



# NEW JERSEY & O STREET PARK COMMUNITY MEETING

September 15, 2020



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# AGENDA

- ❑ Welcome / Introductions
- ❑ Rules of the Road
- ❑ Comments from CM Allen and ANC
- ❑ Master Plan
- ❑ DMMH Update
- ❑ SOW
- ❑ Project Timeline and Process
- ❑ Next Steps: Survey?
- ❑ Contact Info
- ❑ Q&A

# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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- DMHHS: Jessica Smith
- DHS: William Kuennen
- DPR: Peter Nohrden, Brent Sisco, Tommie Jones
- DGS: John Stokes, Wayne Gore and Lisa Dixon

# RULES OF THE ROAD

- Please keep your microphone on mute during the presentation.
- Please use the chat feature to ask questions or provide comments which will be addressed after the prepared slides.
- The chat function is located at the bottom of your screen and looks like a “thought” cloud symbol. Please be sure to submit your question / comment to **“Everyone”** for documentation purposes.
- We’ll do the best we can to answer all questions / comments, but if your question is not answered, DPR is tracking all questions and will create a Q/A document that will be shared after the meeting.



# DPR MASTER PLAN

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# **The District's Encampment Response and Homeless Outreach**

**New Jersey and O St. Park Community Meeting  
September 15, 2020**



## ENCAMPMENT PROTOCOL BACKGROUND

- This process was first established in 2015 and has evolved over the last several years.
- The process is guided by an official protocol signed by the City Administrator.
- The District is currently in the midst of litigation defending our cleanup process. Our implementation of the process is very important and must closely follow the protocol.
- There are 6 District agencies involved in the encampment response process (DMHHS, DPW, DDOT, DHS, DBH, MPD).





# ENCAMPMENT OVERVIEW

**Encampment Definition:** A set-up of an abode or place of residence of one or more persons on public property or an accumulation of personal belongings that is present even when the individual may not be.

When encampments present **health, security, or safety risks**, the city has an obligation to the individual living on site and the surrounding community to address these issues. Risks such as rodents, human waste, or blocking passage trigger the encampment response.

**Goals** of the encampment response team:

- Provide outreach services to residents staying in encampments. Work to connect residents to services and safer living arrangements, such as shelter.
- Assess potential encampments and their risk to the community
- Encourage residents to maintain their space by providing trash bags, gloves, and brooms & dustpan, when necessary.
- Coordinate the cleanup process for encampments that are deemed a health/safety risk

Cleanups are generally conducted **Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00am**. Site assessment, sign posting, and outreach occur prior to the cleanup.





# PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

DC's encampment protocol was crafted in collaboration with advocates and agency leadership and was updated in 2019. This protocol is signed by the City Administrator and tracked closely.

## Procedure & Timeline

1. **Referral:** Tracking begins when a potential encampment is reported to DMHHS
  2. **Assessment & Classification:** DMHHS visits the site and completes a formal assessment
  3. **Protocol Activation :** If the site is determined to be an encampment and a health or safety risk is present, DDOT posts notification signs providing at least 14 days notice of a cleanup on site; DMHHS conduct outreach on site to offer services such as shelter and storage as well as provide verbal notice of the upcoming cleanup. Verbal reminders of the cleanup are always given 1 day in advance.
  4. **Day-of Cleanup:** DMHHS, DPW, DDOT, MPD, DBH, & DHS report to the encampment site to complete the cleanup
  5. **Follow up:** Staff continues to conduct outreach and monitor the area following the cleanup event. Many times residents move back to a location after a cleanup has been completed. The District CANNOT simply remove residents from public space. In order to conduct another cleanup, signs must be posted and 14-days notice must be given.
- **Immediate Disposition:** If an *immediate* health or safety concern is identified on site, an immediate disposition might be triggered. If the immediate disposition is needed the cleanup will take place within 48 hours. An immediate disposition sign must be posted 24 hours after the cleanup has taken place.

**Note that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the District is working to limit cleanups and conduct trash only engagements whenever possible, per interim CDC guidelines.**



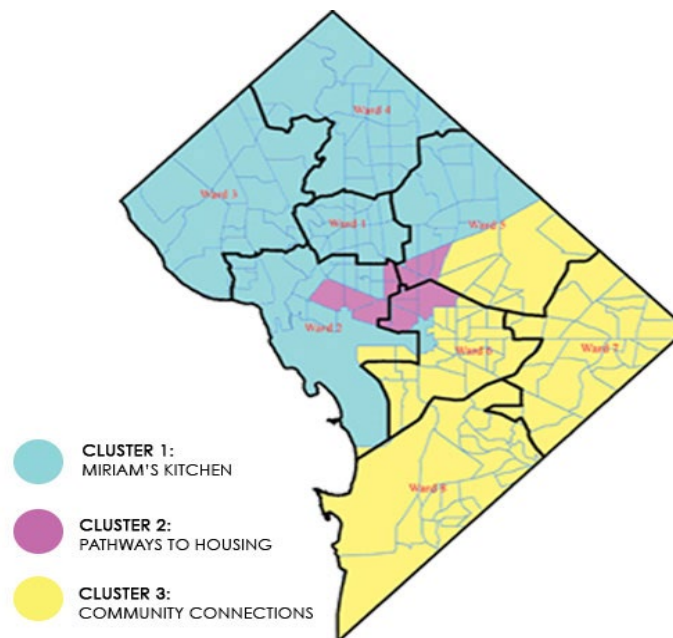
## 2020 POINT IN TIME COUNT DATA

- The District had 3,937 homeless individuals
- 45% suffer from mental illness or substance abuse
- 34% are chronically homeless
- 22% have a chronic health problem
- 20% have a physical disability
- 17% (652 individuals) are unsheltered



# STREET OUTREACH COVERAGE

- The Comprehensive Street Outreach Network is designed to provide an entry point to the shelter system, housing solutions, and public benefit programs for unsheltered individuals in the District
- Outreach workers engage unaccompanied adults who are unsheltered to provide case management and resource connection
- Teams operate 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Each cluster represents a roughly equivalent number of unsheltered individuals

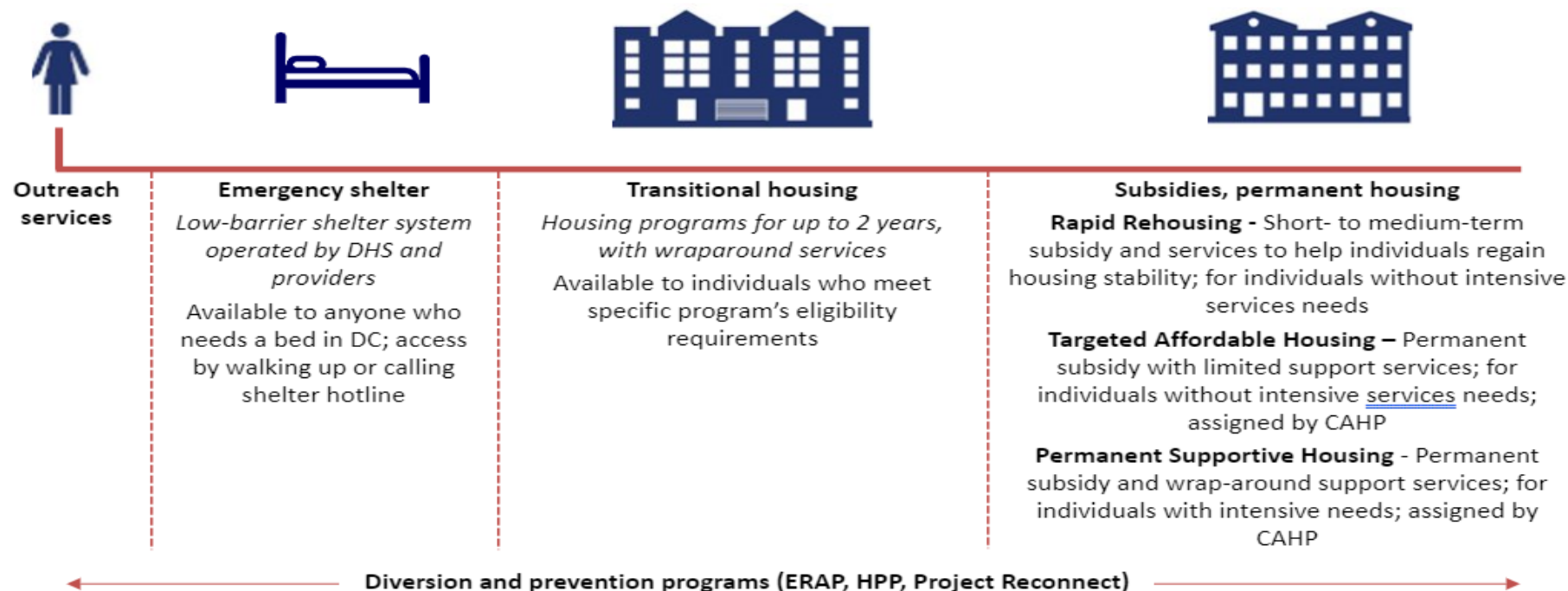




# OUTREACH GOALS AND STRATEGIES

- Connections to housing solutions
  - Linkage to the housing process
  - Mobile housing navigation
  - Exploring creative housing solutions
- Connections to the homeless services system
  - General contacts and case management
  - Facilitating connections to shelters, day services, etc. and assistance coordinating with those service providers
- Increasing health, safety, and quality of life
  - Linkages to mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and physical health care
  - Harm reduction interventions
  - Extreme weather interventions
  - Connections to employment and benefits
  - Coordination with hospitals and emergency services

# Continuum of Care for Unsheltered Individuals



In order to be matched to **permanent housing resources**, clients are prioritized by the **Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system**. This system uses HMIS documentation, including a SPDAT, to assign clients to housing resources based on vulnerability and/or likelihood to success in the program. In order to apply for Targeted Affordable Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing, clients need to complete applications and submit documentation of their identity, social security number, and income.



## NEW JERSEY AND O ST. PARK

- **Cleanups:** 2019: 1; 2020 to date: 6
- **Outreach:** outreach is conducted at the park at least 3 times a week. Outreach staff survey the area for health/safety risks and work to connect people to services like housing and treatment. Services are voluntary.
- **Future outreach:** DHS will be working with their provider to create a name-by-name list so they can help each individual think about where they will go when the park closes. Outreach will continue to work to connect residents with needed services.



## KEY NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

**Encampment Concerns:** [encampment.reports@dc.gov](mailto:encampment.reports@dc.gov)

**Shelter Hotline: 202-399-7093**

For transportation to emergency shelter or welfare checks (24 hours during hypothermia season).

**ESA Call Center: 202-727-5355**

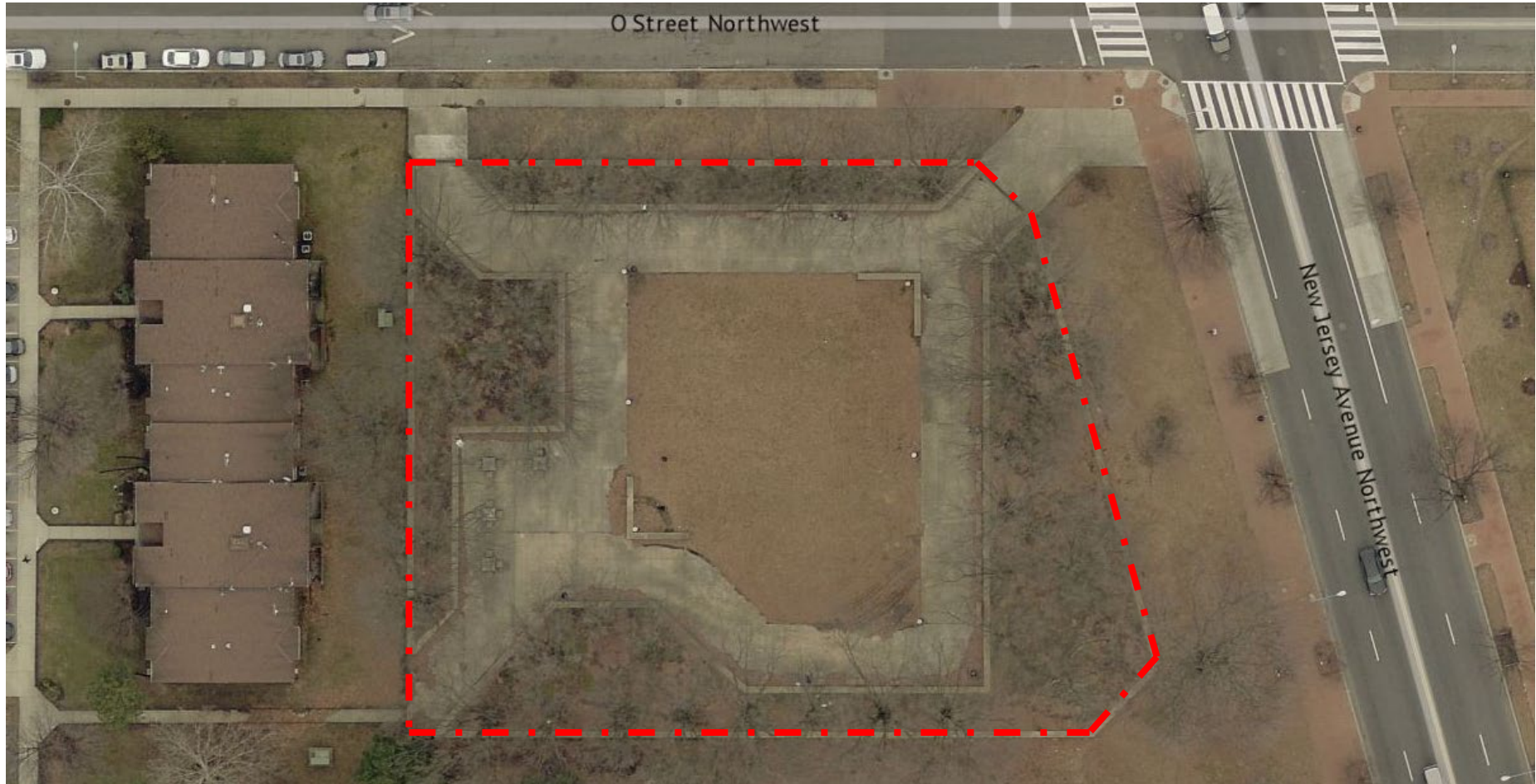
For benefit inquiries such as Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF.

**Outreach Questions or Concerns:** Brooke Lyle ([brooke.lyle@dc.gov](mailto:brooke.lyle@dc.gov))  
or Bill Kuennen ([william.kuennen@dc.gov](mailto:william.kuennen@dc.gov)).



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



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- **Budget: \$1.3M**
- **Projected Scope of Work:**
  - Demolition of existing concrete slabs
  - Installation of new paving
  - Installation of new splash park
  - Installation of electrical improvements
  - Installation of climbable sculptures
  - New park entrance gateways
  - Installation of landscaping (trees, shrubs, sod, topsoil as needed)
  - Installation of new seating and benches
  - Installation of new lighting fixtures
  - Installation of picnic tables
  - New pavilion
  - DPR standard trash and recycling receptacles
  - DPR standard signage

# PROJECT PROCESS & TIMELINE



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- Project Kickoff Meeting **September 15, 2020**
- Concept Design Phase **Jan - March 2021**
- Community Meeting - Concept Design **January 2021**
- Schematic Design Phase **Mar - Apr 2021**
- Community Meeting - Schematic Design **Spring 2021**
- Design Dev'p, Construction Doc's & Permitting **Summer 2021**
- Community Meeting to Review Refined Design **Fall 2021**
- Construction Kickoff / Final Comm. Meeting **Fall 2021**
- Construction Completion **Winter 2021/2022**

# NEXT STEPS



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DPR will be providing a survey to solicit feedback on potential park amenities.

DPR will collect all comments and work with the selected design team to consider all comments in order to produce a refined concept based on your feedback.

The selected design team will present a concept based on your comments at the next community meeting (to be scheduled).

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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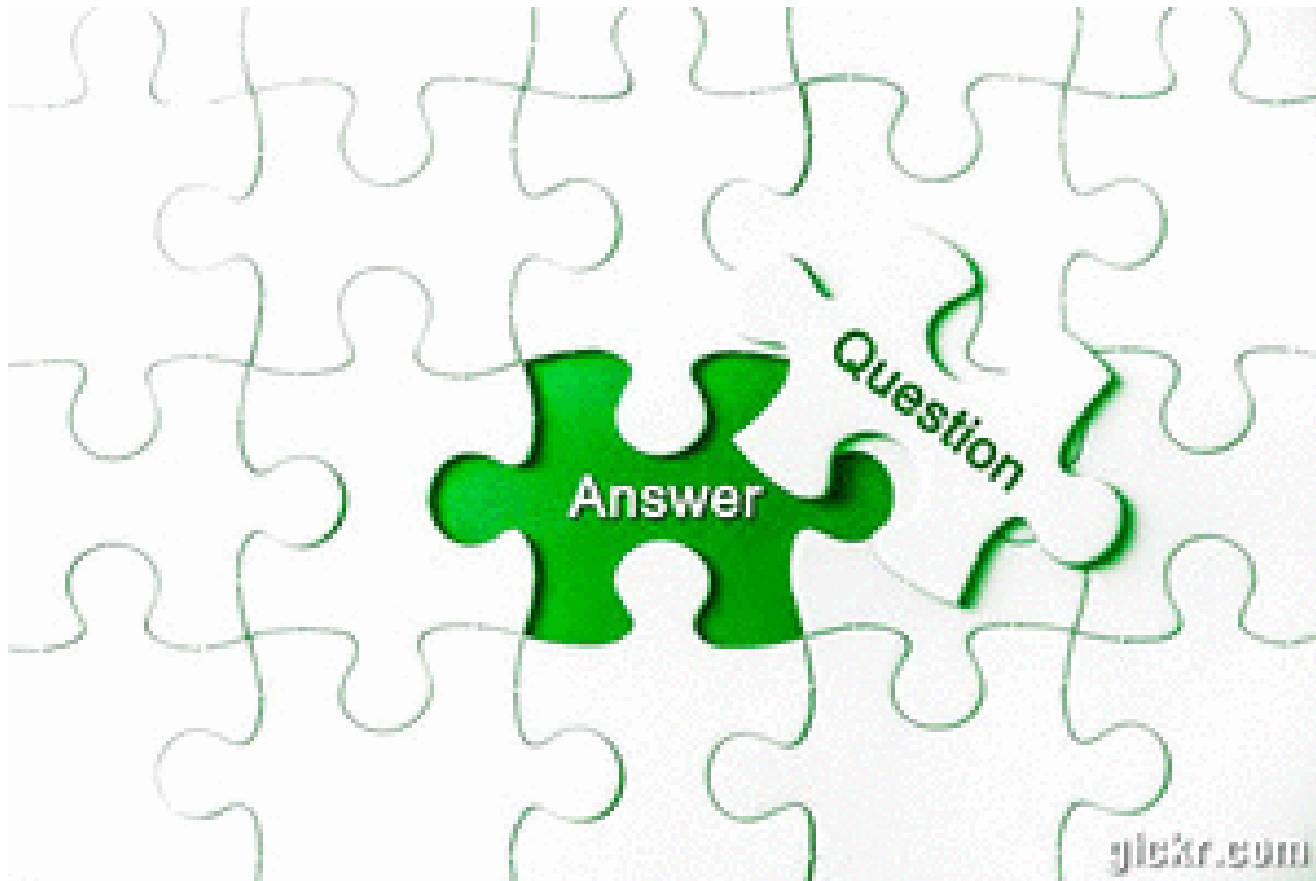
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**DPR Website:**  
[www.dgs.dc.gov/page/new-jersey-avenue-and-o-streets-nw-park-plaza](http://www.dgs.dc.gov/page/new-jersey-avenue-and-o-streets-nw-park-plaza)

# QUESTION & ANSWER



# WRAP UP



THANK  
YOU