



**DRAFT**

# **CITY OF CONCORD**

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## **Public Safety Board - Subcommittee on Homelessness -**

December 13, 2024 – City Council Chambers

### **In Attendance**

#### **Members:**

Councilor Jennifer Kretovic

Councilor Jeff Foote

Councilor Jim Schlosser

Jessica Eskeland (Chair)

#### **Staff:**

Fire Chief John Chisholm

Deputy Fire Chief Mark Hebert

Deputy Police Chief Barrett Moulton

Police Social Worker Michelle McGonagle

Police Social Worker Nicole Pertrin

**Guests:** Byron Champlin

**Minute Taker:** Jennifer Miskovic

### **Welcome from the Chair**

Chair Jessica Eskeland called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the October 11, 2024, meeting were reviewed.

Councilor Jeff Foote moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Kretovic seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.



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## **Current Homelessness Updates – Deputy Chief Barrett Moulton**

Deputy Chief Barrett Moulton provided an update on recent incidents related to the unhoused population:

### **Calls for Service:**

- 27 calls for unwanted guests
- 11 arrests (charges: theft, simple assault, criminal mischief, criminal trespassing, possession of a controlled substance, disorderly conduct, including outstanding warrants)
- 12 calls for suspicious vehicles related to the unhoused
- 18 direct control actions (officers assigned to encampments and foot patrols)
- 6 medical calls (Fire/EMS assistance)
- 5 "attempt to locate" requests (family members asking police to locate unhoused individuals)
- 1 burglary
- 3 theft reports
- 2 disorderly conduct incidents (urination and defecation on public property)

**Encampment Cleanups:** Downtown businesses have expressed concern over encampments in the area. However, there has been a noticeable decrease in encampments along the railroad corridor, stretching from Water Street to Route 393, compared to last year.

The City has contracted Trauma 24 for encampment cleanups.

Recent cleanups included areas such as:

Parking lot across from the Friendly Soup Kitchen on Constitution Ave and South Commercial parking lot

Locke Road Area. The City previously spent \$65,000 on a cleanup on Locke Road.

Adam from General Services coordinates these efforts.

**Encampment Fires:** Mayor Champlin inquired about the nature of encampment fires. Deputy Chief Moulton and Fire Chief John Chisholm explained that many fires remain undetermined, though causes can include:

Arson, retaliation, or accidental causes (e.g., cooking, combustion from oily rags, lithium battery failures, or heat sources like wood-burning stoves used in tents).



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## **Resource List Update**

### **Library Resource List:**

The Concord Library has updated its resource list, which includes the latest available services for the unhoused. This list has been distributed to all officers, and the Fire Department will also have copies available at each station.

### **Cold Weather Shelter:**

The shelter at 238 North Main Street opened on December 2, 2024. Currently, it has not reached full capacity, with 20 sets of bunk beds available.

## **Discussion: Homelessness Solutions**

A discussion followed about possible solutions to homelessness. Other cities have experimented with creating centralized designated areas for the unhoused, but this has proven to be neither cost-effective nor successful. The group explored ways the County could collaborate with the City to support the homeless and improve resource coordination.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Committee would like to express gratitude to the Concord Police and Fire Departments for their ongoing efforts in ensuring the safety of both the public and the unhoused.

## **Future Agenda Planning**

- Invite the County Sheriff to attend a future meeting.
- Invite a new County Commissioner to participate.

## **Adjournment**

Jessica Eskeland moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Kretovic seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.**