



*a memorandum from the*

# Glendale Police Department

*Integrity • Courage • Excellence • Respect • Compassion • Dedication*

DATE: August 16, 2017  
TO: Kevin Phelps, City Manager  
FROM: Rick St. John, Chief of Police  
SUBJECT: Final Report - Urban Camping

This memorandum has been written to provide information on Councilmember Aldama's Council Item of Special Interest (CIOSI) on urban camping.

After reviewing the current ordinance on Camping Prohibited under GCC 25-90, and discussing those findings in a meeting with Councilmember Aldama, we agree the ordinance is sufficient as is and enforceable to accomplish desired results.

Glendale Police are addressing the homeless in the context of "community policing" by employing several initiatives including: high uniform visibility downtown and enhanced NRS foot and bike patrols. Officers are contacting the homeless and offering information regarding access to resources, e.g. local shelters, the Salvation Army, Phoenix Rescue Mission, etc. CAT is meeting with shelters to further develop our partnerships and to improve outreach. Officer training will focus on successfully interacting with the homeless.

GPD is also addressing violations of law. Trespass forms are being distributed to local merchants and businesses by NRS and CAT. Staff is meeting with the City Prosecutor to improve coordination. When appropriate, subjects will be cited and/or arrested for violations of A.R.S. 13-2905 Loitering, and GCC 25-90 "Camping prohibited".

Glendale has no loitering ordinance. But, Arizona state law and Glendale City ordinances address a broad range of specific criminal activity, including loitering for the purpose of committing designated offenses, aggressive solicitation, offenses against public order, sexual offenses, criminal damage to property, theft, trespass, disorderly conduct, graffiti, etc.

In the past, "loitering", i.e., standing or waiting around idly or without apparent purpose and "vagrancy", i.e. persons who are without visible means of support or domicile while able to work, were the subjects of laws and ordinances focused on dealing with reputed criminals, gangs, prostitution, gambling and public drunkenness. Although the purpose of these laws was to reduce crime and enhance safe communities, these crimes were frequently vaguely defined and overbroad and lent themselves to misuse, i.e., to deal with what some people believed to be an "undesirable element", e.g. the poor, the homeless and the mentally ill. A string of cases was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court finding many of these laws and ordinances unconstitutional. Consequently, many cities and states repealed their loitering and vagrancy laws and refocused on addressing specific behavior. The state of Arizona updated its loitering law making it more specific, to pass constitutional muster. Glendale like many other Valley cities and Towns, enacted an "Urban Camping" Ordinance, GCC Sec. 25-90 to deal with a very specific problem.

Glendale PD will continue to be responsive to the community. Input concerning specific criminal behavior is encouraged and welcome. GPD is focused on enhancing public safety by intelligence driven community policing.