though they didn't have rental history, criminal background, made it difficult for them to find a landlord who is willing and able to rent to them. So we have to look at how do we develop new models for housing folks as well. And lastly the other two housing challenges include the reencampment of sites that people have already touched upon but more port people moving somewhere else. So after we have done these encampment cleanups we frequently get calls from a new group of people who are saying encampment people are now in my neighborhood, what can you do. So we're just moving the problem to different sites.

>> We wanted to highlight one of the five phase 1 sites that we worked on which I would not claim it was a complete success. However there are certain things about this cleanup that worked for us, we believe. It occurred on July 19th. It is at the Bevanbrook property which Mr. Clinn again spoke to. There were 25 residents at the site. It was a site that we originally estimated to only have 12 but again speaking through growth population growth when we got there, there were 25. Took a 22-person crew approximately six hours to clean that site and we removed 5.3 tons of material. One of the things that made it a little more successful was outreach. We were willing to get outreach folks out there 30 days in advance to make connection with those residents and ask them to bag up some of their valuables for us, help them differentiate what is valuable what is trash. We gave them clear opaque plastic bags and gave them dark plastic bags to just put their trash in. And that seems to help us on the day of the cleanup a little better. When we got there it was working much quicker but needless to say still it was a slow effort, it was a complicated site as well. This is site today. Although it's debris free, it looks clean and again, I suspect or I've heard that there are possible new encampments there. This is a site that the rangers have been at so I believe that is helpful in minimizing that the to date. However you will notice there is some if you will barren land. So we have to give this site some time orecover. Nature will recover with time but we need to be active about it.

>> In terms of the residents of this site, this was a successful site in terms of getting people to accept housing because downtown streets had had a long term outreach with the folks that were living there, so they had already established some trust so people did accept the housing, significant number of them did. We have one story of a young couple in their early 20s. The woman was eight and a half months pregnant. As a result of the outreach she ended up in a shelter, because she didn't have an I.D. and needed an I.D. to get into a motel, and it took her a couple of weeks to do that. The good news is the baby was born in the hotel, and not on the streets of San José. The bad news is that they've been looking for housing for the last two months, and they have not been able to find housing, even though again they're part of our housing program. Because the male partner has a criminal record. And so the criminal record is really creating a challenge for him getting into housing.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: So we're going to move into moving forward and Kerrie Romanow and Julie Edmonds Mares are here with me to answer questions. I'm going to quickly summarize what we have heard and what we

think we need to do moving forward. So we've talked about key challenges reencampment being one of them. I'm not sure if it was mentioned or not, but on that large Story Road site that we had now about 150 residents it had previously been cleaned the August before. So about 11 months prior to that cleanup. So those elaborate structures and all of the trash that you saw there had been accumulated in a period of less than a year, which is why when Steve talks about reencampment and enforcement, why that is so important. With the staff reductions, Steve mentioned the reduction in park rangers, we also at one point had two homeless liaison police officers. And we had one outreach worker in the housing department. And all of those were impacted by budget cuts. And so neither the police nor the housing resources remain. And the park rangers are down from 24 in 2009-10 to 8 in 2011-12. The other concern we have is funding. We have a currently ongoing budget in the city of \$100,000. It's been about \$250,000 in the last couple of years with the Water District sharing that amount. Kerrie can speak more directly to this but we have used ESD funding which is very limited. Also we have used federal funds to support outreach and housing vouchers. But that's limited also. So we've been able to use a little bit of our community development block grant funding and our ESG funding to help us with that outreach. There's no funding right now for nonwaterway cleanup. So we have the funding that's been set aside for the waterways but not for the cleanups themselves. And then we also have an issue with property storage. Although we have found a site with the old homeless shelter on Las Plumas, we'll have to evaluate whether or not that is going to be scuff to meet our needs. Julie or Kerrie did you have anything on this slide? Okay. On -- mentioned limited current capacity. So we have limited everything. I'm sorry? Go forward.

>> Just real quickly on the funding. Right now we use recycle plus! late fees. That's the city apples share in the MOA with the Water District. It's approximately \$104,000 every year unrestricted late fees. However those funds will not be there in about two or three years when we're -- because we've been discussing about going to property taxes, property rolls, so those fees will go away at some point very soon.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: So we estimate with our current resources and given the new process that we need to go through to sort belongings and save them that we can clean approximately 12 small sites and four large sites annually. And I think we mentioned at the beginning we have about 70 total large sites and we need to continue to go out on these -- or 70 total sites about four of them are large. We need to continue to go out to these sites to

ensure that they don't get reencamped. We have been redeploying resource he as Steve mentioned in the parks department to be able to respond. That these are not additional resources so it does take away time from other things that we are doing and need to be doing. And we've lost the enforcement resources and also we've lost money to deal with our housing needs with the loss of redevelopment funding and reduced federal housing resources as well. So these are challenges that we've been facing in trying to respond. So current actions. We are taking a number of them, even given our current resources. We are hiring a project coordinator with an initial commitment of \$150,000 of funds from the housing trust fund. And this person will do much mean just oversee the cleanups themselves. But will be looking at ways to help people move out of the sites and to deal with the issue of homelessness. So some what Jackie mentioned in talking about how difficult it is for some of the residents to achieve housing even if they have a coupon or a voucher for housing. We need to deal with some of those impediments to help people move off. So this person will help do that. Work with things like public feeding programs which we believe encourage people to stay outside, if people are in, through all good intentions, serving sandwiches at the park once a month, that is a way that keeps people outside and we would like to look at different responses. We have a multiagency working group that's been meeting. It's been mentioned a couple of times that that's a critical part of this but we are trying to bring on new land owners. The Water District has shown that the land is owned buy number of being different agencies and private parties and they all need to be part of the solution. So we're working on that. That's been led by Destination Home. They've been calling meetings and there's been a couple to date. We've had safety issues and also to be able to deal with what we'd like to do and will be recommending which is expanding our cleanup efforts. We are planning to issue an RFP for these efforts so that we do not have city staff out cleaning these sites. We had the opportunity to go out to the Story Road site recently and saw we had some pretty high level managers out there bagging trash and doing things, that I think they maybe were not signed up to do that, and not trained appropriately for that. So that's one thing that we would like to implement. We mentioned the park ranger pilot. That's been successful. Destination home and housing 1,000 are helping us find housing and that's a current action. Again there's a lot more that we need to do there. And then we have a couple of items that came out of the council of priority-setting session about a month ago. One of which is looking at vacant properties, motels and hotels, and we are looking at the possibility of a master lease with a motel or hotel. It's not a solution for a thousand people but it is a part solution. And we are -- so we're looking at how that might work and are contacting some of the motel-hotel owners to see if they're willing

to do that. And then we're setting up a meeting with the day worker center to look at employment opportunities. They are adjacent to the big encampment there and are very interested partners. So our goal is to restore the waterways, and deter reencampment. And we also want to make sure that people that live inside and that they're living in safe and healthy housing rather than camping. What we believe it will take to respond is to increase our outreach efforts by adding two new outreach workers beyond what we have already given to this effort. We want to expand the number of cleanups, initially focusing on the large encampments but then also the small encampments and we want to go back much more frequently than we have been going. We want to focus on waterways but also be able to focus on land based camps because we do have those and we get requests on a regular basis to respond that don't have the money to do that. We want to manage the property, once we have brought it back to its natural state, and for that we believe we need four new park rangers and two police officers. Was mentioned by several of the speakers that police are important, I think even our park rangers believe that in some case it's dangerous for them to go down into these encampments and we do need police not just on cleanup days but throughout the year. And we will consider additional deterrent issues. There are a number of things we can do. The Water District mentioned the removal of trees and dealing with the ground cover. But we can also do fencing and other things like placing bollards, big rocks, and water in place, sprinklers that make it unattractive to stay there. So the cost were we to do this not including housing would be about \$750,000 to \$1 million for the current year and \$1.5 million to \$2 million for the next budget year. This is a total cost, however, so we believe that we need to collaborate with our other partners including the Water District and VTA, CalTrans, others have been mentioned to get them to also commit resources to this effort. And we would like to look at the private sector as well. The Mercury News mentioned they were paying about \$140,000 to respond. And if we respond in a different way, and we collaborate and coordinate our resources we think that that will be more effective. So that's what we think it's going to take. Right now, with our current budget, which is the fees that ESD has, it's just not sufficient for us to have a response. We also have looked as much as we could, and will continue to do so, add flexibility with ESD and housing resources. But we both have very clear legal requirements as far as how funds can be used. And as an example, most all of the funds in the housing department cannot be used for homelessness. So that is an issue that can be used for permanent housing but not for homelessness and definitely not for cleanups. So with that, we are available here for questions. And the staff, as well, up front.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Pyle.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you, mayor. First of all, we have somewhat of an idea of the composition of the camps. But do we have any idea how many of the encampments are families with school-aged children?

>> No, we're not sure. We know there are some kids in some of the camps but we haven't been able to survey all of them to know that. I will note that in January of this coming year we are going to be doing our homeless count and there will be an encampment portion of that. So that we can better understand the residents.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Because I'm concerned that children that are there will not be getting educated as they certainly need to be. We saw from some of the signs that were posted outside encampments that ignorance is alive and well, there, also. And I can tell you that for the time that I was a teacher, elementary kids, I always knew someone in the area was homeless when lunches started disappearing. When you have as a teacher the opportunity to get to know, you always sort of suspect who might be in trouble. So I think this: This is going to take more than a village. This is going to take a combination of schools, the county, I mean after all, the county offers county services, that would be available. The city can state involved as well. But we also need to knock on the state door in reference to veterans services available there, and we need to go -- to talk to people on the federal Level. Because there has been more of an effort to help vets who came back shell shocked and/or suffering from post-traumatic syndrome, so I see this as a heck of a lot more than we can handle as a city. You've made some attempts, I totally understand what you're doing. You're trying to -- Herculean tasks and not enough people to do the tasks with. You're trying the do and form those partnerships wherever we can I think that would help to make a difference, want to get your thoughts on that.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Thank you, Councilmember Pyle. That's part of what we're doing and I can't see you I'm sorry back here. That's part of what we're doing with the interagency group, destination home has brought forward, is looking at ways that we can work together on this. And you're right, it needs to be all of us. And I think our challenge is getting people to come to the table and to coordinate with us. And our second challenge is just

that as the Water District said, only 30% of the waterways are there, where they have fee title to. And then we also have the non-waterway areas. So it's challenging. We are trying to bring the other parties to the table and get them to engage as well. But we don't know how long that will take.

>> Councilmember Pyle: But one of the parties that I think needs to be at the table are the homeless that you have given shelter too. In other words, what are they doing at that point to give back? Certainly they just don't stay in the shelter all day long, the legitimate shelter and do nothing. So if there's a way for them to help in the connection with other homeless and to help bring them along, is that part of the dialogue as well?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Is -- can someone speak to, Jenny would you like to come down and speak to that? We do have the downtown streets team that has homeless people who are part of that and I'll let an expert speak to that.

>> I think it's a really excellent question. Thank you, Councilmember Pyle. Many of us including HC and other agencies actually hire formerly homeless clients and that's why we have such success in the field. In fact many of the folks they go out and outreach to, they used to live with on the streets. And so we have such a long term outside homeless population that have not been solved that that's very common. Downtown streets team like Leslye referred to also uses team members that are currently homeless as a part of the solution. And many of us also have ways for homeless folks to give input to programming. But I think the most effective things is really to have those formerly homeless clients out in the creeks, and in the streets.

>> Councilmember Pyle: And Jenny I had one more question. Thank you for running down to answer me.

>> Oh sure.

>> Councilmember Pyle: You mentioned that of the people who did accept an opportunity to be housed who were the people? Was it predominantly women and the elderly just as a wild stab?

>> I would say more -- most of the people that we see are homeless are men. They tend to be between 45 and 60. And it's really, I can't that there's like a secret sauce that this is exactly the thing that is you know always this kind of have it. I think what happens again is in the engagement, where you say to somebody, aren't you tired, are you done now? The answer is yes, okay, I'm done. We figure out then what to do from that particular place. Generally people aren't like running across the creek to say yay, a home. So again it's that trust-building which is I think why this plan makes sense. Because it's really all that -- it does take the time and the effort and the staffing and the sheer time out there with people to get them to accept help.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you, thanks so much for all that do you. Thanks.

>> Mayor Reed: Vice Mayor Nguyen.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: Thank you. I just wanted to start off by thanking everyone who's been involved in this incredible process to address this issue. Obviously housing staff has done a tremendous job. Staff from the environmental services, San José PD, Santa Clara County mental health department, destination home and of course EHC life builders, we can all agree that this is a multifaceted problem, it is a problem of safety, it's a problem of health, of the environment, but I think at the end of the day it's a human issue, and it's something that we will continue to address, as it affects all of us. Now I'm really grateful for the work that has been done so far of the five encampments that we have looked at and went out to do a lot of cleanup, the majority of them are in my council district and the largest one is actually in my council district. So my office has been heavily involved in what's going on and we have been a part of the process. Some of the things that I wanted to talk about today, and ask some questions around, of all the things that we have done so far if staff can just briefly share with us, what has been some of the most effective strategies? Meaning, you know, we have this sort of goal of providing permanent housing for these individuals. But obviously that is just very difficult to come across. And we can provide some for a small segment of people. But is temporary shelter, is the ability to provide job training, the ability to provide mental health Watts the word I'm look for, resources and efforts, given the amount of limited funding that we have, we can't just say, okay, the homeless community needs these issues and these efforts and these resources. I just wanted to see if staff can talk to some of the things that we can just focus on with the

limited resources that we have currently and then moving forward we can bring some of the other efforts into the equation. Because you know we've been at this for a very, very long time. And I'm glad we're having the discussion now. But I think if we just get a little bit more focused perhaps we can see some results more so than we have seen in the past.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Me again. I think that \$104,000 is not enough to solve this problem. And I don't know how creative we can be. We have tried again to find as much in the way of housing dollars, we can at a time when we've basically lost the majority of the funds that we had available to us for housing. And if we're going to be able to get our arms around this problem we're going to have to find more resources. I don't know. I look to my partners to help me with it. I think we can look at redeploying more. We are trying to connect efforts, so working with destination home, trying to see if there are ways for us to connect the efforts that they're doing with housing 1,000 with the encampments themselves as opposed to just generally throughout the community. But we're working with the same bucket of resources. So anyone else want to offer?

>> I'll take a stab. I know what we've done so far in phase 1 is we've worked really well as a team. You know we've got our stakeholders here and we've come together and we've crossed paths and we're moving to a direction of trying to prevent things, keeping the encampments to a minimum at best, moving forward that's going to be very important and that's what we intend to do. I think out there there's some funding out there that Councilmember Pyle alluded to in the way of federal and state grants, that is very true, I know San Francisco has been successful in getting some of those funds. We'll work towards that as well. But continuing to push at all areas to make sure that everything is moving towards the support and the resources that the homeless need to get into housing. And it's got to be done as a group effort. We've started off really well, we've just got to continue to do it not lose the task.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: Another question, in terms of trying to seek funding from other sources. Have we contacted corporations, private companies, you know large companies because obviously this issue really affects a lot of people. For example, I have folks who live obviously at Communications Hill who also work at big companies and they said have you guys approached my company a particular company because this issue is

affecting me. And so you know, and then of course the San José Mercury News is here and they spent a rather large amount of money trying to address this issue. I was just wondering you know besides the public agencies have we reached out to private corporations to look for funding?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Well we have certainly for homelessness. In fact we had a recent breakfast with a number of leaders in the business community. So we have. I don't know Jennifer if you have more details about how much you've been able to raise but it's been more on the housing side. It's not -- it's good, we appreciate every dollar we can get, but it's not a large amount of money.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: But you are reaching out and that's --

>> Leslye Corsiglia: We are.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: Okay. I think the other question I had was, again, the issue of vouchers. And I know with the -- I met with Alex Sanchez to talk about you know the disbursement of the vouchers. And we have had many conversations around whether we should -- or if the housing authority should continue to disburse some of these available vouchers to low income families or to the homeless community. And that's a debate that's been going on and on and on. I was just wondering if there was any update in terms of your conversation with housing authority folks and where that is going. Because if we're looking at permanent housing as one of the strategies to address this issue, then working with housing authorities something that we should continue to do. Which I know you have. But has there been any success in terms of Alex saying yes, we will look at the homeless community and we will give you, allocate a percentage of these vouchers to homeless individuals?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Jackie can speak to what was provided this past year with the housing authority. But we are working better with the housing authority at this point, so they're more open to work with us and looking at ways to collaborate. And I do know that they had some vouchers that they set aside. I'm not sure where they are at this point.

>> Yes, we're just finishing an agreement with them and so they will begin releasing some vouchers. It was capped up to 100, and is based on a percentage. And so we're just about ready to go into next year's conversations about vouchers again.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: And one of the challenges there is with federal funding and with the housing authority now is we have sequestration that is sort of looming, a an across the board impact to programs that would impact six 8 and public housing as well as other discretionary and military funding. So at this point as far as future resources a lot will depend on what happens with the federal budget and if those cuts do come to bear.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: Thank you. And then finally I just wanted again to advocate for why it's important to work with center for training careers, especially with the day worker center. Obviously in my personal opinion I think that in order -- housing is important, permanent housing is important to address this issue. But if these homeless individuals aren't self-sustaining or self-sufficient, if they don't become self-sufficient it's really difficult to address this issue. So I'm glad that staff from housing department is setting up appointments to work with the day worker center. I think it's just you know the day worker center is right there next to the largest encampment in the city. And it doesn't take a lot of effort to reach out to these individuals and saying that look you can come here take a fresh shower have breakfast learn some skills some workshop skills that we're teaching and then hopefully we'll be able to place you in some kind of employment. And so I think that that's the way to go. I think that we should give it a shot and hopefully you know maybe this time next year we will get some kind of positive results from all the work that we've been doing. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Rocha.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you mayor and I echo Vice Mayor Nguyen's comments and thank youing everybody who has invested time and resources into this effort. Again I'm going to push my interest in continuing to have study session on issues, especially the housing issue and the homeless issue. Not having this discussion in my opinion, well in terms of solutions clearly, we're not -- no one has found a permanent solution to this issue. So I'm going to start using the words such as what have I scribbled down here support measures,

measures we can take to help support this issue. If we are not going to speak about it we are sure as heck are not going to come up with any new ideas or at least suggestions or efforts or any reprioritization of our funding or our resources. So I'm glad to be doing this. I did have a few questions about I guess -- I don't know where to start. Not having the presentation ahead of time makes it writing my notes and if anybody's seen my writing it's extremely ill legible, I can't even read it. So I'm struggling trying to recall what I wanted to talk to you about. You folks have been doing this work for a long time especially Leslye, especially in the City of San José and the housing department and I appreciate it. But what do you see is a level of seriousness. We all recognize that any level of homelessness is serious comparatively from your vision what do you see?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Well, I've seen that we've in many cases we've been able to manage homelessness through our shelter system and through other means but we've not made progression as much as we've tried. And I think that what we're seeing right now, as far as folks living outside more, it's a combination of a lot of different factors. One is that we do have fewer shelter beds than we've had in the past. We have more because the way funding is going, funding is tied more to permanent housing and less to shelter beds. We've had -- we saw the closing of the San José armory. We did have -- we do have the Boccardo reception center. But the number of cold weather beds have reduced in recent years and we're looking at the potential for future armory closures as well. So I think we have got that challenge. We have the economy that has hit us, all creating what is a perfect storm. So I do believe we're seeing -- my prediction is we'll see in January when we do our count that our count is up. Despite the fact that we have housed hundreds of chronically homeless people over the last year and a half. I think the problem just continues to grow because we haven't solved some of the underlying problems.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Not to put words in your mouth. It's the seriousness of it has increased over time. Are you look back in your mind two, three years or are you looking back over the next decade, if you don't mind me asking?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: I think over the last couple of years.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Okay.

>> I would just jump in and say specifically regarding the encampments we've really seen a change over this past year. And so how the encampments are manifesting themselves are growing and becoming more entrenched. The level of how large they are and how sophisticated the structures have become over the past year much more pronounced.

>> Councilmember Rocha: For me just on the laymen's side of things I'm seeing that our investment in housing whether it's market rate, whether it's moderate, low income, very low extremely low et cetera, also in my mind would play a factor in as you get down the ladder into the homeless issue. If we're not providing the affordable housing understand on the low very low extreme low market rate then there's going to be a lack of housing the housing price are going to be high and people are going to be priced out of finding homes. That doesn't speak to the lack of transitional or seasonal or permanent housing for the homeless folks. So without an investment, a public investment on our side in terms of major commitment, we're going to see, as you talked about, potentially the increase. And if we're not making the effort here in San José as the largest city in this county, then we're going to be facing this for years to come. And we're going to be continuing to talk about the trends and what we're seeing as opposed to talking about solutions and that's not putting the blame on anybody. That's putting the blame on all of us in terminates of making a commitment. Which is why I've been talking about moving a little bit away from some of these issues we've been working on and spending a lot of resources on and maybe finding something where we can invest our time as a city and as a community, and I'd like this to be one of our issues. I've also had a couple of questions on the -- lets see, overall questions as we go into the housing study session that's coming up. Are you going to in your mind provide a little bit of information as to where our dollars are being spent across the spectrum of the housing types that I talked about? Is that part of what you envision doing?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Yes, we'll talk about some of the challenges but also talk about the resources that we do have and what we've been able to do with them. So that's something I think we'll make sure we talk about it per type of -- per homeless lower income people workers, and market rate, as well.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Because talking about measures to help with this issue, support measures so to speak, context for me is just talking about this one spectrum or rung of the ladder, you really can't, as I spoke to earlier, the investment in all of them really has an impact on this one too. So for me to suggest that I have an idea here or there what we should or shouldn't be doing I'm not telling you or anybody else out here in the audience anything that we don't know. And that's why for me I'm looking forward to the next study session as well to look at this issue in context of our overall investment. And as far as your interest in going forward on that study session, I'm really interested in hearing from you, if you don't mind me putting you on the spot right now, of action items that you see out of that study session, or is this more informational for the council for us to get better versed on this issue?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: The upcoming study session in November is intended to help inform staff somewhat of things that the council would like us to include in our housing investment plan. We do have -- we will lay out some ideas that we have but we don't want those to be the only ideas. We'd like to hear from you what else we might look at. But we will be kind of laying out the landscape of what's out there, what we can do with the resources we have, what some of our policies are that we might want to reconsider and then get your advice. So yes and no. We'll have some ideas but not all of them.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Got you. Okay. Thank you. And I'm going to jump back on the encampment issues and we seem to be talking about the larger encampments, maybe I was not paying enough attention to, but in terms of the smaller encampments under crosswalks under overpasses et cetera. How is that part of the overall strategy or is that part of the strategy and I just wasn't paying attention which is entirely possible?

>> Yes some it is part of the strategy. As we mentioned previously some our original focus was on waterways, quite honestly, our primary concern, the waterways, what I hoped was that it doesn't get loss. The largest solution is the homelessness, and how do we as Vice Mayor Nguyen so put it, dedicated limited resources to solving that solution. Part of the outcomes are the most worrisome outcomes resulting in the growth of the homelessness is the environmental impact that we're seeing and as Jackie mentioned what we're observing is a growing environmental impact. So yes, land based encampments are on our radar if you will part of our attack. We believe

that to a certain extent we should try and focus as much as we can on the sites that are presenting the greatest impact. Not necessarily the environment. Because many of these happen to have other if you will other potential threats as Councilmember Pyle mentioned, schools, near community gardens, near trails. So there are other elements as well that we need to consider. And we do have a criteria that weights certain things. But with the inventory of 60 encampments throughout the city including land based we try to take all of those into consideration when determining which sites we should prioritize first with the resources we have, again, taking into consideration environmental impact, threat to the community, complaints, et cetera.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Okay. And park rangers was mentioned a number of times. And I'm going to take this great opportunity, since our City Manager stepped out, to put Norberto on the spot, say what do you see us investing in park rangers in the next go-round? I'm sure you're going to hire 12 or 14, right?

>> Norberto Duenas: Thank you, Councilmember, for putting me on the spot. I think one of the things we've noticed in the park rangers, you've you seen this in the Guadalupe river park area in terms of the best practice is their constant presents really allows us to stay on top of the issues. And when we went out on the site visit about a week ago, what we notice is the type of encampments, we wouldn't -- you call them encampments but the type of encampments that you experience along those trails are much smaller, you can tell that they're temporary in nature. And a lot of that has to do with the effort of that constant presence. So if, to your point about look and to the Vice Mayor's point of looking at things that we really think have made a difference in the past, you know, that is something that has. And we noticed it when we weren't able to fund as many rangers. That said, I do think that the costs associated with providing more park ranger hours shouldn't just be on the city. We do have partners in this process. And we're looking at other ways of bringing other volunteers to help rangers to be able to continue to work on this issue.

>> Councilmember Rocha: All right, thank you very much. That was very helpful. As far as our work on the city council and the affordable housing issue. In the past we've made broad statements, mayor Gonzales was pretty committed to the issue, and we were going to work extremely hard in providing affordable housing whether it was just for teachers or housing output, whether it's through Mayor's Budget Message, the state of the city speech, or

whether it's through our investment in funding, and a commitment from this city council. So those are the big issues that we can talk about and listening to some of the conversation from the staff side of things, funding is always the first thing we talk about. And obviously, it's extremely important and necessary. As part of this housing study session, I was -- I don't mind using this opportunity to talk about the discretionary and nondiscretionary, so I as a councilmember can get a better understanding of where our dollars are spent and where we have room to maneuver, at all, and we don't have a lot of wiggle room as I understand it but for me to talk about solutions or suggestions for support measures, sorry I'm going to stop using solutions, knowing that, and knowing what that width is would help me put my head around this issue, instead of talkin about big picture items that we can't do at least focus on some of the smaller things that maybe we can do. With that I'm going to stop and let my colleagues jump in and I don't know if you have any more questions from the public or cards to speak, thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Herrera.

>> Councilmember Herrera: Thank you, mayor. I want to thank everyone for this presentation today. I know it was very informative to me. And I think one of the things that stands out is just how complex and how many different factors we have going here. Everything affordable housing, employment, medical issues. The environment. So it's not an easy thing, not an easy challenge to solve. So I'll share a few reflections. One, hearing the direction you're going in reminds me of how we're solving another problem totally different but the methodology, sounds like you're going in that direction. I started thinking about the mayor's gang prevention task force as I heard you talking about this issue. There is some similarities, as far as gang prevention, it's tough to say we're going to eliminate every gang from the city and not have to deal with it again. Suppression has to do things in different ways and prevention working with young people to help them make a different choice. What's impressed me so much about being part of the task force ask how we have worked with some different agencies and working with the county and the long list and obviously Julie you're part of it some PRNS, the police, everything. I think that is the direction you're going in solve, working with this issue and I think that's the right direction. I had some questions about some things that I heard in the report. And one of them was, and if I heard this right, I heard a couple of different numbers. In terms of the encampments I heard -- I wrote down 70 encampments, I just heard somebody say 60, I'm not sure if it was 60 or 70. But you talked about what capacity

we have right now given the requirements, the new protocol. So I wanted to try to understand you how many we were able to clean up prior to the protocol and do you see any difference in the cleanup capacity now going out for an RFP?

>> so 60 versus 70. 60 are the list of what we believe are known, we've had them on our list for a number of years already. 60 known 20 on waterways, I'm sorry, 40 on waterways, 20 on land based. They seem to vary, quite honestly there is confusion because we have nomenclature for certain encampments, EHC life builders, Destination Home, they have their own, so sometimes they overlap. So it's somewhere in that range. And I believe that's where the number sometimes varies. And I'm sorry Councilmember Herrera I forgot the other part of your question.

>> Councilmember Herrera: What struck me is we have a new protocol and probably necessary in terms of our responsibility to the folks that are in the encampments when we go through and clean them up that is maintaining their property. But as you pointed out, it's quite an undertaking. And it puts our city staff at risk. And also, I was kind of struck by the fact that we've only had one individual come and claim the -- their possessions and one inquiry. I'm not saying we shouldn't do it but it was kind of interesting data for me. What I wanted to ask is how many in cleanup were we able to accomplish before the protocol and that RFP you're talking about sort of utilizing so we're not having managers and people who frankly are getting paid a whole lot of money need to be doing other things, have other folks that will cost less to do the cleanup, I assume that's what you're trying to get to. Are we going to do more cleanups or can you give me idea?

>> In the past we can do up to 100, last year we did 96 cleanups, we did them obviously multiple times. We were able to do so many because we were able to do them very quickly quite honest reply because we were collecting the material and throwing it away. Why could do more than one encampment at one time, six or 911 a day. The protocols we have now take us much longer. We have to do our due diligence in identifying property and that can be challenging. And then larger sites, in the past we'd have a whole crew of, from the jails I forget the terms, if we had 30 people out there at one time, and they so take it out. Now we have to have choke points to make sure we have a property manager identifying material as they're coming out so we can segregate, we need to keep that,

no, that stays. So it's just slowed us down significantly during the phase 1. So whereas we could do six, Luke I said four, five, six encampments in a day, we can only do one, and that's a small encampment. Our large encampment we could get done in a single day, now it takes us three to four days to do a large encampment, and even then because they've grown so much more so much greater, we're not quite finishing them either. But we are getting the bulk of the material out of the site. So it just takes us much longer. As far as an RFP we'll have to see what we can get out of that. We tried experimenting during phase 1 to pilot a general contractor. We used the open purchase order with Tucker construction, who does blight management for code enforcement. Code enforcement allows us to use their purchase order to use them on a certain area where we felt it was a large area or just test out an area so we gave them area and did the work. The cost was comparable to what we calculate our internal costs are, perhaps a little more. However in brief observations because they're trained they work a lot quicker and they're skilled and trained and they're aware of what they're running into. They had equipment saws chains to take things down. So it could be a give and take on kind of the balance of cost versus efficiency. On the RFP I'm not sure. I think that we could get a little more done just with a contractor because of a contractor and their skill level and know-how. But that's, we're quite honestly not sure. Right now we only have \$104,000 dedicated to actual cleanup, and that might not go very far to be honest, right?

>> Councilmember Liccardo: I definitely think we need to find new sources of revenue. I know gang prevention task force looks for grants and all sorts of things. Hopefully if we can show results, that's something fund raisers want to see results. How we're solving issues and putting people back into homes and finding jobs and helping medium get educated, those things will come about as these programs are successful and also will probably drive funding. So the cleanups, I'm concerned about how slow it's -- it's certainly not your fault. It's a new protocol. Is that contributing then to the encampments, the growth of it? Because we're not getting it cleaned up as quickly as we were? How much is it contributing to it?

>> Yes, during the suspension and slowing down if you will of our cleanups, yes, we've allowed we can't get to the sites as quickly as we had in the past. As I mentioned, we did 100 in the past. And now, current estimates we could only get the 12 small and one to four large in a year with the same amount of funding just because it slows down. So what we've observed during this break or slow down in our work is, the populations have grown,

they've been able to build structures a lot bigger, do a lot more work in the riparian corridors, and just accumulation of material over times. When we get there to do this initial cleanup it takes us much longer. Our hope is if we are able to get to these sites more often, we could reduce that level of effort over time, because they wouldn't have as much time to build these more complicated structures, to accumulate more trash. So projecting that over time, I mean, we would guess that's what we would see but again that's to be seen as well.

>> Councilmember Herrera: And hopefully you can find some way if we're going to continue the protocol to keep figuring out ways to make that go more rapidly and I'm sure you will continue to do that, to figure that out?

>> We have already, in the very beginning to say the least we erred very conservatively, and from the Communication Hill site, which was our first, collected a lot of material because we were still working out the kinks. Over time we realized with no one claiming property doing a better job of determining what we believe is valuable versus not. We were able to streamline that much more. But still slows us down.

>> Councilmember Herrera: I also agree with the idea of prioritization and all the factors that you were talking about. I think Vice Mayor brought up schools, and a whole list of probably things that we can talk about in terms of prioritizing the use of the scarce dollars to focus on that, although we still need to go find more money. That's one thing we definitely need to do. The park rangers, that's a very interesting point, about maintenance being really enhanced by having park rangers. I can say I was happy, and folks in PRNS were involved in the Lake Cunningham Skate Park, in working to find resources to keep funding there. And one of the things that was importantly to keep funding for were the park rangers there which I'm happy to say are there and I think that's a very important part of maintaining parks and certainly in this instance could be really helpful. And once we have things cleaned up, in maintaining that. I have a couple more questions about the folks that are homeless, which I think our hearts go out to those folks who are living outdoors and living in all kinds of inclement wet is to end homelessness. But we have to approach all these issues at the same time. What percentages do you think are veterans out of the homeless population? I know I visitHC life builders too and destination home about the veterans program, and there's lots of funding available. I'm just curious as to what percentage of the homeless that are out there that are veterans?

>> So the Veterans Administration says that there's about 900 veterans that are homeless in Santa Clara County. I think the last survey said 14%, but I'm kind of guessing at that one. But 900 is a safe number to think about how many vets are homeless in our community. And again if we go back to the same metric about 70% would be in San José.

>> Councilmember Herrera: Okay. And I wonder if we can use -- are we using veterans groups and formerly homeless vets to help out in reaching out to those vets that might be still homeless in the San José community?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Yes, we have tried to engage the Veterans Administration, maybe Jennifer can talk about that.

>> Councilmember Herrera: And the reason I'm asking is at he's the Veterans Administration you have some pipeline for vets, right?

>> I think the Veterans Administration is a big piece of this puzzle. Actually, the VA -- the mayor's office has asked the Veterans Administration to come down in November, so we're having a meeting with them to talk about the fact that we set a lot of strategic goals around homelessness and we're housing veterans and we're not doing that in concert so we would like to change that.

>> Councilmember Herrera: And maybe they can be part of the team that meets regularly to talk about this, the task force. Maybe they are, are they already?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: No they're not. We've had a little bit of trouble, I'm looking forward to this November meeting to engage them and get them to the table. They have not so far.

>> Councilmember Herrera: The other population I wanted to ask about is the mentally ill. Because of course if we have got folks out there that maybe need medication or may need medical services, mental health services

and they are not getting them, I would guess it's harder to get them into housing or anything else. How do we -- what percentage would fall into that? That would include folks that are having substance abuse problems that would all be part of the mentally ill, I would guess you would categorize that in the same way.

>> I think that has to do with making sure we're working better in concert. So the county provides a lot of those safety net services and they do a good job but what they haven't necessarily done is connected the folks to housing at the same time. That isn't what they do, right? Cities do the housing. So the St. James pilot project is an example of what everybody's good at, right? Housing coming from the city and services coming from the county, and these are the kinds of models we can build on just to do more of.

>> Councilmember Herrera: All right.

>> Just wanted to track back a minute on the vets. We've seen our budget double every year the last three years in services to veterans and that's included a lot of housing. And so I think that Jen and the city is completely correct that we need to now link them in very directly into this program. And so hopefully since they've got so much skin in the game here that that will help with that.

>> And I would add that the challenge on the mentally -- health, the issue they are separate in terms of somebody having a mental health issue and a substance abuse, some people have both. I think the biggest challenge for us is the folks on the streets that are mentally ill while the services exist they're 92nd connected to the services and getting the services to the people on the streets we don't have an effective solution right now in order to address it. That is one of the priorities from the City's perspective is how do we get special attention to those folks with mental illnesses that are out on the streets.

>> Councilmember Herrera: My last question is about reentry. If we have folks, it seems like we're in danger of creating a population that can't be housed. If folks are not being given housing or being eliminated from housing because of a criminal past because whether we all like it or not folks that are coming out of prison need to have a way to reintegrate back into society. So we have a reentry program now and I assume they are involved with you

guys in terms of that population that's out there that is either on probation or not on probation or has the issue of having that criminal history.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: The county is at the table but I think we can do more there. I do think -- I think it was Jennifer who mentioned some of the barriers we have. We definitely have a barrier with sex offenders based on the laws that we passed that restrict where they can live. So we have far too many people living on the streets who are registered sex offenders. That is a tough one for us to be able to fix but we can make some progress on helping people who have criminal backgrounds or poor rental histories or no credit. We can make some progress there. It's just going to be challenging.

>> Councilmember Herrera: Okay, thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Kalra.

>> Councilmember Kalra: Thank you, mayor. I want to thank everybody that presented including members from the community. On this challenging issue and I'd like to you know start by just -- I want to -- it's easy to have an us versus them mentality on a lot of the things that we deal with and I think this is definitely one of them. As much as we can approach this issue with love and compassion to all concerned certainly the homeless population the residents that live near some of the encampment that I think had very valid concerns, the environmental issues that we have, I think we're better served. And I certainly appreciate all the work that's been done so far. It looks like we don't have enough resources to really have a comprehensive approach like we may have in the past and even the efforts done so far looks like a lot of the encampments are in the process of being repopulated and that's what happens when you don't have enough resources. You don't have the follow-up services. And it's natural, I don't think it's anyone's fault, I think that's just a natural outcome of a lack of resources to continue that follow-up, both in terms of follow-up care as far as follow-up cleanup follow-up cleanups patrols whatever is necessary. My prior career, I've had hundreds of clients who are either temporary or clinically homeless. So I feel that at least I have some sense of the population and the community and the people that we're dealing with. And you know, when we talk about -- and I want to thank Jennifer loving in particular for her intro, that I think humanized some of

the -- humanizes the problem somewhat, that you know there is criminal elements in all parts of our population. The homeless population is a reflection of much of our community. Certainly there may be a high proportion that may have criminal records certainly high proportion that are veterans, and very high proportion that may exhibit mental health issues. And I think those are societal issues that we all should be cognizant of and approach with compassion. And we talk about getting services to the community, and getting services to people on the street. Most of the people that are homeless that have mental health issues they do self-medicate because they don't have -- don't have many options or aren't aware of the option they have. Even when the populations refer to basically 40 to 55 in that range as a bulk or a lot of the homeless population, even if they come into contact with the criminal justice system it's because of a drug addiction problem that's oftentimes not always but oftentimes masking mental health issues that exist. And you know, there is also one of the public speakers was from district 10 that discussed some of the issues there and I know Councilmember Pyle referred to it as well. And I think that also speaks to the fact that the issue is not isolated to any one area as it may have been at least in terms of concentration before. Clearly there's higher concentrations in he's larger encampments but certainly representing districts that is further away from the downtown core, it is not only more on the surface obviously, but I think that even in the creeks and what have you, that come out into the suburban more suburban areas, I think there's more of a presence of individuals there that are trying to find some way to make it along the creek sides there, too. And you know I must admit, I understand the funding challenges, it's very frustrating when there are encampments that are out and I know that we've had discussions when we had our pedestrian overcrossing opening and there's an encampment there and get services to the individuals and there's zero dollars for it. We have to do better than that, why can do better and we have to do better than that. I know that phase one \$40,000 was spent on the fence and I just don't think fences are typically the answer. When we're talking about comprehensive approach to homelessness that we're going ofind places to put fences up, for safety reasons fences around certain parts of the creek ways or overpasses or train tracks or fences for safety purposes make sense but you know when there's not a dollar that could be spent for any of the land based encampments it's a little frustrating to know that we're spending money to build fences rather than getting real resources to folks that can get them off the street permanently. And I do think as Councilmember Rocha referred to, that you know, the trickle down effect, the domino effect of a lack of resources for housing at all levels really, you know ends up having an impact in terms of increasing the homeless population. We've seen our homeless population has been

pretty steady for the past five years or so. But the chronic homeless has gone up over a third and I think that really speaks to the economy, it speaks to the lack -- look, what happened with Wall Street and housing collapsed, it's harder for middle class families to get into home, it's harder for lower class folks to get rental, this is the most expensive rental markets in the nation. It goes down further where those that are on the groundworking with the homeless populations trying to get them with a roof over their head there are less and less options there. The issue does not exist in a vacuum. When -- when we talk about or we just need to get more mental health treatment we get medication, that costs money that takes resources. Oftentimes when I was in the public defenders office, there weren't beds to release people to. And so they would just get released to the streets. And the likelihood of them showing up a couple days later to get treatment or to get assigned by treatment drops, as you can imagine, dramatically in those two three four days or sometimes two week or longer period. So when we talk about funding and we talk about we want more money for realignment we want more money for mental health that's why it's so important for us to understand how the county, the state, everyone is seeking resources and resources to deal with this problem from different angles. It could be the Water District, put the measure on, it could be prop 30 that does bring money for realignment as well as for education certainly cutting down the school year bithree weeks of public schools does not help any of the families that have homeless children. When we talk about measure 8 and the county and that one-eighth-cent sales tax, that money goes to those mental health services and got for the treatment the live in care and the medication that's needed. So it's not just a matter of what the City of San José can do, it's also, it's also standing up and standing behind some of these measures that bring in the revenue that is so desperately needed. And so going forward you know a lot of the discussion here is very helpful. In laying the foundation of the problem. I think it is going to get worse before it gets better unless we find some more revenue and find it in a serious way. Unless we reprioritize the mission of our council is, the fact that even getting two police officers for this is something that you know given the state of our police department and how lacking in staffing we are there, given the fact that every year we're you know just stretching to keep a couple more park rangers rather than losing all of them tells us that we have a much bigger problem here and I think it goes to serving our community and the services we provide is our highest priority above all else. And making sure we find a way to do it. Because if we don't we end up paying so much more money in the long run trying to clean up the messes we create when we pull funding from so many valuable, so many valuable programs. And so I really appreciate the work that's being done. I can hear the frustration because there isn't --

there is so much more to do. And I do hope that going forward, we'll do whatever we can to find the resources to ensure that we have a long term solution, not just busing people out of town so it's someone else's problem but a real solution to homelessness.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Constant.

>> Councilmember Constant: Thank you. First I want to say I don't think anyone's suggested shipping people out of town to make it someone else's problem. I think that that's a cheap shot as a memo that said let's see what we can do to reunite families. I want to say thanks to everybody who's here and who's been working on it, especially HC and destination home and of course all our staff because I know we know it takes a lot of compassion and help to those who need it, to deal with this issue. What I just want to say that we have to balance that with the impacts to our residential. And the impacts to our environment. And as we move forward in this, we really, I think, we need to be less forgiving for repeat offenders. And I knew there were just a very few citations written out of this whole packet we got and all the actions just very few citations. I can't remember the number but it was a very small number. But we've gotten to the point where the rights of our residents get trampled on by the rights of the homeless. And I think when we go out and we deal with the encampments and we have our initial encounters with people we should be providing them all the resources we have to provide, that we should be connecting them with the different housing opportunities, we should be providing them access to all the myriad of different things that we can. But we need to have a zero tolerance policy for reencampments. We can't just simply make it so that people can just continue to act with impunity, that it doesn't matter, they can just go keep building these structures that are unsafe, they're unsafe for those who inhabit them, they are unsafe for the residents that may be traversing them nearby, they are unsafe for our creeks and our waterways. We need to find those areas where there's clear unlawful behavior and deal with it. If I were to take a bag of biohazard and dump it in the creek, I can guarantee you, I wouldn't get a warning, I'd be arrested and cited. I think there's areas when we are trampling our environment and just saying, that's okay, you can keep doing it, I think we have to be able to guide softly, but then enforce firmly, when we have repeat offenses. And you know, we continue to refer to folks as residents in our creeks. They're not residents, they're trespassers. Residents clearly say that if you look up the definition of a resident, which I did while we were going through the process, it's a permanent home. We encourage the

behavior when we treat people like this. And I just think that we owe it to the residents? Who live along these creeks. We owe it to the businesses that operate along these creeks, we owe it to the environment that we put a stop to the behavior that's damaging. Let's find alternative solutions, let's connect people with the resources, but let's hold people accountable once we've provided that. I don't know how my colleagues feel about that, but I think it's an important step, that there's got to be consequences to our actions. We all get the missives in e-mail about the impacts but I think we need to do something about it. And I know we're constrained on resources. But we need to firm up on those repeat offenders. And I think that we should find a way to come up with a zero tolerance policy for reencampment.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Councilmember Constant if I can just respond. I think we need to look at best practices and what other folks have done in that area. I do think that one of the challenges is that when you cite a homeless person, it's hard, they don't always pay, or you don't know where to send a citation to, or to follow up with them. Because they, as you said, don't have a permanent residence. It's also a challenge for us to arrest people. Because they usually, the crimes are not those that you keep them in jail for long periods of time. And so they're back on the street again. And that is a challenge because it gives them now a citation or an arrest record that makes it harder to house them. So it's challenging. I think you're right. We need a level of enforcement. What that level is and how it works best is something that I think we need to work on about.

>> Councilmember Constant: I agree. And the reason I bring this up is we've had discussions about this in the past. I've been at the Water District meeting. I've been at various venues where we've discussed it but we never talk about that portion. And I think it's an imbalanced equation, if we don't talk about that portion.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: I think the -- the only thing we don't want to do is criminalize homelessness. So that's something that's very important. People are homeless for a lot of different reasons, again not because they're criminals, but because they don't have choices. And we do need to make sure that we're not making people criminals because they're living outside.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: Councilmember Campos.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you, mayor. Thank you Leslye for those comments. I think one thing we just need to -- whether or not we're ever going to get a consensus on this council on certain things is, you know, to be debated. But you can't continue to marginalize human beings. You just can't. People are living beings. Some people have their whole life that's perfect and in order, and some people are dealing with the circumstances that were either dealt to them, or that they've created, or things that they can't control, like mental health issues. I think that -- and again, regardless of how Webster defines a resident, you know, a resident is someone that lives in our city. So if you're living on a river bank you're still a resident. Whether you vote or not, you are still entitled to being treated like everybody else is treated by the constitution. You know. Unfortunately, we live in -- fortunately or unfortunately, we live in the most expensive place to live in this country. And some folks -- I'm sure a lot of folks don't want to be homeless but I mean, they -- they have no other place to go. I know my colleague talked about certain measures that are out there, that are going -- that will help fund services for homeless. You know, the county 8 cent sales tax. You know, there's also other measures that can help bring a homeless family that much closer to housing. You know, you do the math. An increase from the minimum wage from \$8 to \$10 an hour brings \$1600 into a family. If you have a husband or a wife or a couple doing the same thing you've got rent. Or you've got other income that could help to pay for other amenities. Fact of the matter is, \$1200 would be very, very hard to pay for rent. You know? While most rent even in some of the most challenging neighborhoods you know is 13 to 14 to \$1500 a month. So it's this perfect storm that has overcome many of our residents that are in these circumstances. And so we -- we've got to look at this situation with compassion and respect. And so I just had to get that off my chest. But I did want to just focus my comments on housing. Since, you know, with the -- with the debacle of redevelopment, you know, I'm looking forward to the study session that we'll have on housing. And perhaps, one of the outcomes could be coming up with a plan or a position that we can present to Sacramento, or present to our legislatures, to help us carry what happens next. You know, redevelopment's gone, and okay, it's gone. But there was -- I think that there's -- there seems to be will in Sacramento to try to revive or continue what really, really worked with redevelopment and that was, providing affordable housing for all levels. And I think that one of the things that we need to make sure goes into our -- a position is that transitional housing be part of that. Because when you look at affordable housing you look at from extremely low income to moderate and unfortunately, transitional seems to be a special program. We should look at that just being another

form of affordable housing. Because I mean if we had more of that type of a service, then there is an avenue to put county services towards folks that are housed. You've got a place to find them. You've got them you know getting reengaged into, you know, into society. So I just wanted to share that. Is that going to be part of the discussion, Leslye?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: We can definitely discuss that. We need to both look at what ideas there are locally, as well as reasonable, definitely we can make that part of the discussion.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you, those are my comments.

>> Vice Mayor Nguyen: Councilmember Liccardo.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Thank you. I want to thank everyone too. I know everyone's been thanked but this is a Herculean task. I appreciate all the efforts that have been taken many, many years, to solve what is in many ways unsolvable. I know that's a terrible thing to say, but the truth of the matter is we're dealing with a human condition that we're not going to solve overnight, and it's going to continue to take a lot of work. And I think just finding small wins and progress is really important for us right now, recognizing the scarcity of resources that we have. I wanted to just focus for a moment on the fact that we know we're not going to solve this in the short term. And recognizing that an awful lot of these creek cleanups are really displacing homeless people and moving them to other locations where they will also be homeless, and recognizing that some percentage of those homeless people are sex registrants and are not going to be able to easily locate in location is where many of us would expect to be able to you know put some affordable housing or wherever. Because the proximity to schools and et cetera. To what extent are we asking the question of where would we identify a lawful encampment to be? Or where would we identify a location where people could reasonably live safely, in a world in which neither they nor we have the resources to provide housing at the level that we would otherwise consider acceptable. Is that a question we're asking or is that -- I know that's not a very popular question, but I'm wondering is that a question we're asking?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: We could ask that question. I mean, it's something that's been done elsewhere, and it hasn't been successful. So that's -- I think we haven't looked at that as a solution. There have been Santa Cruz tried it in their campgrounds --

>> Councilmember Liccardo: And I don't suggest it's a solution, by the way, I'm sorry to interrupt. It's not a solution, I agree. I'm just trying to find a safer approach. Go ahead, I'm sorry.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: We can look at it, I think we might be concerned about, again, safety concerns, and sanitation concerns, wherever we might locate that encampment. And that's -- I mean because it would be an encampment. It would just be a controlled one. So I mean, we can look at that. It just has not been the answer to sedate.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Okay.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: I don't know if others have had experience. Steve actually had experience in Santa Cruz so --

>> Councilmember Liccardo: I know and there's some well-known failures in Sacramento for instance where no one would want to repeat that. I'm sorry Steve did you want to jump in?

>> That was tried in Santa Cruz and at many different levels. And with even the effort of trying to put the occupants into a work program. So you know coupling is with that kind of situation, were not successful. And mostly because what Leslye said, it's the health and safety issues that came around that what is just a formal encampment now, and the control of that, and so those efforts went away, couldn't control it.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Thank you. I'd be interested in talking with you off line about Santa Cruz's experience. It would be helpful to understand more. The question I had was, I know Vice Mayor Nguyen raised issue about companies, corporations and I think there are companies that have participated. I know eBay

foundation for instance has helped us with our downtown streets team pilot and the creeks and I'm grateful for the Water District's participation in that. And I get the sense that companies generally are willing to engage either if it's on their doorstep in the case of Mercury News or Adobe or alternatively, if it's something that's really innovative that gets foundations excited. I know for instance Cisco is look at downtown streets team I think they will get engaged and support them financially. It seems to me we need to focus on things that are innovative, I think the St. James park project is a great start about how we work with mental health services and really start to reach out to a lot of partners who can help get a lot of traction on the problem. But downtown streets team in particular has been one I'm interested in hearing what success if any we've had through that project. I mean I hear anecdotally because sometimes I've gone down to the creeks and talked with folks. Here we've got a couple dozen folks housed we think at this point. How do we feel at this point in the pilot, are we likely to reach our goals, at least within that pilot? I know they're modest goals but they're goals that are important.

>> Elaine Marshall, our program manager who oversees that clean creeks, healthy communities grant that I believe is what you're referring to, councilman, can speak to that.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Yeah, thank you, and thank you Elaine for your work in getting us the grant. That was very important.

>> Sure, no problem. I'm Elaine Marshall. So our experience with the downtown streets team in particular with the clean creeks healthy communities grant has been successful in terms of the goals that we had set out for the grant project. Over the two-year term of that component of the project we did set a goal of housing 50 residents who were living in the creeks, as well as removing, are forgot off the top of my head the number of tonnage but we've exceeded the number cubic yards of trash that we had projected to be removed out of that area so in term of that piece very successful. Of the 50 residents that we were hoping to house I believe we are on track to house about 33 residents including kind of partnering that grant with our phase 1 cleanup so we are on track of meeting our project goals and you know have another ten months to go with the project.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: That's great. I keep hearing great things from surrounding neighborhoods like in Spartan Keyes where they are just very grateful for the presence of all the folks working as part of the downtown streets team. So I appreciate what you're doing with that project. I hope we can find funding to support innovative programs like that.

>> We're continuing to look for funding.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Much appreciate it. Finally just wanted to take on this issue of a couple of members of the community who mentioned different reactions they get from San José police. And I get the sense that we don't really have a consistent message from the city as sort of one team. And I know that one resident complained when he went to St. James park basically officers told him well don't hang out in this park anymore. I don't think that's an acceptable response. The park is a public park, and if someone is doing something that's unlawful there, that person should be cited and arrested. I certainly understand the response from the police department saying hey, we don't have the resources to respond today, sorry, we've got more urgent calls. But I'm troubled by that response, I'm troubled about the response that says hey you can't be here, but you can go down to the Guadalupe, that would be fine for you to be down there. I feel like we need somehow or another with the chief and the captains need to have a consistent one-message response, that assures residents that we do care about this problem. While we certainly have limited resources to address it, there's not going to be I think a certain acceptability to the notion that somehow or another, parks are going to be a place where somebody can -- where essentially we're going to say squatters have rights here that exclude other members of the public even when there's clearly unsafe and illegal activity happening there. And so I'm hoping that through this conversation we can at least be clear with the department about what messages are going out. And I know in the St. James community they're frustrated with the fact that when feeding is happening out there on Saturdays and Sundays, and they approach the police, the response is, well, it's not illegal, or we're not going to worry about it. When it has been illegal for many years in this city to be engaging in mass feeding in public parks. And so you know, I think I've probably said plenty. But I don't know if any member of the department is here but I just think it would be really helpful if bee were at all at least -- I'm sorry you're on the spot, forgive me. I think if more than anything you

could just convey, it would be really helpful if the department was saying, what I think would be more consistent with what the approach of the staff is bringing to us.

>> I understand. I understand your concern. I'm not sure there's a question in there. But I'm happy to take message back.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: I appreciate that. If you have a response I'm certainly interested in hearing that.

>> I don't have a specific response to your question and I certainly can't speak to the incident in the park. It doesn't sound like the way the officers should respond. Certainly if there's illegal activity in the park and the officer was there I'd like to think the officer would take the opportunity to deal with that and not with some other issue. But I'll carry the message back to the chief. And I'm sure we'll have some discussion about your request.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: I appreciate that and I've heard conversations with Tony Cherbro and other captains at central, and they have been very responsive, but I just sense it's not necessarily organization wide that the message is sort of clearly conveyed. Thank you very much.

>> Understand.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: And then just finally, is there any opportunity with, I think I said finally before so my apologies. But I know we have a problem with all the different ownerships of the property along the creek beds and a real challenge. Because the Water District has 30% and public entities have another 20% and then there's lots of private owners. Has there been any discussion around either a JPA or some kind of MOU where we can agree, one agency has some enforcement authority, and maybe everybody pays into a pot and at least, for the purposes of cleanups, and everything else, everybody has a clear line of authority rather than saying, well, it's just over this line so it's not ours.

>> I don't know that can I speak to your exact question but the fact -- I mean we do have an MOA with the Water District. We share cost to clean up the public properties, their property and their property along the waterways. And there's nothing in the Moa that specifies enforcement or anything like that. It's strictly the partnership to clean up the creeks. And we provide you know our shared cost, primary PD secondary employment resources and they supply on their end equipment, their staff, on our end as well. So it's the reason we have AWP officers and police officer overtime. Nothing specific in that for enforcement in that MOA.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: In circumstances where the Water District is called on and their pointing to parcels and saying that is not ours.

>> Actually that happens quite a bit, where we look at the parcel and we're not sure who the owner is and we take frankly too much time trying to figure that out. One of the goals convening the different partners is to figure out how we can work together addressing those issues. We'll certainly take your comments back but we're certainly in the early stages of having these conversation with CalTrans and VTA and trying to pull them into the conversation so we don't have to go through the tedious task of trying to figure out who the owner is.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Thank you, I appreciate that. It's challenging. Leslye you look like you want to jump in.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: I was going to say also, with private property, unlike public property, we can use our code enforcement to require the cleanup. With public property it's different and we have different rules and requirements we have to follow.

>> Councilmember Liccardo: Well, thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Oliverio.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Thank you, mayor Reed. I do want to tack on to everyone who initiated and prepared and presented the study session today. And Leslye, whatever's wrong with your wrist or arm, I hope you heal quickly. This is probably one of the better study sessions I've seen in five years, because I also think it encompassed many different facets of other governments and entities and I thought that was important and I would say that I think the situation we have in San José is one that's timeless. It didn't start yesterday. It's been here for decades. As noted in the presentation. And that also, it's national. It certainly is across the entire country. It's not just a San José issue. And if you look at the societal issue there's some 100 million people that are homeless in the world and over a billion people that are underhoused in shanty towns similar to what we have in our encampments. So it's much been said. And I think even to Councilmembers Pyle and Constant who first used the word Herculean, that's very appropriate, it's the how do we try to get the federal government to help take an issue that is certainly a federal nature, because we don't have borders, and also state law, if it's inhibiting us from removing encampments or doing things that impede the quality of life for residents and that's something that needs to be part of our agenda and then to councilmember or Vice Mayor Nguyen, the alternatives, it's certainly an ambitious and proactive approach and then Councilmember Liccardo you said the word human condition and I can't think of anything different than that. It's a pure tragedy that people are in this situation. And any of us on this dais could suffer in our later years from mental illness at any point in our age and if you didn't have the family or friend network you'd probably be homeless. And that's the reality of it. And that's a sadness. And I think we've also covered today quite well that there's an amount of money that we almost don't know. No one's said if we cleaned up every encampment and kept it clean, how much would that cost? My guess is that's more money than we have. Maybe not more than the city has in its entirety but we're obviously trying to fund other things in the city. And what's the total cost to house everyone that's chronically homeless or temporarily homeless today is another cost and what would that cost if we achieved that goal which would be nearly impossible and what would be the cost for the incremental? Those are really high. In the presentation from one of the partners they said that you know people need the right services for them. Those individuals need the right services for them. So in that spirit I wanted to refer to staff or request for information. And that was to look at what other cities are doing, and bring back to the council at a later date, I know there's a variety of homelessness and give us an understanding. Again national issue you can debate how little or how much individual cities and counties spend on homeless but we do provide a variety of services that we discussed here today. And I don't think you could

ever perhaps provide enough because there's just not enough revenue to do it. And having participated in at least five homeless encampments cleanups and this is I think before we sort of put the brakes on it. So these were the ones with PD and the folks from the jail. And so we were doing the massive cleanups with the Water District and I would go down into the creeks and would I talk to the people that were moving and I think whatever is going to sober you up about the homeless is if you talk to a meth addict or someone who was there. Nearly everyone I encountered was not from the area. They were from geographically dispersed areas outside the state, somehow they found themselves to San José. Much like they find themselves to San Francisco or New York or even Hawaii. Those communities said there's a portion of the population that are here, for whatever circumstances they are here now and they can't get back to where their family or friends are. San Francisco is offering this program, New York, et cetera. So I want to understand if we're going to offer a variety of services does it provide us to find out more information from these other communities is this a viable alternative for an individual that says just yes, I just want to get home. I just would like to -- I don't have all the answer he on that. I imagine housing staff with all your contacts probably would have a better idea, the pros, the cons, et cetera, but certainly all the things we're looking at recognize the lack of revenue here, and if we can make someone, bring some level of happiness to them, and maybe to the relatives that don't know where they're at these days and those are real personal stories that I have no idea whether it's family shame, whatever, there are serious issues here so I simply want to refer this to staff and have information come back at a later date.

>> Mayor Reed: Right, having been through council one time, we have a half hour before we are supposed to adjourn, there are still some folks who want to speak in open forum. I know there are people who want have more comments they want to make, Councilmember Pyle.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you, I was in a bit of a rush when we talked earlier about this proximity to schools. You may want to put that back so people know what I'm talking about. What I would like to do is take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about the biosite which is a very special hands on science program for fourth grade students at Almaden that is a partnership with the Children's Discovery Museum of San José. And the pioneer high school biology program. For biosite learning experiences. There are a couple of Websites one could look at. But when you look at the -- when you look at the whole picture here you see that the biosite which is a

darker area, is something that the encampments near it are not only near the school, here is a sports field right there, and that's pioneer high school, but also, if you look at the little ones in the front, that's a senior center. I think those are two fragile communities that need to be considered. Because as I understand it now, with the housing department, you have identified cleanup priority as follows. One size, two proximity to waterways and three proximity to people. When we say people, can we also put more fragile situations such as schools and/or senior centers. Those seniors take walks in that area, exactly where they are. I don't want to have a first statistic on an uncomfortable relationship between the two. So that's my main goal today, is to make priority of school and senior housing centers a priority for encampment cleanups.

>> As part of our priorities we do have a category in terms of its impact to the public, its visibility to the public and how it interacts so schools and senior centers some that would be certainly something that would be included as part of that factor.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Oh, thank you. Would I not want to take on a meeting with the angry seniors and school people. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Kalra.

>> Councilmember Kalra: Thanks mayor. Just on -- I have no problem with any councilmember ask questions or ask for staff to look into things. I'm just curious as you know the amount of money and time and resources will it take for the information request when we know that we're -- we know that that may be you know an option for a small percentage of folks, it may not be, but the reality is, that I hesitate to use resources on anecdotal opinions from one individual, without staff actually chiming in on the value of going through that whole exercise. And so you know any time I ever ask for anything, and I'm not naive to understand why I may face more resistance than others, you know, it seems like there's a big discussion on workload, on how much workload will it take, you how much effort will it take. I'm not against having information because especially when another councilmember is asking for, how much information we need, but I want to put that out there as to whether staff wants to put their time and resources into it. If it's a request from councilmember, that's fine, but that's a big issue I would have with

what otherwise would be a significant policy decision to take on these steps just being presented during too study session as if it's something that you know is worthy of the time and effort of the staff. And furthermore the reality is that we don't do a benefit to any of the residents by responding in a way that result by cleaning up an area it's going to be -- and I know all of you know this, people will come back to it sometime shortly after. And so -- and we certainly don't benefit anyone by not putting forbid a complete comprehensive -- in fact I appreciate Councilmember Liccardo asking the question what other cities have done, as stated that's not really a solution, just finding places to warehouse individuals, the reality is these are residents in our community and some of the encampments cause a lot of distress a lot of environmental impacts and impact residents and neighborhoods that are near it. And so thinking about long term solution is what's most important. But for the grace of God any one of us could be in the situation where we find ourselves homeless. As to the idea of you know, I hesitate to refer even though I agree with Councilmember Constant that if any one of us did something like put waste in the river that may by itself be considered an offence, I hesitate to call someone that's homeless as an offense, and at the end of the day what do we do jail them, we end up paying hundreds of dollars a day to jail someone because they had nowhere else to go. And I think that's where we really have to find the comprehensive solutions rather than the criminalization as was stated of homelessness that if someone has needs and we can get the resources, that's great. In the meantime, if there are impacts as Councilmember Pyle indicated on surrounding neighborhoods, as some of the residents have indicated, let's certainly do what we can, to avoid or mitigate the impacts on the residents that are feeling the impact of some of the encarpalments whether they be two or three or four people or 100 people there can always be some impact and so we certainly want to make sure that until we get to the point where we can do a more full more comprehensive proposal that we are all in communication that the residents know that you know it's not as simple as just cleaning up an encampment that it's much more involved and I think anyone that's watched has probably noticed that, there's a lot more involved to dealing with this problem that exists in every major city, in the country, and will exist forever in some portion, but I think that we've certainly seen a dramatic increase due to the economy and due to a lack of resources for us to respond both with services as well as with enforcement.

>> Mayor Reed: Councilmember Pyle.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Well I just wanted to clarify. I certainly don't want to give the clarification that I'm trying to jump to the head of the train here. What I'm trying to do is add that to the clarification or the classification of encampments that need to be looked at. I need to have this looked at. I need to know how endangered seniors and or fourth graders and or high school kids are. We're talking about sex offenders? We're talking about people with criminal records. I just want to make sure that this more fragile group is protected.

>> Mayor Reed: I think we're just about done. I have a few comments before we have the rest of the public testimony. I got involved with the homeless issue 30 years ago when I was on Mayor McEnergy's homeless task force. The problem has not gone away, it's gotten a lot worse. More recently, because we had 10 years of shortfalls in our general fund, and we don't have the capacity to do some of the things that we used to be able to do. We've lost the redevelopment funding so we don't have the capacity to build housing like we used to do. And more recently the state has reduced the prison population by 27,000 so that puts another thousand people in the City of San José, many of them are homeless as we already know. But I do believe a couple of things the result of my experience because more recently I co-chaired the blue ribbon task force on homelessness. And I'm quite confident that we can end chronic homelessness. And we're already spending more money on the chronic homelessness problem than it will take to put people in housing. Finding the money to do that how to squeeze it out of the existing expenses and that's really a project of destination home. So I think there's a great opportunity to deal with the 2500 chronic homeless folks that are in the count. But I also know that if we spend a few million dollars and clean up the creeks, all we do is clean up the creeks we'll have 7,000 people living homeless on our streets. If we don't do something to provide housing, you can clean the creeks but they're not going away. And so really, the most important strategy is what we can do around the housing. And ultimately, services. There's lots of services. We got veterans money, there's county money, it is possible, but we need the housing. As we know that the folks that have the problems that we see on our homeless population they're not going to get better if they don't have housing. So that's the key thing. I ask our councilmembers to hold that thought until our study session on affordable housing because that's kind of a follow-on discussion of how do we find some funding to deal with this element of the affordable housing needs. And I think that's the big challenge for us given the fact that the federal government's cutting back, the state government's cutting back, the state government's taking our money, it's just gotten more and more difficult. And I think you can see the results and the number of the people and the

size of the encampments and all the things we have seen here today. That doesn't mean that there aren't things we can do, because we can and will do some things collectively and it's really good to have the Water District, the county, and our partners on this because we're all in this together. And the destination home project was a collaboration of the city, the county, the Water District and many other organization he. So that's the model. We know what to do. We just have to see how to get the money to do it. With that I'll turn to the open forum. We have some people John Davis, David Serano, David Wall.

>> Thanks mayor and council. John Davis 710 Market Street. I own about 100 yards of Coyote creek which is now the fourth worst polluted creek in Santa Clara Valley due to all the efforts that you folks have taken time to talk about. Mr. Campos. I have three memoless that live within 25 yards of my property. If you are so enamored with them I'd gladly put them in your backyard and you can live with them in a month and see what kind of trash is generated and you can clean up after them. There was a question, level of seriousness. Polluted creek that is absolutely unacceptable. There is latrines, there is taking baths, along the creek, within my yard. We've had three fires within 50 yards of my house. They literally burned down one man's camp. He was back next day building his house in the middle of the creek. The degradation of the creek. Each one of the squatters, they are not homeless because San José is providing a home for them, right? We all heard about that today. They dig in up to 12 feet into the side banks of the creek. What is that going to do when we have a 100-year flood? By the way, I've been here twice. That's going to make a major serious problem. Lawlessness. We all know what the lawlessness is going on in those creeks. We've had murders, we've had drugs. I myself have picked up unbelievable stuff in the creek and showed it with the Water District of which I've been work with for four years. The children, Nancy I think you're right on the money. Olinder school, we have a creek that has a walkway that people do not want to use anymore because homeless are up there throwing their trash. What does it do to taxpayers that pay lots of money for a house on a creek? I have to disclose that if I want to sell. Again Mr. Campos, if you think those people have rights, come on down, I'll give you three of them. Solution: I've worked with the police department now for four years, I've actually --

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Oh, man, that's the other problem, we've got reverse time here. We should spend more time with guys like me and less with you folks.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up. David Serrano and then David Wall.

>> Thank you, sir. You were out of the room when Councilmember Constant brought this up. I think you're in the right direction at least that rung true to me with finding some type of penalty for the homeless because even though the advocates remind us the humanitarian side of us, being homeless isn't a crime but the actions they participate in are criminal and Councilmember Pyle to ask, to answer your question, how dangerous is it to have these personalities or these characteristics out there, as a resident I can tell you. I had been documenting for the last three years, the encampments across the street from my home. I live behind the Tully library, which is next to the equestrian San José police ranch. In 2010-2011 I came out of my porch, out on my porch add 9:00 a.m. and 100 yards away from me was a woman face down dead in the mud from overdosing and narcotics, down by the creek. You know, it's not criminal to be homeless but the activities they participate in are very criminal and as a homeowner, where is my protection? They don't deserve to be down there. It is trespassing. We all know that. Do something about it. If you can't, maybe Kalra's notion of shuttling them away isn't such a bad idea to controlled environment. And if you house them it's only a certain number that are housed because every day someone else is going to become homeless. The numbers increased, there is no balance with their strategy or what's happening. With my German grandfather used to tell me as a child, when you don't have the resources you amp up the talents. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: David Wall.

>> I'd like to take the time to thank Councilmember Rocha. For his steadfast pressing of these study sessions. You ran into a lot of unfortunate and unnecessary grief from your council contemporaries. And I'd like you to keep up the pace here, because it helps the community as a whole, because it puts out more discussionary period from the elected folks instead of either keeping it hidden at committees or keeping it at two minutes at a council meeting. Thank you again Councilmember Rocha for your efforts on these study

sessions. Also I'd like to remind the Rules and Open Government committee that the rules and affordable housing agenda that will follow on the next study session agenda will be a waste of time. You have no money and above all you have no real leadership. Because dealing with this type of element requires very firm and determined methodologies that none of you have absolutely talked about today. I believe Councilmember Constant was injured while on duty as a San José police officer while dealing with the criminal element that pervades our rivers and creeks. I myself over 20 years have focused in on the Guadalupe river behind my house, has been nothing more than a cesspool. I'm not open or sympathetic to all these housing community based organizations that just want to get on a revenue stream that try to house everybody that just this model doesn't fit. So before it gets any more worse and it will continue to get worse, it will be very prudent to you to preposition the requisite number of police units be they engineering battalions and/or military police units to deal with these vast number of people to send a message that throughout San José if you come here you will be held accountable and we will deal with you and we will relocate you somewhere in the desert.

>> Mayor Reed: That concludes the open forum, concludes the agenda, we're adjourned.