



# Homelessness in Our Community

Chief of Police Mike Markle



Council Presentation  
July 25, 2017



Homelessness in the United States is an issue many cities are facing. As this problem grows, it is clear that this is not just a police issue, but rather, it is a community issue. Cities around the nation have found that they cannot arrest their way out of these challenges and are continuing to try different ideas to address the homeless issues in their communities.

## Who are the Homeless

- Veterans
- People with substance abuse issues
- People with mental health issues
- Families



## Police Initiatives designed to Reduce Crime, Reduce Panhandling and Enhance the Quality of Life in our Community

- Enforcement
- Community Collaboration
- Education





## Crime Reduction Unit

The Crime Reduction Unit was started in January of 2016 with the mission of addressing Criminal issues surrounding the homeless in the uptown/ downtown areas.

The Unit is comprised of 10 Police Officers and 1 Lieutenant

4 Bike Officers

4 Enduro Officers

2 Golf UTV Officers

These officers focus on quality life issues, while addressing criminal activity committed by the homeless and those who prey upon them.

**2016**

Calls for service: 4463

Arrests: 1718

**2017**

Calls for service: 3303 YTD

Arrests: 964





# Enforcement

## City Ordinance Prohibiting Panhandling in Certain Areas

In January of 2016, the city council approved an ordinance designed to tackle the issue of panhandling in the Downtown, Uptown and North Beach Areas. In addition, it imposed restrictions in other areas of the city.

### **38-43 Solicitation prohibited**

(a) A person commits an offense if they solicit funds or receive funds in relation to a solicitation on a public roadway or sidewalk located within any of the following:

- (1) Central Business District; or
- (2) North Beach;

(b) A person commits an offense if they solicit funds on private property.

(1) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this subsection if the solicitation of funds was being conducted on property with permission of the owner, manager, or other person in control of the property.

(c) A person commits an offense if they solicit funds within 25 feet of:

- (1) an automated teller machine;
- (2) an entrance or exit of a bank, credit union, or other similar financial institution;
- (3) a public transportation stop; or
- (4) an outdoor dining area of a fixed food establishment.

(d) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the person solicited or received funds for a non-commercial purpose while exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, or the right of assembly

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# Enforcement



## Patrol

- Adam District
- Delta District
- Charlie District
- Bravo District



Each District is responding to homeless issues on a daily basis

- Issuance of Criminal Trespass signs to property owners who are experiencing trespass issues
  - Policing of the districts for violations of the law
  - Addressing camping issues under the overpasses on the districts
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# Enforcement

- Narcotics Vice Investigations Division
  - Undercover Operations targeting Synthetic Cannabinoid dealers around the homeless.
  - Prostitution stings which often result in the arrest of homeless prostitutes.
  - Red Cord Program
  - 837 arrest in 2016 for Synthetic Cannabinoid
  - 191 arrest in 2017 for Synthetic Cannabinoid





# Community Collaboration

- Homeless Initiatives Partnership (HIP)
- Pathways
- Homeless Meter Program Locations
  1. Howard's BBQ
  2. Executive Surf Club
  3. Boots and Britches.
  4. La Palmera Mall (Food Court), 5488 SPID,
  5. Catfish Charlies, 5830 McArdle.
  6. Packard Tire, 9930 SPID
  7. Brewster Street Ice House, 1724 N. Tancanhua,
  8. Rockits Whiskey Bar, 709 N. Chaparral
- Advisory Council on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Substance Abuse
- Coastal Bend Recovery Oriented Systems of Care
- Coastal Bend Community Response Coalition







# Education

- Do not support panhandling give to local charities signs
  - Public service Announcements
  - Community meetings to address issues presented when you support panhandling
  - Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Training for Officers
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# Challenges for Police

- Jail overcrowding issues
- Limited space in mental health facilities
- Person must want to be helped





# Moving Forward

- We cannot arrest our way out of this situation
  - Law Enforcement is only part of a comprehensive plan needed to address homelessness and the challenges it creates in our community.
  - Community collaboration is the only way we will effectively find long term solutions to helping those in need.
  - Police will continue to enforce criminal issues involving the homeless.
  - Police will continue to work with other city departments, along with community stakeholders to bring positive change to this issue.
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# **Solid Waste Operations**

## **Litter Clean-Up Efforts**



Council Briefing  
July 25, 2017



# Solid Waste Operations

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Solid Waste Operations provides waste removal and management for the residents of Corpus Christi.

To assist with the cleanliness of the City, Solid Waste Operations provides:

- Curbside brush and bulky collections
  - Litter Critter program and support services
  - Street sweeping services
  - Residential and school education programs
  - Code compliance
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# Brush & Bulky Services

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Solid Waste Operations provides 4 brush and 2 bulky collections a year. Residents may also take their items to the JC Elliott Collection Center free, if they receive city services.

Number of customer accounts: 88,000

One Brush & Bulky Cycle (March 20 – July 11, 2017)

- 10,172 tons or 231 lbs per account collected
- 4,184 tons or 95 lbs per account delivered by residents

One Brush & Bulky Cycle (Sept 12 – Dec. 10, 2016)

- 6,182 tons or 141 lbs per account collected
  - 2,143 tons or 49 lbs per account delivered by residents
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# Litter Critter Services

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The Litter Critter program provides residents an additional opportunities to dispose of brush and bulky debris without hauling it to the JC Elliott Collection Center.

- Residents may request a litter critter for their use
- Litter Critter Program at Padre Island
- Litter Critter Program at Flour Bluff

Future plans includes an expansion of the Litter Critter program for neighborhood clean-ups.

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# Event Services



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Solid Waste Operations provides dumpsters or extra collections for clean-ups and events around the city.

- Police Department homeless clean-ups: 10 a year
- Downtown Management District – Two dumpsters provided and collection assistance
- Assistance to Parks & Recreation events, Homeowner Association events, large local events and clean-ups: 14

Future plans include utilizing a pop-up trailer with supplies for cleaning assistance for groups and schools to use during their clean-ups.

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# Street Sweeping



- Solid Waste Operations manages the street sweeping program and has started a pilot program that targets stormwater drainage areas.

Miles of curbs swept: 2015 - 5,484    2016 – 5,853

- TxDot manages mowing and collection of visual litter on Crosstown, IH 37, SPID and NPID. They utilize contractors and a street sweeping crew to pick-up the debris.

Future plans include enlarging the SWO street sweeping program to other parts of the city and a yearly citywide sweeping program.



# Resident Education



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In 2014-2015, Solid Waste Operations ran an extensive anti-litter campaign for nine months which consisted of two phases  
“The Wrath” and “Leave It Better Than you Found It”

- Campaign included a mobile application that encouraged residents to collect trash and take an online pledge to “Leave it Better.”

Number of Pledges Taken: 2,209

Committed Business Partners: 38

Future plans are currently in development for a 5-year plan that will focus projects toward additional anti-litter initiatives.

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# School Education

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For recycling and anti-litter education, Solid Waste Operations contracts with Communities In Schools (CIS), a community resource program that employs a school-based coordinator at each school. With CIS, middle school students are immersed in recycling and anti-litter education by participating in week long events. CIS provides a consistent avenue for student education, that remains unaffected by the ever-changing personnel within the school systems.

- Number of Communities In Schools locations: 19
  - Number of Students participating: 13,527
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# School Education



Solid Waste Operations partners with the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and Curby, the Recycling Robot to conduct school presentations to include anti-litter messaging and consequences of litter.

Number of school presentations: 19

Number of students reached: 5,865

Picky Pete, is another anti-litter campaign Solid Waste utilizes in Elementary Schools to teach students “Why Pass it Up, Pick it Up”.

- Number of Elementary Schools with the Picky Pete Program: 43
- Number of students reached: 21,735

(includes CCISD, Callallen ISD, London ISD, West Oso ISD & Tulo-so-Midway ISD)



# Code Compliance

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Two officers manage compliance of debris on the right-a-ways, illegal set-outs and illegal dumping. Three officers manage the gate at the JC Elliott Collection Center. Drivers assess fees for the collection of unauthorized set-outs.

- Number of set-out violations issued: 1,400

Fees range from \$75 for an unauthorized set-out to \$200 for an illegal set-out.



# Additional Efforts

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Solid Waste coordinates the Adopt-A-Beach clean-up effort at Cole Park and assists with the waste disposal for the other three locations.

2017	1,114 volunteers	19,746 lbs
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Solid Waste purchases the yellow onion bags for beach clean-ups which are maintained by the Parks & Recreation department.

- 150,000 bags purchased since February 2015
  - 8,000 bags utilized during Spring Break 2017
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# Additional Efforts

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Solid Waste works with schools to offer volunteer opportunities and clean-up events.

- Number of clean-ups with school volunteers: 16

The Utility Department, has started an Illegal Dumping Action Board with other city departments. The department also conducts neighborhood sweeps to educate residents about proper disposal of trash and has adopted three parks in an attempt to combat floatables.

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# Future Projects

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- Expand the Litter Critter program for neighborhood clean-ups to allow residents to organize clean-ups in their areas.
  - Create a “Pop-Up Clean-Up” trailer that will house supplies for groups and schools to use during their clean-up events.
  - Expand the Solid Waste street sweeping program to other parts of the city to further combat floatable litter.
  - Develop a 5-year plan that will focus on anti-litter initiatives.
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# Parks and Recreation

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- Work Release / Community Service Pilot Program
- Homeless / Indigent Labor – Proposed Future Project





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# Questions?

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