



Transition Committee on Homelessness: Meeting 1 Briefing

San José Mayoral Transition
Mayor Matt Mahan

The mandate for the Homelessness Committee is to provide actionable, equitable, measurable policy recommendations that will (1) reduce unsheltered homelessness, and (2) mitigate impacts of encampments on local communities

Overview:

- Baseline Statistics
- Scope of Services
- Current City Funding

Outcomes:

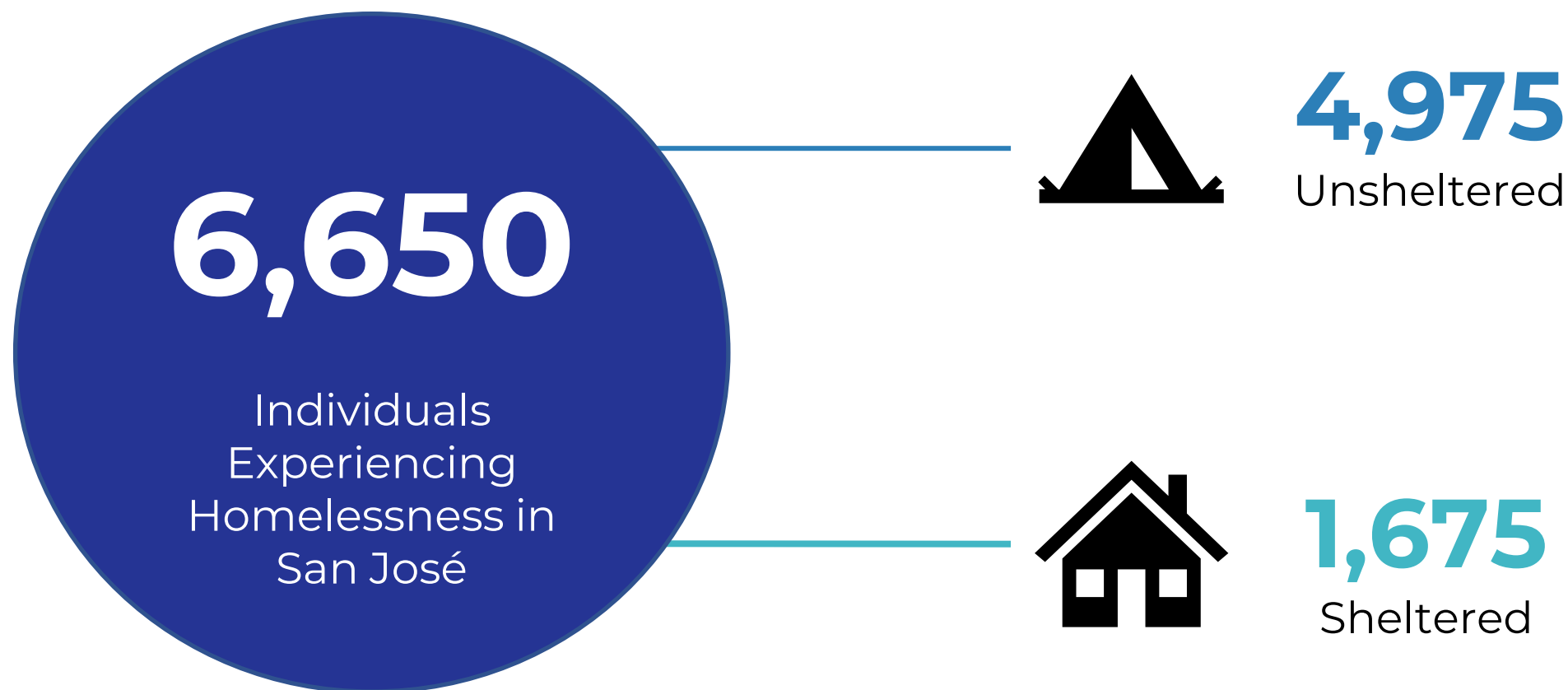
- Regional Systems
- San José Existing Programs
- Proven Methods

Challenges

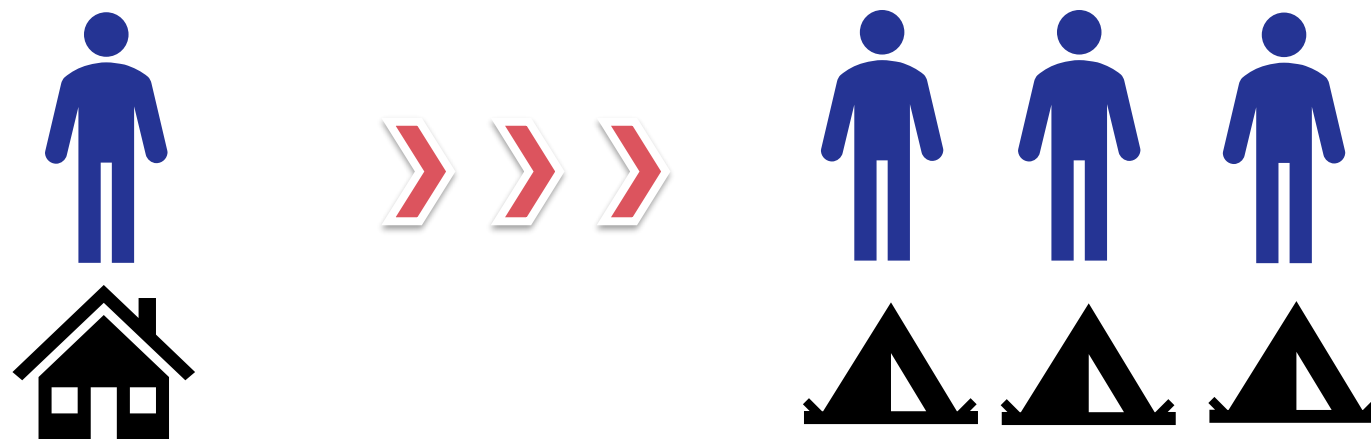
Additional Resources

Appendix

Overview: Baseline Statistics



Overview: Baseline Statistics



For every **1** person that is permanently housed, **2 - 3** more become homeless

Overview: Baseline Statistics

City	Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (2022 Point in Time Count)	Total Population (US Census Bureau 2021)	% Individuals Experiencing Homelessness per Total Population
San José	6,650	983,489	0.68%
San Francisco	7,754	815,201	0.95%
Los Angeles	41,980	3,849,297	1.09%
Oakland	5,055	433,823	1.17%

Overview: Homelessness Scope of Services

Reduce unsheltered homelessness



Data and
Systems Support

- Homeless Census and Survey
- User Engagement and Evaluation
- Lived Experience Advisory Board Partnership
- Homeless Management Information System

Mitigate Impacts to Surrounding Communities

BeautifySJ Encampment Management –provides sanitary services to improve quality of life for those in encampment locations and to reduce impacts to surrounding neighborhoods.

Trash Service

- *The encampment trash program distributes and collects litter bags, removes trash/debris from encampments and works with encampment residents to maintain encampment locations visibly clean.*

Escalated Cleanups and Abatements

- *Escalated cleanups and abatements are concerted actions to reduce encampment footprints or remove encampments in areas that impact setbacks (right-of-way violations, etc.)*

Cash for Trash Program

- *The Cash for Trash Program provides a redemption value for trash collected at designated encampment locations. This program incentivizes encampment residents to maintain their encampment locations thereby reducing trash and debris.*

Interagency Team

- *Coordinates blight reduction efforts including encampment management, with interjurisdictional partners such as Caltrans, Valley Water, County of Santa Clara, PG&E, VTA, and Union Pacific Railroad.*

RV Biowaste Pollution Prevention Program

- *This new program will be piloted beginning Spring 2023. The program will work with residents who reside in recreational and lived-in vehicles to collect grey water and black water, human waste located in buckets and containers, and pilot other strategies to prevent discharges onto city streets, sidewalks and other locations.*

Lived-in vehicles

- *Currently the City doesn't tow lived-in vehicles parked on City streets. Those residing in vehicles are referred to the Housing Department for services and BeautifySJ for trash pickup services and bio-waste disposal.*

Maintain Setbacks

- *Right of way, encampments within 150 ft of schools, infrastructure degradation, construction projects*

Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

Homeless Response Team (including supporting overhead positions), Eviction Help Center, Housing Production Teams

\$217,560,979
10 FTE

Mitigate Impacts to Surrounding Communities

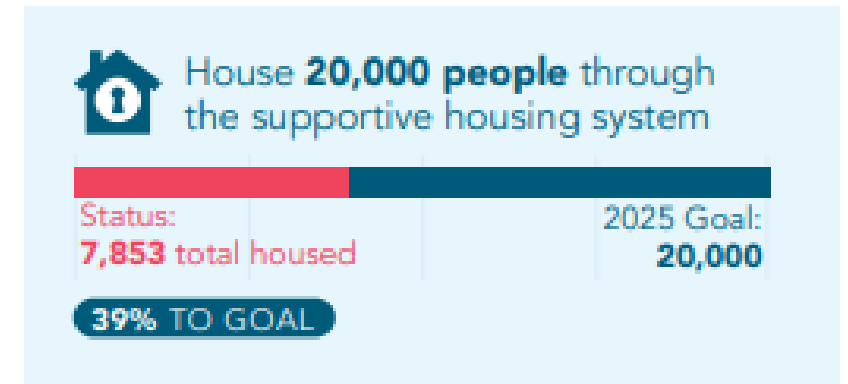
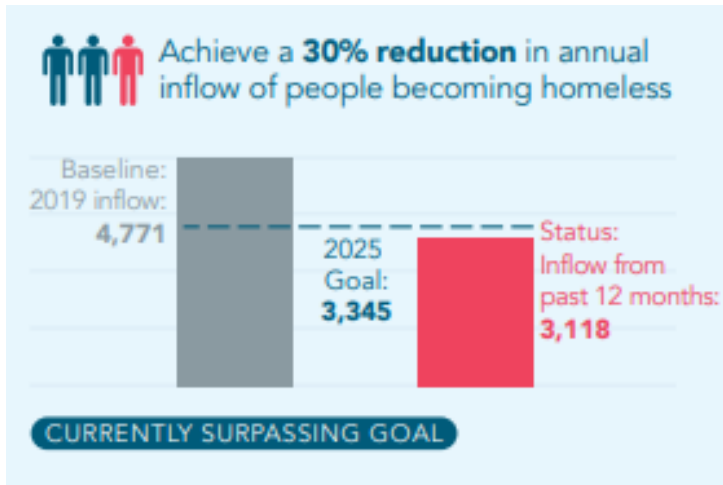
Encampment Trash & Management Program

\$16,618,028
33 FTE

Outcomes: Regional System, Including San José

Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

The 2020–2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness is the roadmap for ending homelessness in Santa Clara County. The Cumulative progress on the county-wide goals as of December 2022 are below.



Reporting occurs at the County Level. Cities and Santa Clara County work in coordination.

Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

Prevention	Crisis Response	Solutions
<p>Homelessness Prevention Program (Rental assistance and supportive services like flexible funds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outcome: 96.63% remain stably housed for at least 12 months.▪ Benchmark: 85%▪ Note: Participants are enrolled for a period of time and this benchmark tracks their retention after they complete enrollment. Enrollment is based on the needs of the individual family vs a set period.▪ Timeframe: 2017 – June 2022	<p>Emergency Interim Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outcome: 47% exit to permanent housing (69% of total remain off street)*▪ Benchmark: 30% per Santa Clara County Continuum of Care▪ Timeframe: January 2020 – October 2022 <p>*detail on next slide</p>	<p>Permanent Supportive Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outcome: 95.9% remain stably housed for at least 12 months▪ Benchmark: 95%▪ Timeframe: September 2021 – August 2022

Mitigate Impacts to Surrounding Communities

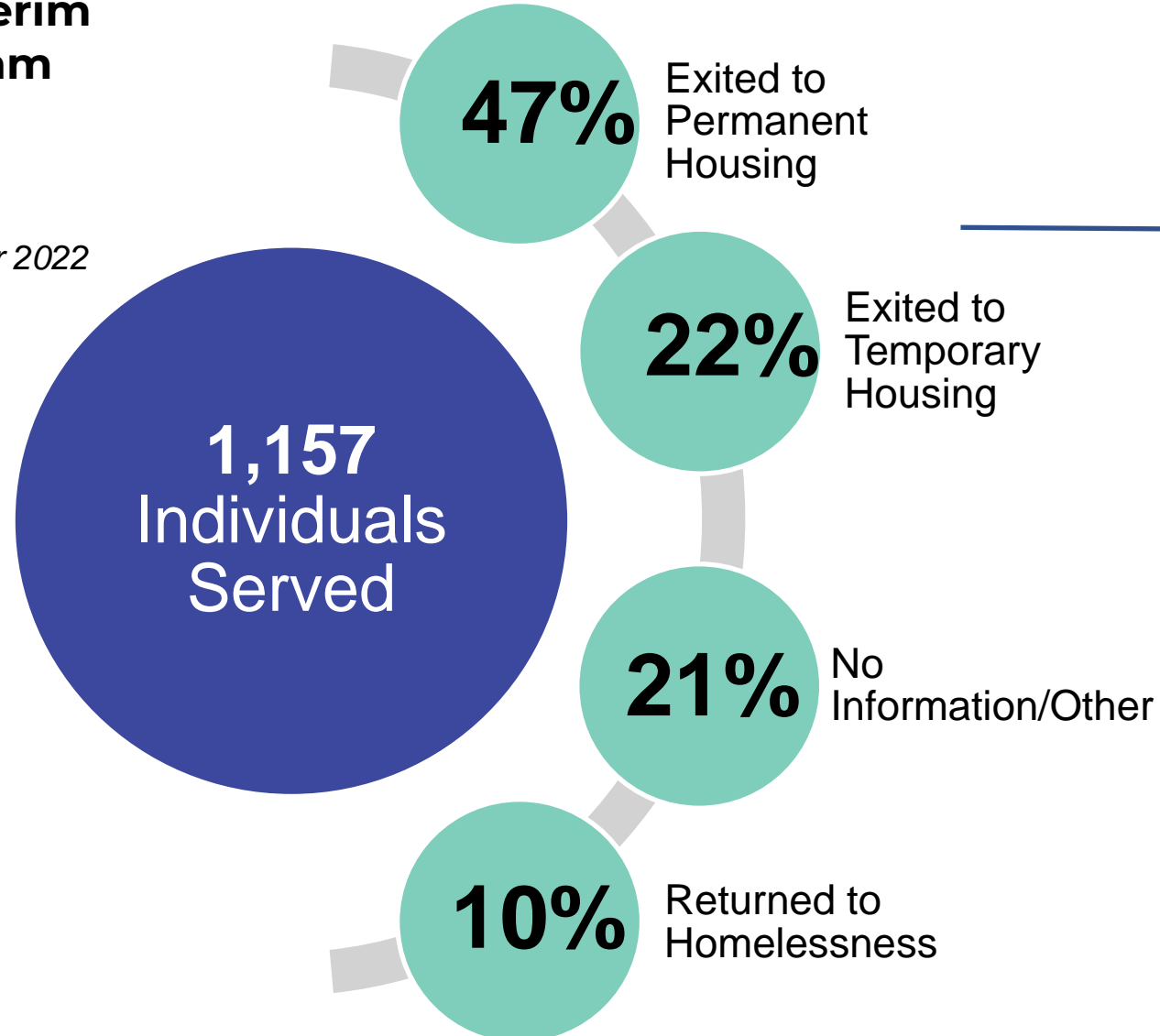
Encampment Trash Program

- **Outcome:** 71.2% of encampments received on-time trash pickup
- **Benchmark:** 80% of encampments receive on-time trash pickup
- **Timeframe:** July 2021- June 2022

Outcomes: San José – Existing Programs

Emergency Interim Housing Program

Timeframe:
January 2020 - October 2022



69% of residents remain off the street after exiting a site

Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

Prevention	Crisis Response	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Homelessness Prevention System assisted 2,466 individuals (999 households) in San Jose; 98% of families remained stably housed while receiving prevention assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">66 households maintained permanent housing in City-funded rapid rehousing programs [FY 21-22]5,686 calls and emails received by the Homeless Concerns Hotline [FY 21-22]5,587 individuals experiencing homelessness assessed for permanent housing [FY 21-22]397 Emergency Interim Housing units built as of Dec 2022, 96 units to be available in Mar 2023, 504 units planned, In FY 21-22, these sites served 742 individuals940 individuals served through the Services, Outreach, Assistance and Resources (SOAR) program, 33% moved to temporary or permanent housing [FY 21-22]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">351 Permanent Supportive Housing units built between 2020 and 2022, 225 units under construction as of Jan 2023;298 affordable units completed between 2020 and 2022 that received City funding

Mitigate Impacts to Surrounding Communities

- 71.2% of encampments received on-time trash pickup during FY21-22 (Benchmark: N/A)
- 135+ Encampments serviced city-wide

Outcomes: Proven Methods

	Outcome	Proven Methods	What hasn't worked?
Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness	Since 2017, the Homelessness Prevention System has assisted approximately 4,500 households at imminent risk of homelessness providing an average of nearly \$5,400 in financial assistance per household. 96% of households remained stably housed while receiving prevention services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective Impact approach: Collaboration of City, County OSH, Destination : Home, Housing Authority Homelessness prevention Permanent supportive housing Interim / Transitional Housing On-going Case Management Type Street Outreach to build relationships and trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment programs have had limited success Citywide outreach has been less effective than targeted outreach in providing consistent connection because of demand for services
Mitigate Impacts on Surrounding Communities	9.2 million pounds (4,595 tons) of trash/debris removed from neighborhoods, encampments, streets, sidewalks and along waterways (Jan 2021 – Dec 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firm, fair, and compassionate staff Expanding services to address blight in neighborhoods Aligning programs with internal departments and inter-jurisdictional partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without adequate housing, encampment abatements only move individuals to other areas of the city

Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

Current Strategy

Prevent further unsheltered homelessness and move people into safe options and ultimately into permanent housing

Challenges

1. Lack of sufficient funding to build permanent housing and expand homelessness prevention
2. Safety net systems (medical & behavioral health) are insufficiently funded by State/Federal Gov't to meet the need
3. Data consistency across programs/departments
4. Insufficient approved locations to site Interim Emergency Housing, RV parking, and other crisis response options
5. On-going operational cost of emergency housing requires increased resources
6. Staffing challenges such as staff shortages, burnout, and high turnover

Mitigate Impacts of Encampments on Surrounding Communities

Current Strategy

Decrease number of high intensity locations and visual blight of encampments

Challenges

1. Competing priorities at all levels
2. Equipment (fleet vehicles) and staffing shortages
3. Lack of Police staffing
4. Weather and terrain/topography
5. Lack of identified alternative indoor locations for unsheltered residents
6. Outreach and contract support capacity for targeted homelessness outreach case management
7. No consistent measure/definition of encampments for tracking reduction

The below-linked documents were used to compose this presentation. They are resources for further information on the topic of Homelessness in San Jose.

Budget Resources

- [Housing Department Budget \(FY 2022-23\)](#)
- [Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department Budget \(FY 2022-23\)](#)

Strategy and Background Documents/Webinars

- [Santa Clara Community Plan to End Homelessness 2020-2025](#)
- [All In – Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness 2023](#)
- [State Action Plan For Preventing and Ending Homelessness](#)
- [California Homeless Data Integration System \(website\)](#)
- [Housing First: An overview of core components and principles \(Cal-ICH\)](#)
- [2022 Homeless Census and Survey](#)
- [2021 Ending Homelessness – The State of the Supportive Housing System in Santa Clara County](#)
- [Homelessness Resource Guide](#)

Staff Reports

- [Annual Report on City Services 2021-22](#) (Housing p. 81, PRNS p. 101)
- [December 13, 2022 Approval of the Updated Direct Discharge Trash Control Plan](#)
- [November 29, 2022 Emergency Housing System Expansion: Quick Build Emergency Interim Housing](#)
- [November 29, 2022 Emergency Housing System Expansion: Recreational Vehicle Parking Program Analysis](#)
- [May 3, 2022 Encampment Management & Safe Relocation Policy](#)

Overview: Homelessness Scope of Services

Mitigate Impacts to Surrounding Communities

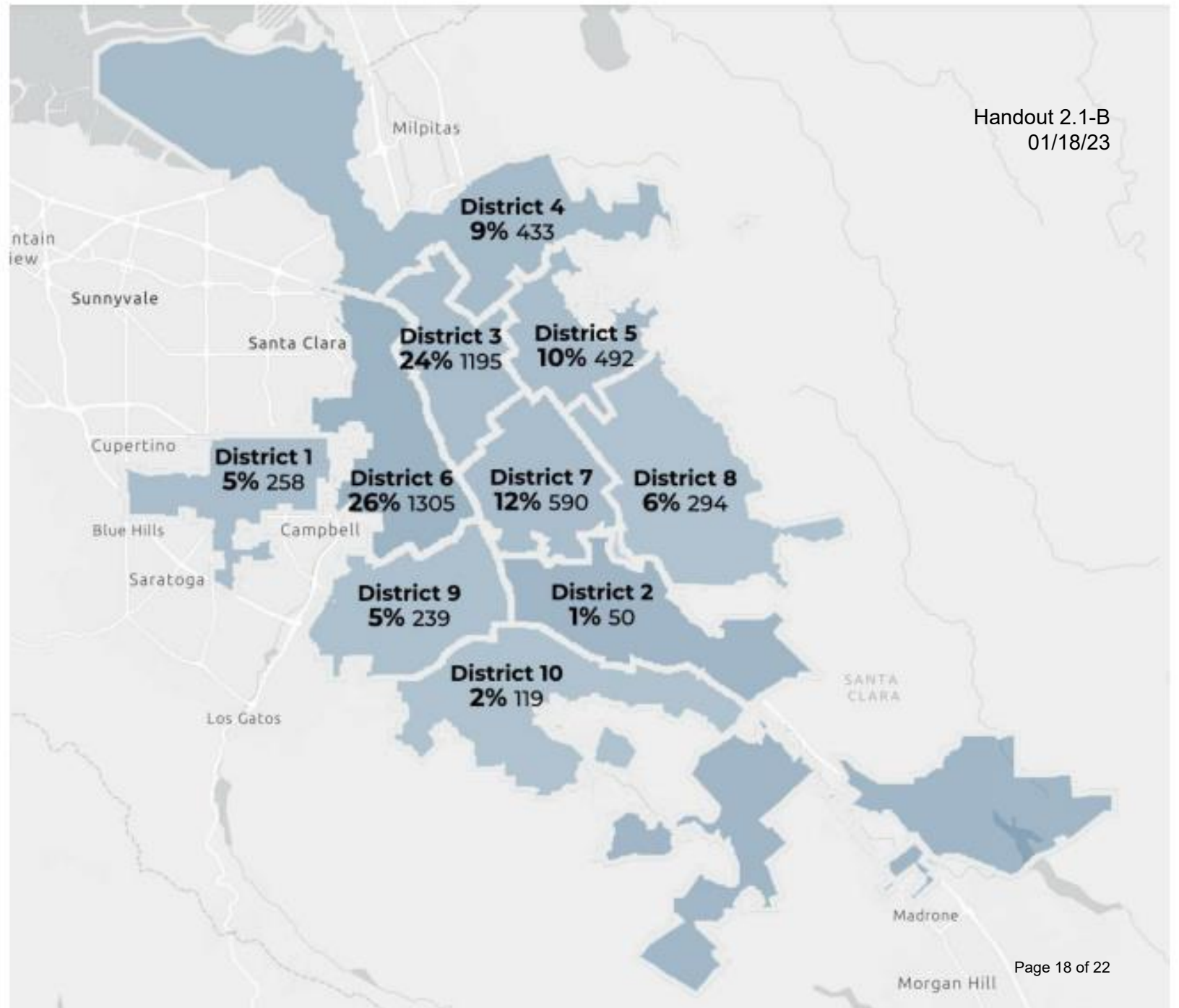
Encampment Abatements – Are based on established setbacks, which outline areas or locations where living structures and personal belongings are not allowed, and where people cannot live outside. The table below outlines the significant risk factors that guide the setbacks for encampment locations developed in coordination with internal departments.

Locations & Conditions	Definition	
School Buffer Zone	Tents, built structures, or other belongings that are erected or stored within 150' of an elementary, middle, or high school property.	
Blocking Public Right-of-Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sidewalks• Streets• Trails• Medians• Permitted events at City facilities• City facility (park restroom, playground, community center, library, fire station, etc.)	
Health and Safety Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire danger• Vehicle or Pedestrian Danger• Unauthorized access to electrical• Potential for drowning if flooding occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant reoccurring or unresolved unsanitary conditions• Severe vector control issue
Obstruction to Critical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure Degradation• Public Operations and Maintenance• Construction project (on land or waterways)• Hospital and Trauma Centers	

Overview: Sample Operational Impacts

Department	Impact
Fire/Public Works/PRNS	Employee Safety related to public-facing interactions in typical service work
ESD/PRNS	Increasing trash/waste in and near waterways
Public Works/Transportation	Illegal “tap-in” for electric/utility usage
Economic Development & Cultural Affairs	Business district/economic challenges
Airport	Issues related to guest interactions, unhoused residents seeking shelter
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement	Hazardous structures and addressing trespass on private property
SJPD/DOT/Housing	Resolution and disposition of support and issues for people in lived-in vehicles

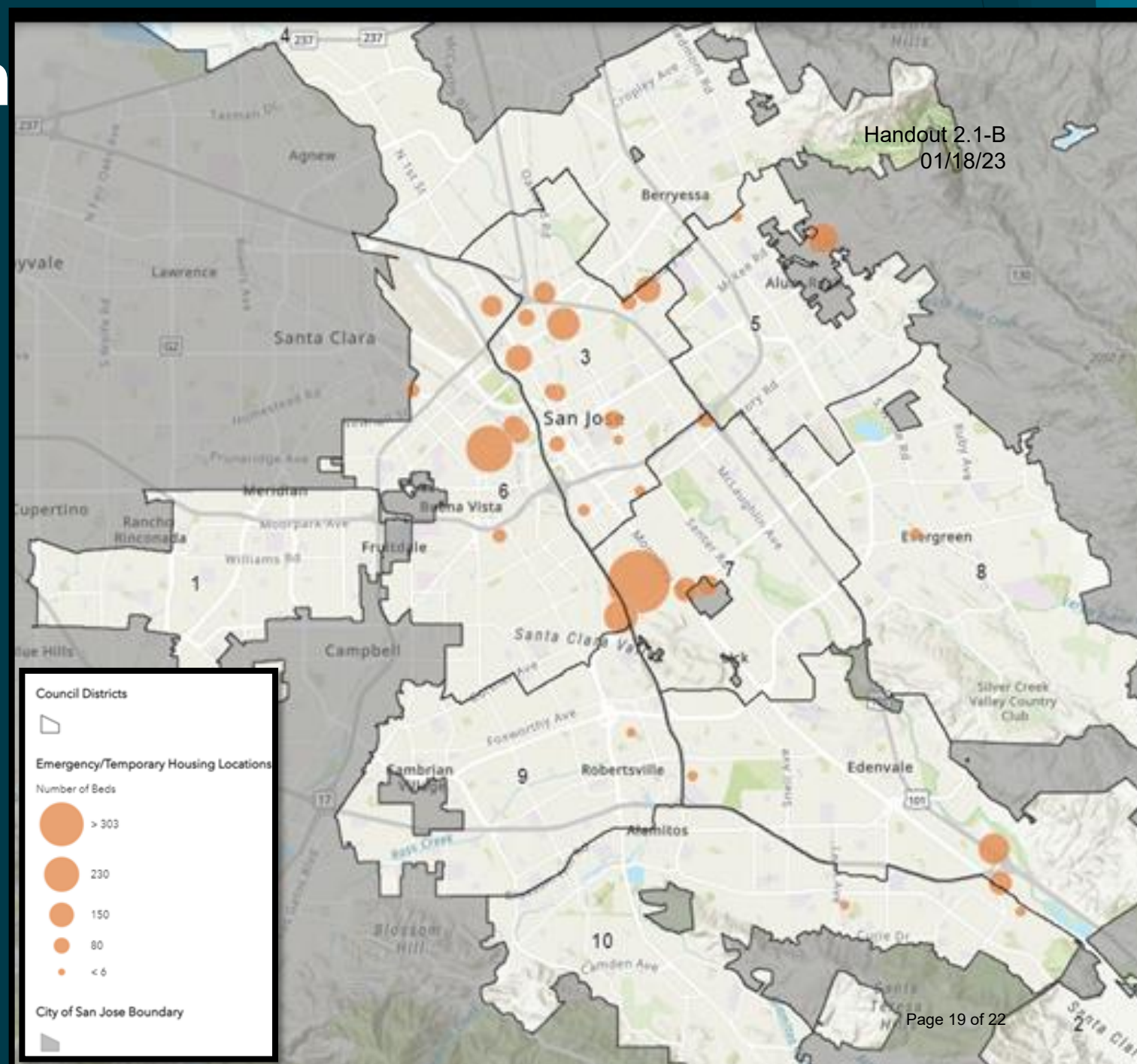
2022 Point in Count: Unsheltered population by San José City Council District



Emergency Housing System (Scope of Services)

Map of Emergency Shelter, Group Shelter, Transitional Beds (includes EIH/BHC)*

- Existing emergency shelter primarily in City Center
- Expansion of EIH increases equitable distribution & access
- Note: Includes shelters funded by other entities

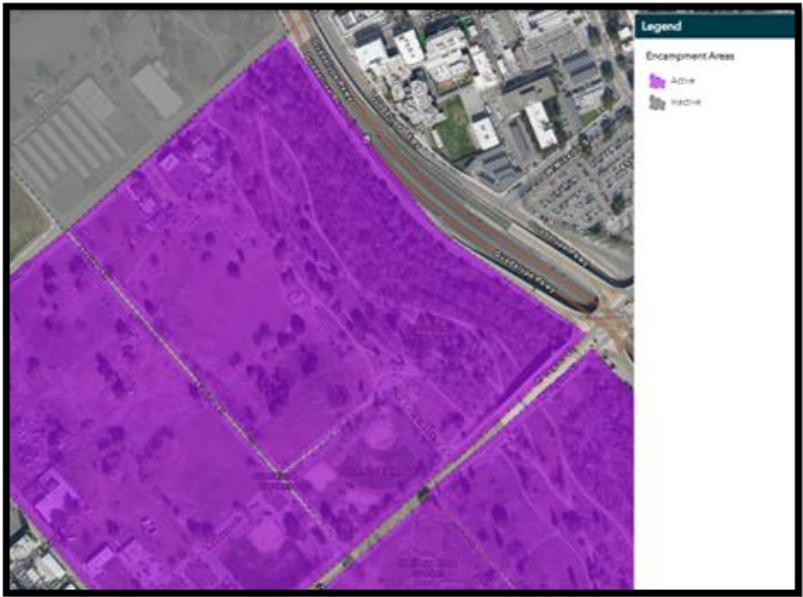


Challenges: Data Consistency Example

Data Tracking: The images below could be ONE encampment or SEVERAL – definition consistency needed

Handout 2.1-B
01/18/23

14-acre Guadalupe Area:
Shown as 1 large encampment



OR

Same 14-acre Guadalupe Area:
Shown as 12 small encampments



COMMITTEE FOCUS AREAS

Given the **interwoven nature** of each of these issues, each committee should **focus on the pillars** below. Handout 2.1-B
01/18/23

Homelessness	Community Safety	Clean Neighborhoods	Downtown Vibrancy	Planning and Permitting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce unsheltered homelessness• Mitigate impacts of encampments on local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase pedestrian and traffic safety• Reduce street level crime and improve felt experience of safety for residents and small businesses	<p>Support city beautification by mitigating and diminishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicle blight• Graffiti• Trash in public spaces• Illegal dumping• Code violations• Weeds & overgrowth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catalyze momentum for downtown to become a destination for residents and investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the ease, speed, and efficacy with which businesses can engage with San Jose

Notes on scope:

- Homeless encampment trash cleanup is within Homelessness committee (not clean neighborhoods)
- 311 management can fall within clean neighborhoods
- Housing supply falls within planning and permitting.

TIMELINE AND PROCESS

Handout 2.1-B
01/18/23

Jan 12th - 17th

Committee Meet 1

- **Collective briefing** from City staff on current status of problem and current policies, as well as **priorities** for each committee area
- Define success for each area, and brainstorm **success metrics** associated with each

Week of Jan 23rd

Committee Meet 2

- **Brainstorm recommendations** to achieve measures of success
- Plot recommendations and actions based on 2 **timelines**:
 - This budget cycle
 - Up through the next two years

Week of Feb 6th

Committee Meet 3

- **Refine, detail, and prioritize** out goals, recommendations, and activities for **budget cycle**
- Refine, detail, and prioritize recommendations for beyond the budget cycle **up through the next two years**



Report

Deliver top recommendations to City Council during budget prioritization



Mayor's March Budget Message

Surveys

Debrief and additional research

Debrief and additional research