

Middle Shooks Run Neighborhood Association

Discussing Homeless Issues

February 15, 2017

CSPD Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

- 4 officers whose job is to create relationships with homeless and connect them with resources
- Our area is served by more HOT officers than the rest of the city, Chief has prioritized downtown
- In Shooks Run, a majority of the homeless are 19-26 yrs old and choose this lifestyle
- Working with Parks to put up more signs prohibiting camping, blocking access to areas used for camping under bridges, and cutting vegetative growth back for better visibility
- Citizens voiced concerns regarding drug dealing
- Officers stressed that people should continue to call the police regarding any issues. The calls will be funneled to the HOT officers for response.
- Call 911 for immediate response to emergency situations, call 444-7000 to report non-emergency concerns. Narcotics Tipline 444-3111

Kurt Schroeder — Parks Dept.

- Parks is working to keep down vegetation that blocks visibility.
- A park technician may be in our park only about once per week, depending on what else is happening in other parks.
- Mowers are contracted. Local small companies are hired to keep funding local

Aimee Cox — Planning & Community Development

- We need outreach to homeless — they don't necessarily know where to get shelter and what resources are available to them to get out of homelessness
- There is a shortage of "low-barrier" shelter available, the city is working with Springs Rescue Mission
- We need to start talking about homelessness as a public health crisis
- How can we help? Give \$\$ only to organizations that have housing placement as the goal
- We need more affordable housing for people who make below \$71,000/family of 4
- Perception is that we have an increase in homeless who have moved here. Reality is that CO is one of the few states with an increase in homelessness (~300 people), ~70% of homeless here are from here, ~80% are from within the state

Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful

- Will be in the neighborhood March 3 to clean up homeless camp areas
- Citizens voiced concern regarding amount of clothing that litters park & creek
- If you're going to give something, give socks!

Water Resources Engineering (formerly Stormwater Dept.)

- 31 people on staff to maintain our waterways
- dedicated to maintenance & outreach about water resources