

City of Loveland

# TOWN HALL EMERGENCY UNAUTHORIZED ENCAMPMENT BAN

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
AUGUST 24, 2022





# GOALS FOR TODAY



## LEARN

**Listen to a short presentation from City Staff providing an update on the Emergency Unauthorized Encampment Ban including:**

- What the ban is and why it exists
- The need for shelter in Loveland to enforce the ban
- Details about the proposed S. Railroad site shelter
- Addressing concerns and questions



## SHARE

**Attendees will be invited to ask questions, and share public input to City Council and Staff:**

- Two microphones available in aisleways. Please form lines and we will alternate lines to address the public.
  - Limited public forum comment criteria will exist including: 1) attendees must state their name and city of residence, 2) responses/questions will be limited to three minutes.

# Town Hall Ground Rules



## **We respect each other's opinions**

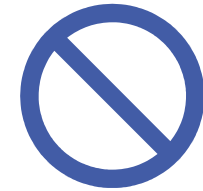
Conversation is expected to be respectful, courteous, and appropriate.



## **Listen to each other respectfully – Don't interrupt**

Please - no outbursts during the presentation.

Write comments/questions down on your cards to keep track of what you want to ask/say instead. Then use the Q&A time to be addressed.



## **We refrain from personal attacks**

# AGENDA

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ADDRESSING QUESTIONS

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WHY ARE WE HERE

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WHAT IS THE BAN AND  
PROCESS

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HOMELESSNESS IN LOVELAND

>

SHELTER SELECTION PROCESS

>

S. RAILROAD SITE OPTION

>

PUBLIC SAFETY/LPD

>

Q&A

>

ADJOURN





# ADDRESSING THE COMMUNITY'S TOP QUESTIONS

1

Why is this happening?

6

What about our public safety concerns?

2

Why this location? What else did you consider?

7

What about those who don't want shelter?

3

Data: Who is here? Why? What do we know?

8

What does the process look like?

4

If we build shelter, won't it attract more?

9

Why is this happening so fast?

5

What are the shelter details – rules, security, etc.?

10

Why don't we get a vote?



# WHY ARE WE HERE? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The City has been addressing homelessness in several ways since 2019.

- Overnight Winter Shelter
- Strategic Plan Approved in 2021
- Monitoring/Cleaning Encampments

On May 17, 2022, City Council voted 8-1 to approve:

- An emergency ordinance to create an unauthorized encampment ban
  - Ordinance = local law
- A supplemental appropriation for \$500,000 to begin this effort

**Why?** To minimize risk to public safety and damage to public/private property, and mitigate fire risk







# WHY ARE WE HERE? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

## What does an emergency ordinance mean according to City Code?

- Requires emergency need
- Changes to approval process
- Requires 2/3 Council vote
- No public vote required by charter/state law
- Expedited timeline
- Council vote indicates immediate action

## Council's direction to the City was to:

- Focus on King's Crossing vicinity to support businesses being impacted by encampments
- Move quickly, but adhere to guidance from Martin vs. Boise
- Include resource navigation to assist in connection to local support services





# WHAT DOES THE UNAUTHORIZED ENCAMPMENT BAN MEAN?

The City can now move anyone  
who is camping illegally on public  
property, IF:

- We offer them somewhere else to go (shelter)
- We provide reasonable storage for 60 days





# WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR CAMPERS ONCE THEY RECEIVE NOTICE.

**CITY GIVES NOTICE**

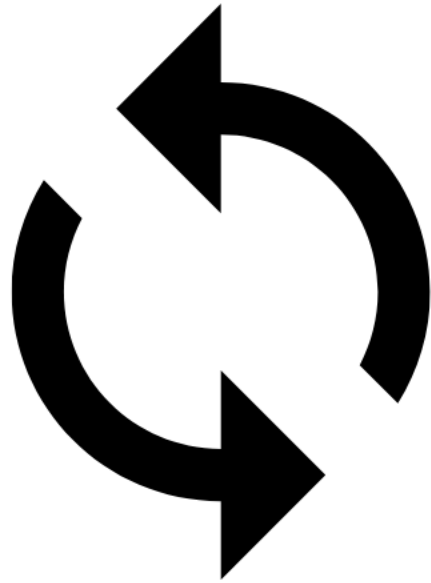
**SHELTER**

- Accept move to shelter
- Select valuables to storage
- Moved to shelter
- Meet with staff/connect to services

**MOVE ON**

- Decline shelter offer
- Notified to leave, remove camp
- Don't comply = City removes camp
- Citations if they return
- Arrest possible

# What is the process?



**Enforcement**



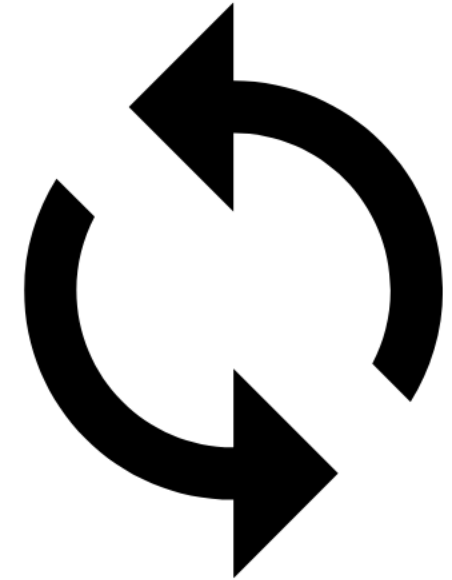
**STEP 1**  
**Notice**

**STEP 2**  
**Remove/Move**

**STEP 3**  
**Encampment Clean-Up**

**STEP 4**  
**Site Restoration**

**STEP 5**  
**Ready for Public Use**

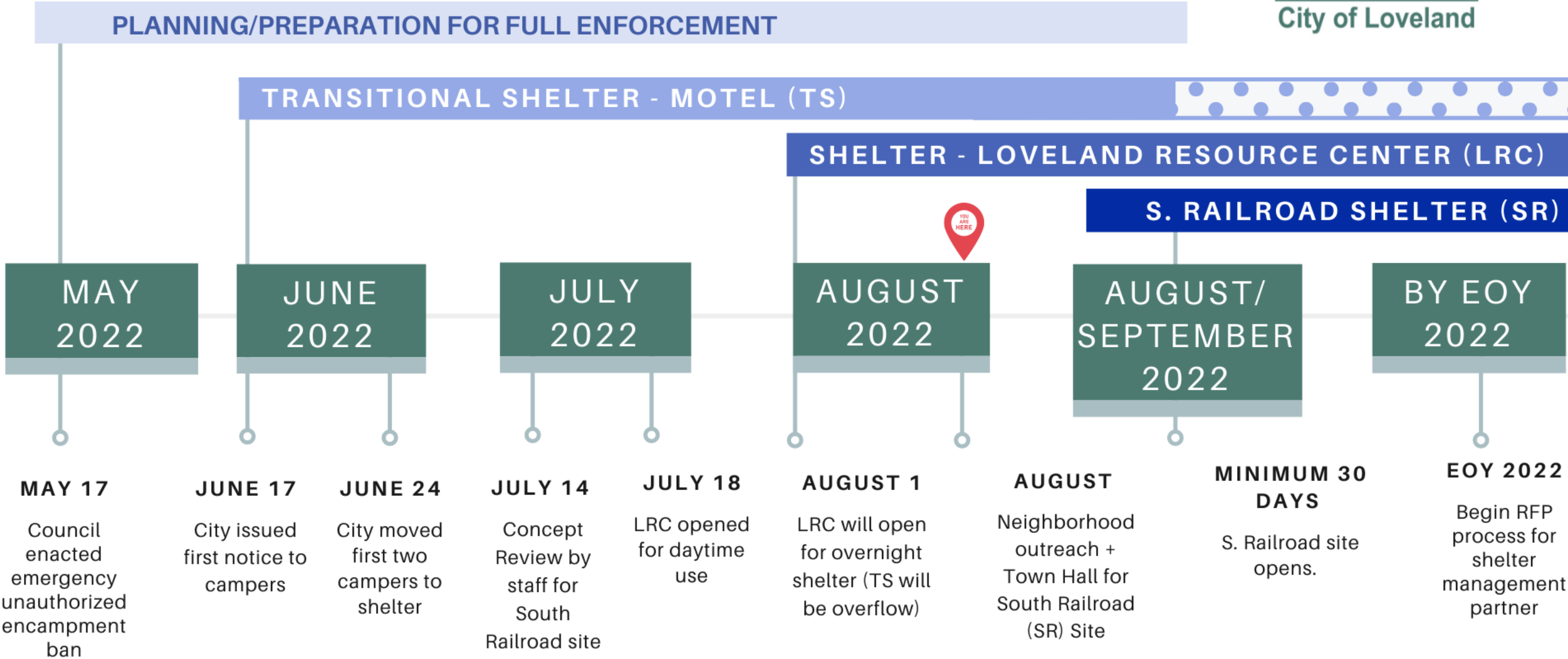


**Shelter & Resource Management**



# MILESTONE TIMELINE

What we have done and where we are going.



# THE LARGER HOMELESS CONVERSATION

DATA: WHO IS HERE? WHY? WHAT DO WE KNOW?

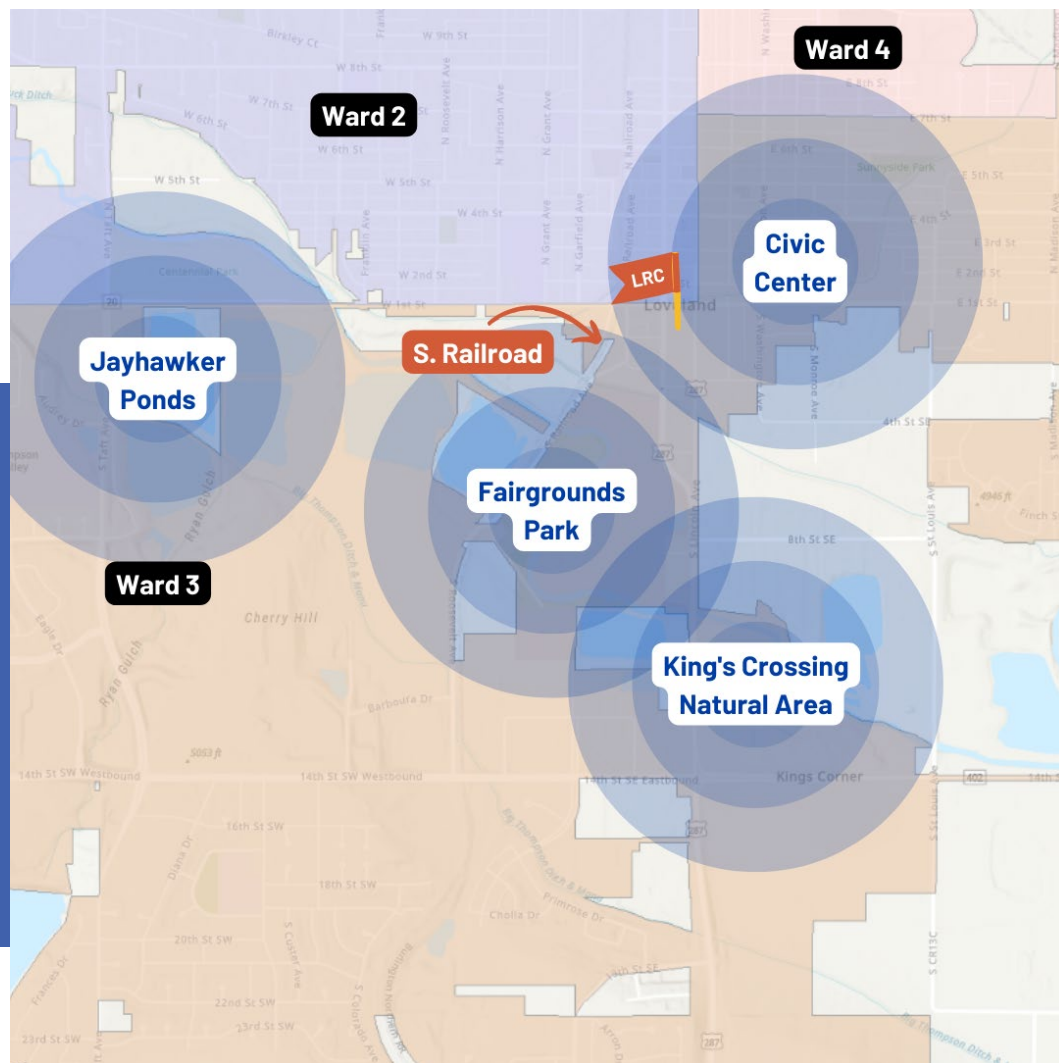


- **January 2022 Point in Time Count**
  - Loveland = 169 individuals
    - 53 (37.5%) sheltered
    - 116 (62.5%) unsheltered (encampments)
  - Larimer County (554) = 34% chronically homeless
  - Larimer County (554): Substance Use Disorders or Serious Mental Illness
    - No = 55.4%
    - Yes = 44.6%
- **HMIS Tracking Opportunities** available through LRC, shelter option once available
- **What We Can't & Don't Track/Ask (without HMIS)**
  - Personal details without evidence of a crime
  - Personal details during encampment removal noticing



# THE LARGER HOMELESS CONVERSATION

DATA: WHO IS HERE? WHY? WHERE ARE THEY?



- **What brings people here?**
  - Loveland (no year-round shelter) has seen homelessness increase from 2019-2020 by ~19% while homelessness slightly decreased in Fort Collins (multiple year-round shelters)
  - **Data and qualitative information show that camping has likely been the driver**
- **Where are they staying? Unauthorized encampments today**
  - Encampments currently spread throughout the City,
  - Most centered downtown near services, LRC and proposed site
- **Encampment Point in Time Count**
  - August 15, 2022 = 47 encampments
  - (King's Crossing, River's Edge Natural Area, Fairgrounds Park, Cottonwood Run, Civic Center)
  - Current Focus = King's Crossing
    - Cleaned to-date = 25
    - Remaining = 14
    - Individuals relocated = 31



# INTRODUCING THE LOVELAND RESOURCE CENTER (LRC)

- **Why This Location?**
  - Replaces 137 Connect operated by House of Neighborly Services + City's Nightly Winter Shelter in same location for 12 years
    - Loveland-based homeless residents choosing resources/support know to come here
- **Serves Primarily a Day Center (opened July 18)**
  - Open 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday to anyone experiencing homelessness
- **Overnight beds available 7 nights per week**
  - 22-25 beds in the building if needed
  - Humanitarian tents behind building (similar to S. Railroad site)
- **Showers/laundry/restrooms/hygiene products**
- **Computers/help accessing resources**
- **Services provided by** Summit Stone, Northern Colorado Health Alliance, Homeward Alliance, etc.



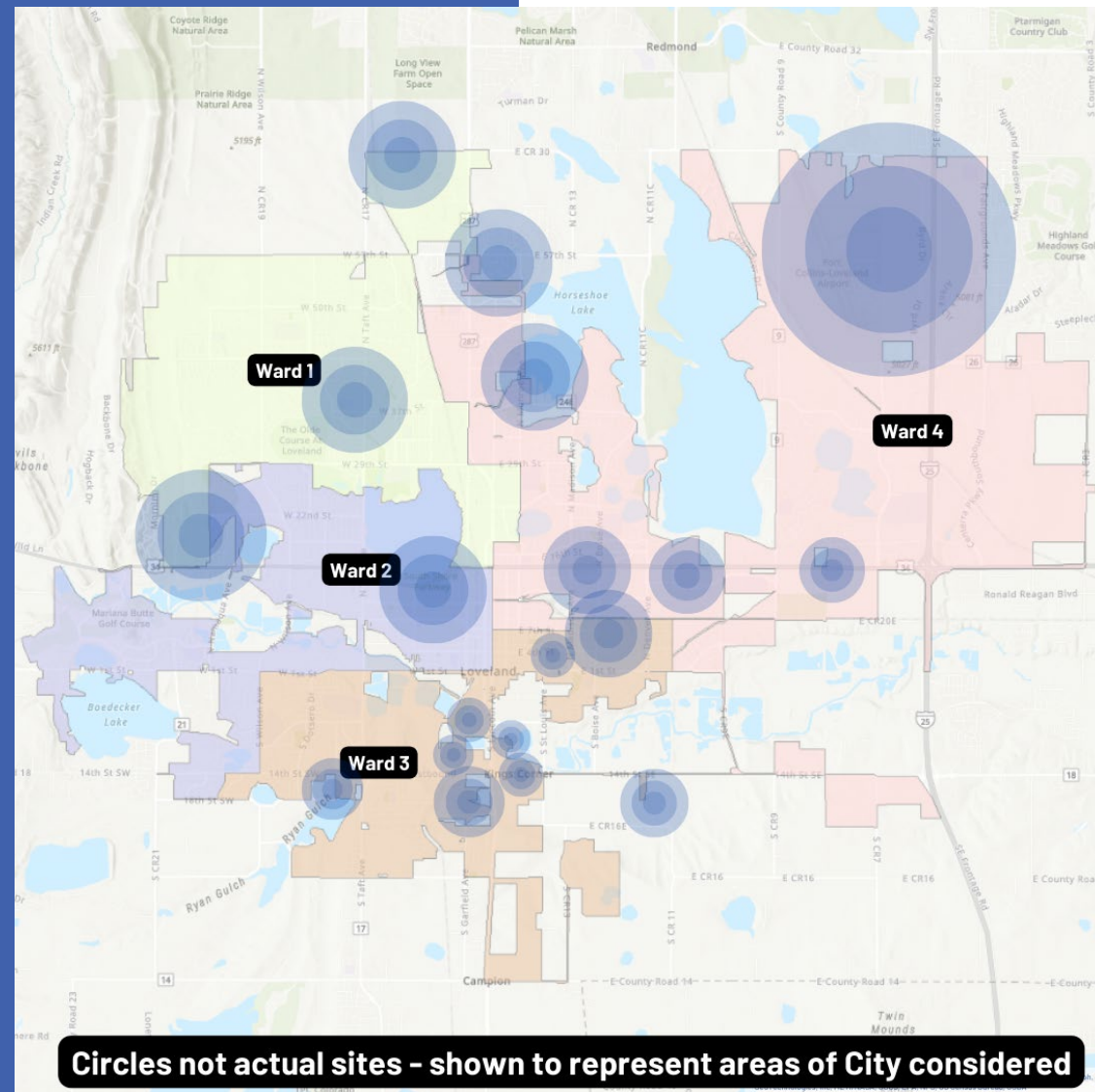
# SHELTER SELECTION PROCESS

## CRITERIA

- Zoning
- Site prep requirements/scalability
- Proximity to schools/neighborhoods
- Access to services + public transit
- Availability/ownership

## SEARCH

- All Wards
- All City-owned property (over 50 parcels, eliminated floodplain sites)
- All private property available for lease/sale (no site met all criteria listed above)
- Property outside city limits not considered due to County zoning codes





# SHELTER SELECTION PROCESS

## S. RAILROAD AVE. SITE

Ultimately, there is no perfect site. S. Railroad site was the one final property available within the short timeline requested by City Council that met all the criteria:

- Appropriate Zoning
  - Site prep/availability/scalability (we can size up as needed)
  - Relative distance from schools/neighborhoods
  - Proximity to public transit + services
- 
- **The S. Railroad Site shelter space has been approved for temporary zoning permit, which can be renewed every six months to extend use.**
  - **The site will be required to abide by all development criteria needed for a temporary permit through the City's building code.**







**ditesco**  
Project & Construction Services

# S. RAILROAD SITE

## WHAT SHELTER STRUCTURES WILL BE ONSITE?



3-Stall Bathroom

**Trailer/Modular Units**  
Used for admin, showers, restrooms,  
resource support



8-Stall  
Shower





# S. RAILROAD SITE

## WHAT SHELTER STRUCTURES WILL BE ONSITE?

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**FEMA Humanitarian Tents**  
Used as overnight shelter space. Furniture and layout options to be finalized.



# S. RAILROAD SITE

WHAT SHELTER STRUCTURES WILL BE ONSITE?

## Storage

Connex storage containers holding individual storage containers will be onsite.

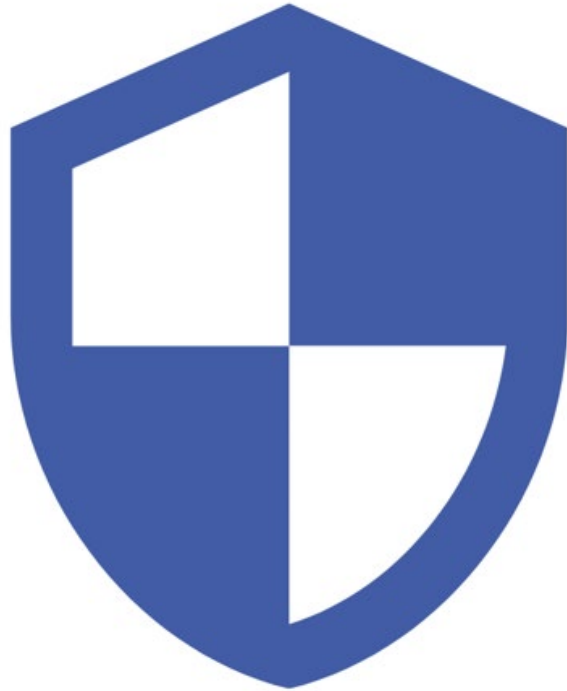




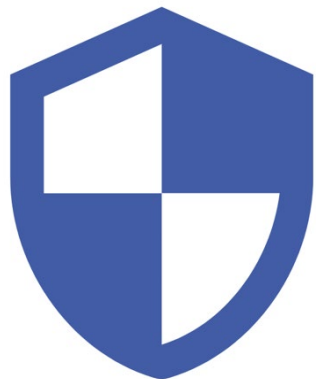


# S. RAILROAD SITE

## WHAT WILL SECURITY LOOK LIKE?



- 24/7 Security Personnel
- Security Cameras
- Screened fencing is planned to be installed around the outside of the shelter space

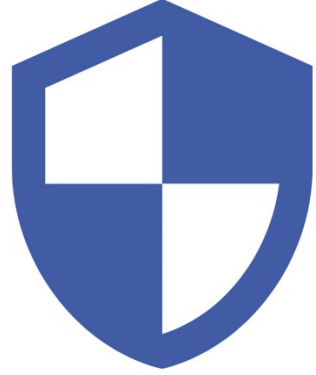


# WHAT ARE SHELTER RULES AND POLICIES?

Shelter rules and guidelines based on best practices from experienced agencies already providing overnight shelter. Will cover:

- Admission policy – low-barrier shelter means no drug/alcohol testing required.
- Hours
- Length of stay
- Belongings
- Code of Conduct: All individuals at shelter required to sign code of conduct/rules document confirming they understand:
  - No tolerance violence
  - no threats/inappropriate behavior
  - no sexual activity
  - no non-prescription drugs or alcohol
  - no weapons
- Violations asked to leave immediately, and further consequences will be determined.





# ADDRESSING PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

## Addressing LPD calls for service and responding to complaints:

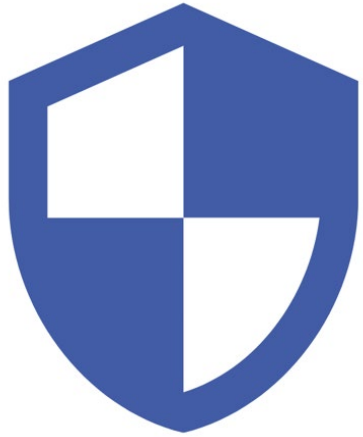
- The police department is inundated with calls and complaints regarding the homeless and other issues in the downtown area and citizens can get frustrated.
- LPD is understaffed but working to resolve that.
- All LPD calls have varying levels of what LPD can enforce
  - Decriminalization of drugs
  - LPD responds to all call calls for service
  - Due process requirements

## LPD by the #'s Downtown

- 3,818 calls (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Streets and Madison to Grant avenues) January – August 15, 2022
  - Top 11 reasons = Abandoned vehicles, extra patrol, welfare check, suspicious circumstance, assist citizen, transient, assist business, disturbance, mental health, alarm, disorderly conduct



# ADDRESSING PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS



## LPD's Community Engagement Unit

- Part-time unit, pending 2023 budget request to make it full time with multiple officers
- Serve as part of City's response team and assist in the interaction between downtown residents/businesses and homeless individuals

## Interactions with Homeless Population

- LPD deals with a small % of those in Loveland
- Being homeless is not illegal, but behaviors can be
- Traditional law enforcement has proven not to work with this part of our population
  - Require additional follow-up, consistency and approach + case management

These calls require a different approach than regular LPD calls.

Help by reporting things when they see them.  
970-667-2151 or 911 for emergencies.



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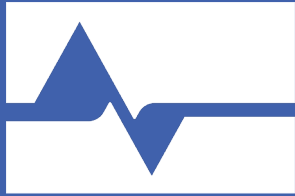
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# THANK YOU & NEXT STEPS

