



# *Reduction of Makeshift Camps*

Community and Public Services Committee

December 4, 2019



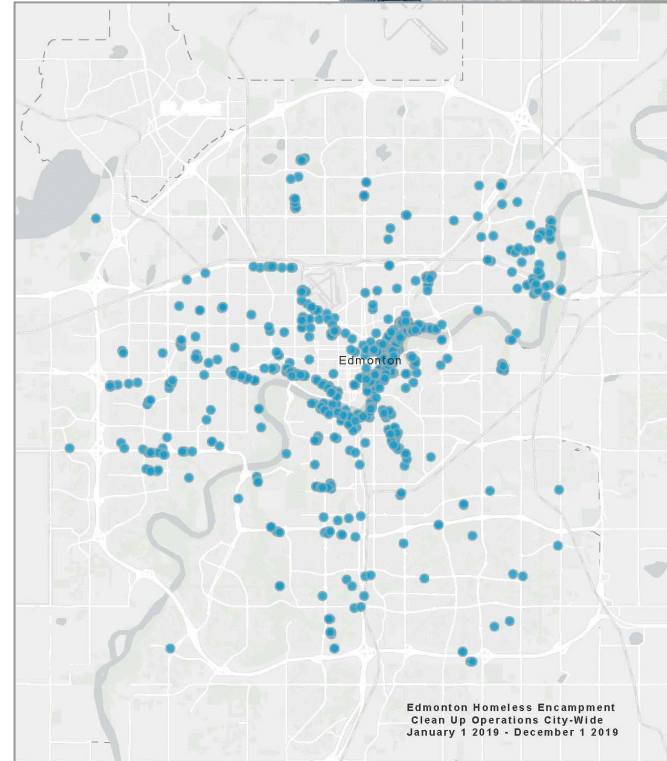
# City Response to Encampments

## Encampments Increasing City-Wide

- Estimated annual cost of camp closure and clean-up for Administration exceeds \$1.8 million
- As of October 30, 2019, there were 4,004 encampment-related 311 inquiries this year, up from 2,171 in all of 2018 and 790 in 2016.

## May 2019

- Council approved *CR 6674: Interim Housing* and corresponding recommendations for improving encampment response
- Directed Administration to explore a targeted approach to areas with concentrations of camps and faster housing solutions for people sleeping outside



# *Improved Encampment Response*



## **Spring 2019: Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine**

- Safety concerns required an immediate evacuation of the park
- Coordinated outreach and clean-up effort took place May 22 - 29, 2019, with elevated enforcement levels until September 1, 2019, costing \$246,000

## **Summer 2019: Increase of encampments in the core**

- Growing encampments in the core adjacent to agencies and along the LRT tracks

## **Fall 2019: Encampment Response Team**

- Cross systems team: Homeward Trust, City of Edmonton, Bissell Centre, Boyle Street Community Services, Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Supports, and Government of Alberta
- Selective enforcement enabled concurrent outreach and housing efforts by multiple partner organizations
- 129 individuals screened onto By Names List, 76 connected to teams, and 16 housed

# *Increasing Access to Shelter & Housing*

**Three barriers consistently impede attempts to reduce the number of people sleeping outside:**

1. Lack of low-barrier shelter options
2. Length of time it takes to connect outside sleepers to housing, which is further challenged by the mobile nature of the unsheltered population
3. Limited available capacity/long wait times for permanent supportive housing and other higher-intensity housing interventions



# *Increasing Access to Shelter & Housing*

## **Lower Barrier Shelters**

- Reduce barriers for occupants by extending operating hours, minimizing 'banning', increased storage for client belongings, allowing couples & pets, smaller facilities/increased privacy, harm reduction/no sobriety requirements

## **Bridge Housing**

- Short-term, continuous stay accommodation for individuals awaiting placement into permanent housing

## **Expedited Permanent Supportive Housing**

- On-site support services for chronically homeless residents with complex and persistent challenges such as mental and physical health barriers and addictions issues



# Summary of Analysis



## Lower Barrier Shelters

- Options include workforce trailers or a sprung tent
- ~\$1.1 - \$2.5 million capital (40-75 beds) + \$680 000 - \$1.6 m/year in operating costs
- Recommend focusing on lowering barriers and improving operations at existing shelters and new shelters coming online

## Bridge Housing

- Options include existing building, modular build, or workforce trailers
- ~\$1.6 - \$6.1 million capital (32-50 units) + \$1.2 - \$2 million/year in operating costs
- Missing infrastructure in homeless-servicing system with significant potential to reduce street homelessness and improve efficiency of housing first system (*will explore further*)

## Expedited Permanent Supportive Housing

- Options include existing building, modular build or tiny homes
- ~\$2 - \$8 million+ capital (15-50 units) + \$400 000 - \$1.3 million/year in operating
- Missing infrastructure that could be expedited using alternative build method (*will explore further*)

# Next Steps

- Continue efforts of Encampment Response Team and work to implement prioritization matrix for enforcement efforts
- Engage Government of Alberta and existing providers to advocate for lower barrier shelters
- Further develop specific proposal for bridge housing using an existing building or workforce trailers
- Further develop specific proposal for expedited PSH using modular construction
- Work with Homeward Trust, the Government of Alberta, and Federal government to identify funding strategies for bridge housing and permanent supportive housing



*Thank you.  
Questions?*

