



COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Safeguarding our community as our family

Homeless Outreach Team

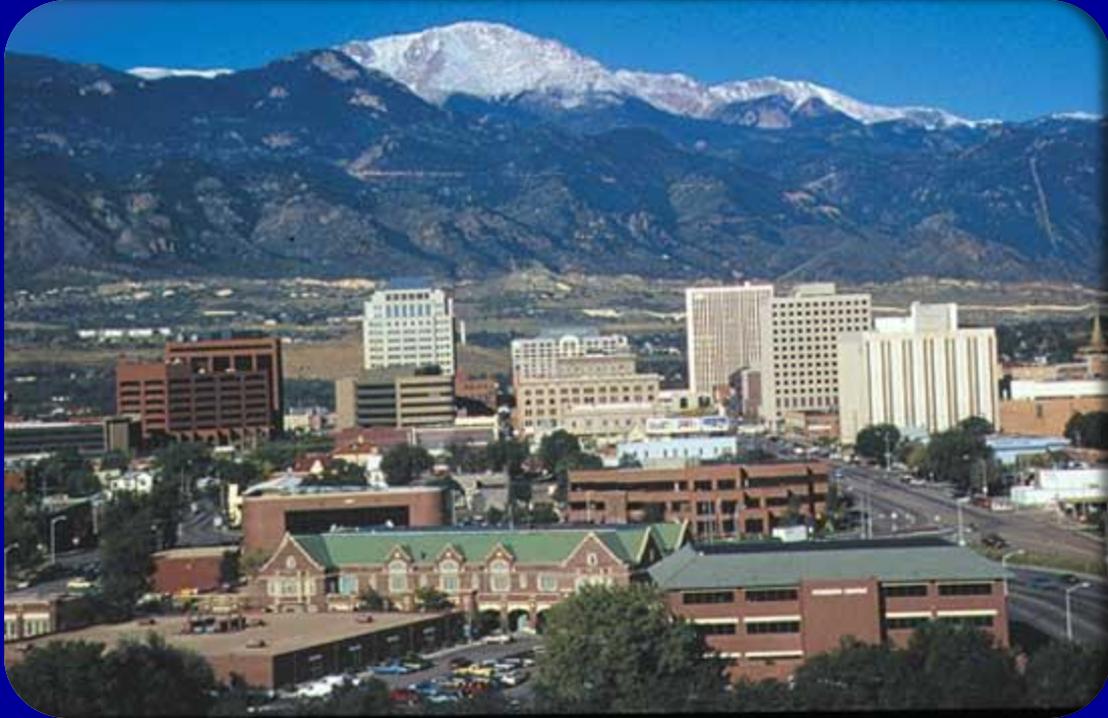
2010 POP Conference
Arlington, Texas





Our City and Home

Safeguarding our community as our family



***46th Largest City
in United States***

***Population:
418,076***

***Area:
194 Square Miles***



***Parks:
102 City Parks
15,266 Acres***

***Urban Trails:
Over 120 Miles***



US Olympic Training Center



US Air Force Academy



Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods



Colorado Springs Police Department

**643 Sworn
Officers**

**274 Civilian
Employees**



Safeguarding our community as our family



COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Scanning

Analysis

Response

Assessment





Neighborhood Policing Unit (N.P.U.)

Enforcement of trespassing
and camping laws

Keep Colorado Springs
Beautiful (K.C.S.B.)
clean-ups



Trash removed from the camps between 2001 and 2008

1,170 FEET

1,069 FEET

305 FEET

260 thirty cubic yard roll off trash containers

1,040 tons of trash removed



**T
R
A
S
H**



American Civil Liberties Union (A.C.L.U.) demands halt to clean ups



Influx of Homeless

**Migrated
closer to
service
providers**





Safeguarding our community as our family



Public Outcry

Community

Vs.

Advocates

- Unsightly
- Unsanitary
- Fire Hazards
- Safety Concerns
- Poor Image



- Heavy Handed Police
- Homeless Rights
- Lack of Shelter





Advocates Enabled Homeless Campers

gazette.com
COLORADO SPRINGS The Gazette

Organizer of 'village' for homeless making strides

August 28, 2009 4:39 PM

DEBBIE KELLEY
The Gazette

Larry Vestal's eyes light up as he talks about a dream that's getting closer to reality: a permanent village in Colorado Springs where up to 400 transients could camp, grow vegetables, watch movies, take educational classes and work odd jobs.

Vestal, known as "K.C.," has lived on the streets for three years. His current home is dubbed Ezekiel's Meadows, a popular transient stomping ground along Fountain Creek, where 10 to 20 tents are set up on any day.

But he wants more for himself and his colleagues, so he's helping push to create Dignity Village of Colorado Springs, a designated site for transients that would provide oversight and amenities such as toilets and showers, activities, ways to earn money and rules more lenient than those at the local homeless shelter.



Economic Impacts on the City





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Considerations

Underlying causes of homelessness

Understanding the individual

Role of police and community

Move toward solutions



The Right Fit



Hand selected
three officer team

Extensive
background in
Problem Oriented
Policing (POP)

Familiar with complexity of homelessness

Each officer has 8 years experience in POP and
homeless issues



Information Gathering

Extent of the issue

Best practices

Litigation

Permissible tent cities

Local service providers



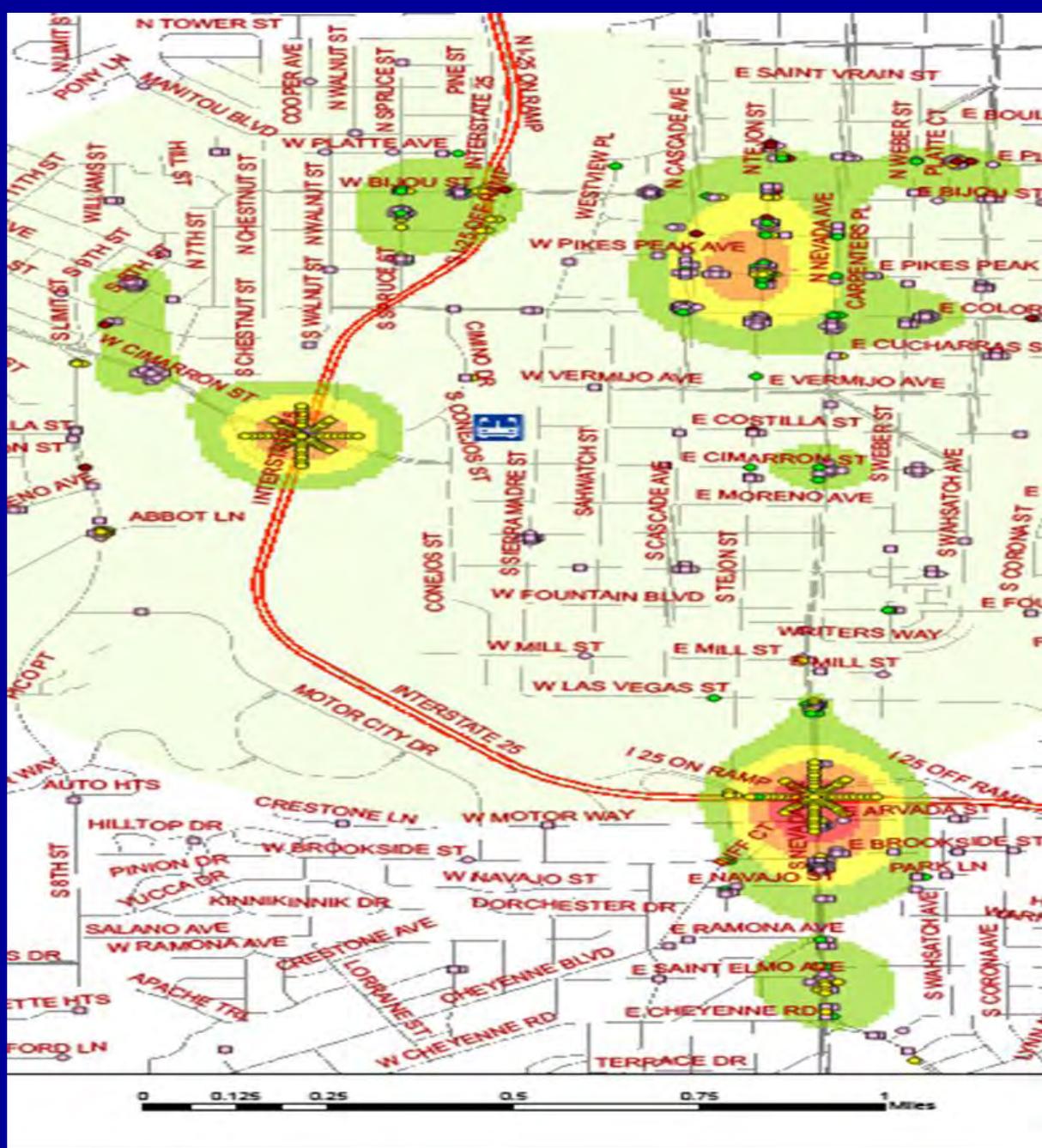
Homeward Pikes Peak

A 10-year blueprint to serve every homeless citizen in the Pikes Peak region

Community Homeless Assistance Providers (CHAP) meetings



Associated Calls for Service



the box

Thinking “outside”

Breaking down
barriers with
socks!



Surveys of the Homeless

Over 100 surveyed in a one month period

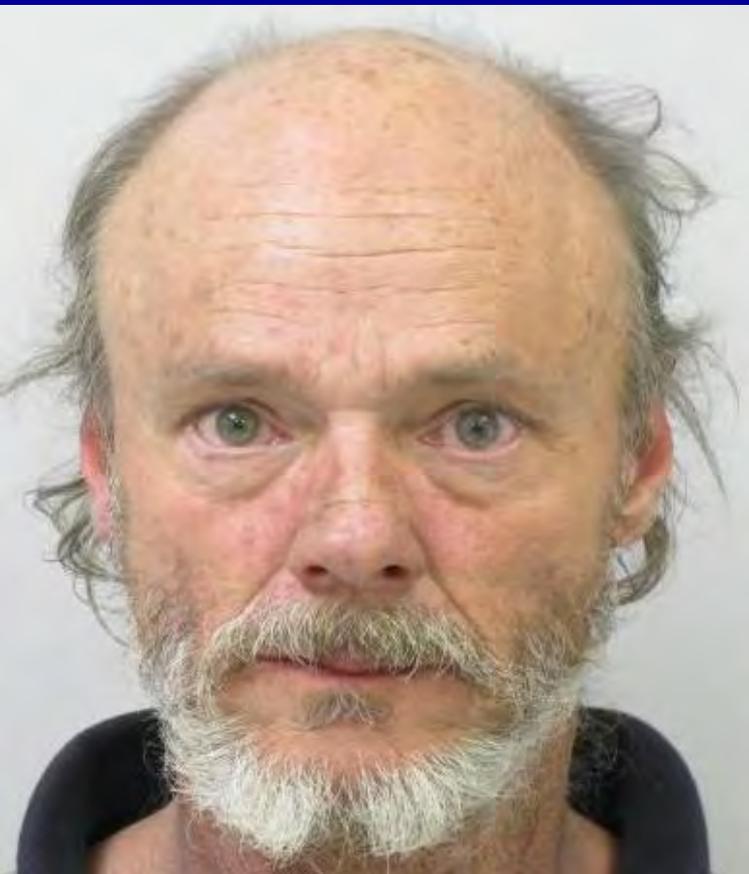
Why homeless?

Why not in shelters?

Knowledge about resources available?

Why Colorado Springs?





“Magic” Strings



What Works?

Denver, CO

Pinellas Park, FL



Pinellas Hope



Pinellas H.O.T.



What's Missing in our Community?

Funding

Organization

Case management

Street level outreach

Collaboration between service providers

Dedicated team of police officers

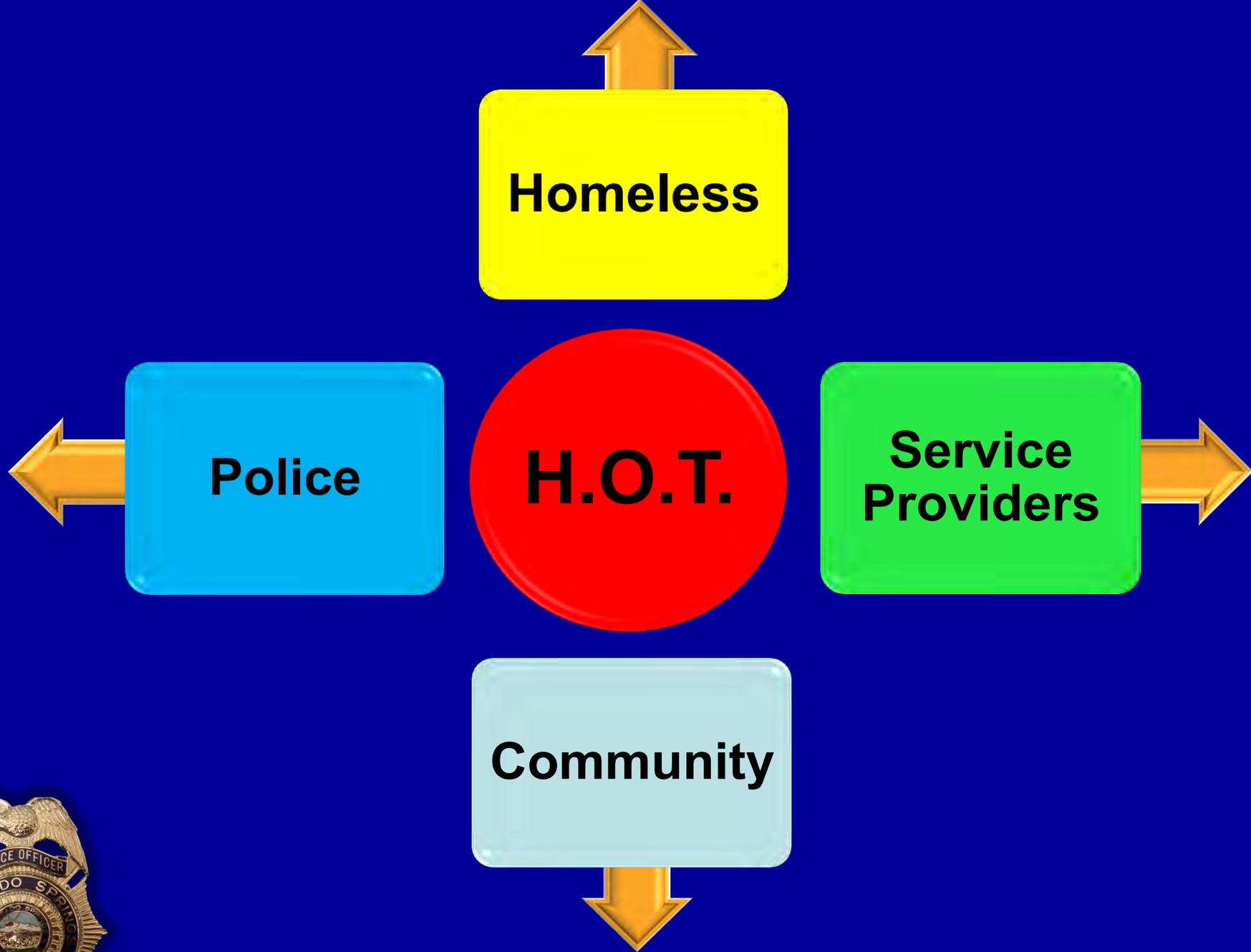


H.O.T.

“...the Colorado Springs Police Department, under the direction of Chief Richard Myers, courageously stepped “out of the box” and created the Homeless Outreach Team, better known as H.O.T.”

Colorado Springs Homelessness Examiner





Moving in the Right Direction

Open community forums

Media coverage

Community involvement

Building relationships





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PARTNERSHIPS

**Community
collaboration
is essential**



Moving Toward a Lasting Solution

More than just a temporary fix

Welfare of the homeless

Environment

Safety of all citizens

Protect the civil rights of everyone



Community's Misguided Generosity

**Helping
or
Enabling**







Key Strategies to Building a Successful Program

Develop and maintain a multi-agency partnership

Ongoing personal contact and trust building between HOT and the homeless

Collaborative efforts to transition homeless into housing

Importance of focused efforts



Community Partners

- Homeward Pikes Peak
- Catholic Charities
- Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful
- A.C.L.U.
- **The Black Pastor's Union**
- TLC Pharmacy
- Harbor House and Haven House
- Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Peak Vista Homeless Clinic
- **Liza's Place**
- Ecumenical Social Ministries
- Resource Advocacy Program



Community Partners

- Pikes Peace Justice and Peace Commission
- The Salvation Army
- **The Veteran's Administration**
- Urban Peak
- The Social Security Administration
- Westside Cares
- Springs Rescue Mission
- Partners in Housing
- Pikes Peak Mental Health
- Harvest Time Redeeming Ministries
- El Paso County Detoxification Facility



Foundations of Trust

Individual Relationships

Help

Respect

Listen

Refer



Community Gets Involved



Laundry



Outreach



Storage



A Change In Clean Up Protocols

Clean up notice posted at least 72 hours in advance

Personal papers are turned over to police

Many homeless individuals are now volunteering and helping



Trash removed from the camps
February 2009 to August 2010

69 thirty cubic yard roll off
containers

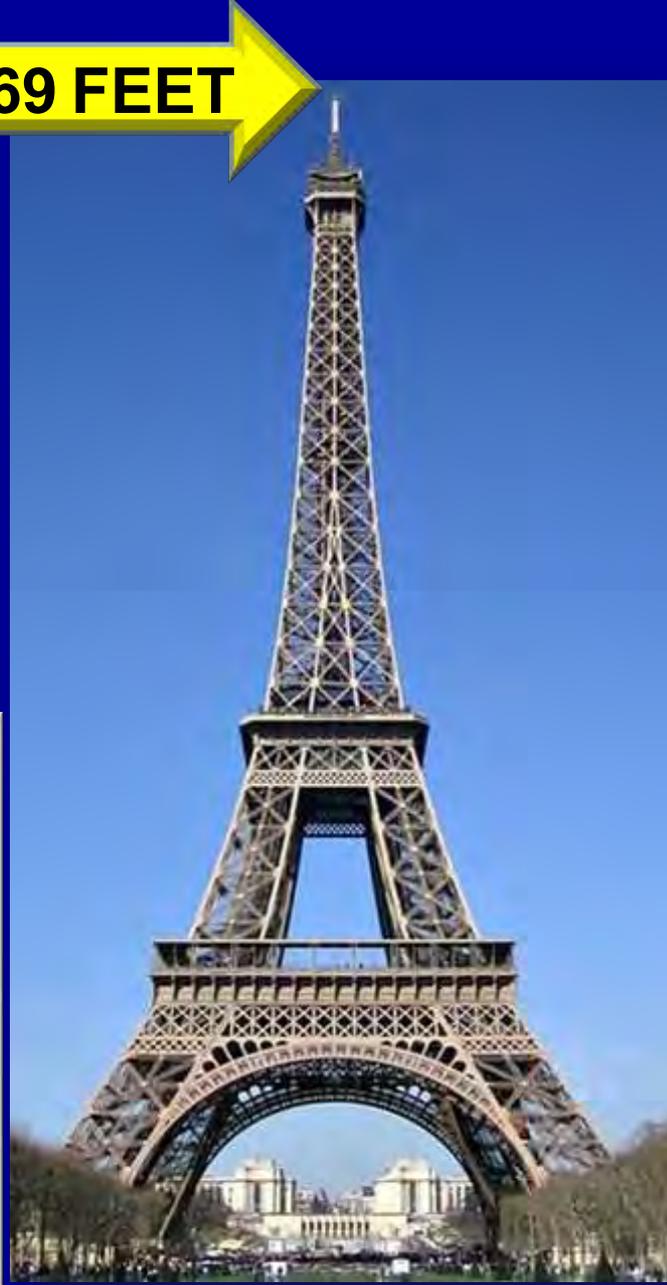
276 tons of trash

1,069 FEET

414 FEET

305 FEET

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R
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S
H



Agencies Working in Concert on Proposed Ordinance

City Attorney's Office

Homeless Advocacy Groups

A.C.L.U.

C.S.P.D. (H.O.T.)



**Colorado Springs City Council
hears proposal and approves
“No Camping” ordinance on
February 9th, 2010**



“Therapeutic Nudge” Toward Self-Sufficiency



9.6.109: CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY PROHIBITED:

A. It is unlawful for any person to camp on any public property, except as may be specifically authorized by the appropriate governmental authority.

B. For purposes of this section camp or camping means to use the public area for living accommodation including, but not limited to, the activities and circumstances listed below. These activities and circumstances may be considered in determining whether reasonable grounds for belief have arisen that a person has camped or is camping in violation of this ordinance.

1. Sleeping or making preparations to sleep, including the lying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping.

2. Occupying a shelter out-of-doors. Shelter shall mean any cover or protection from the elements other than clothing, such as a tent, shack, sleeping bag, or other structure or material.

3. The presence or use of a camp fire, camp stove or other heating source or cooking device.

4. Keeping or storing personal property.

Procedure

H.O.T. only unit to enforce ordinance

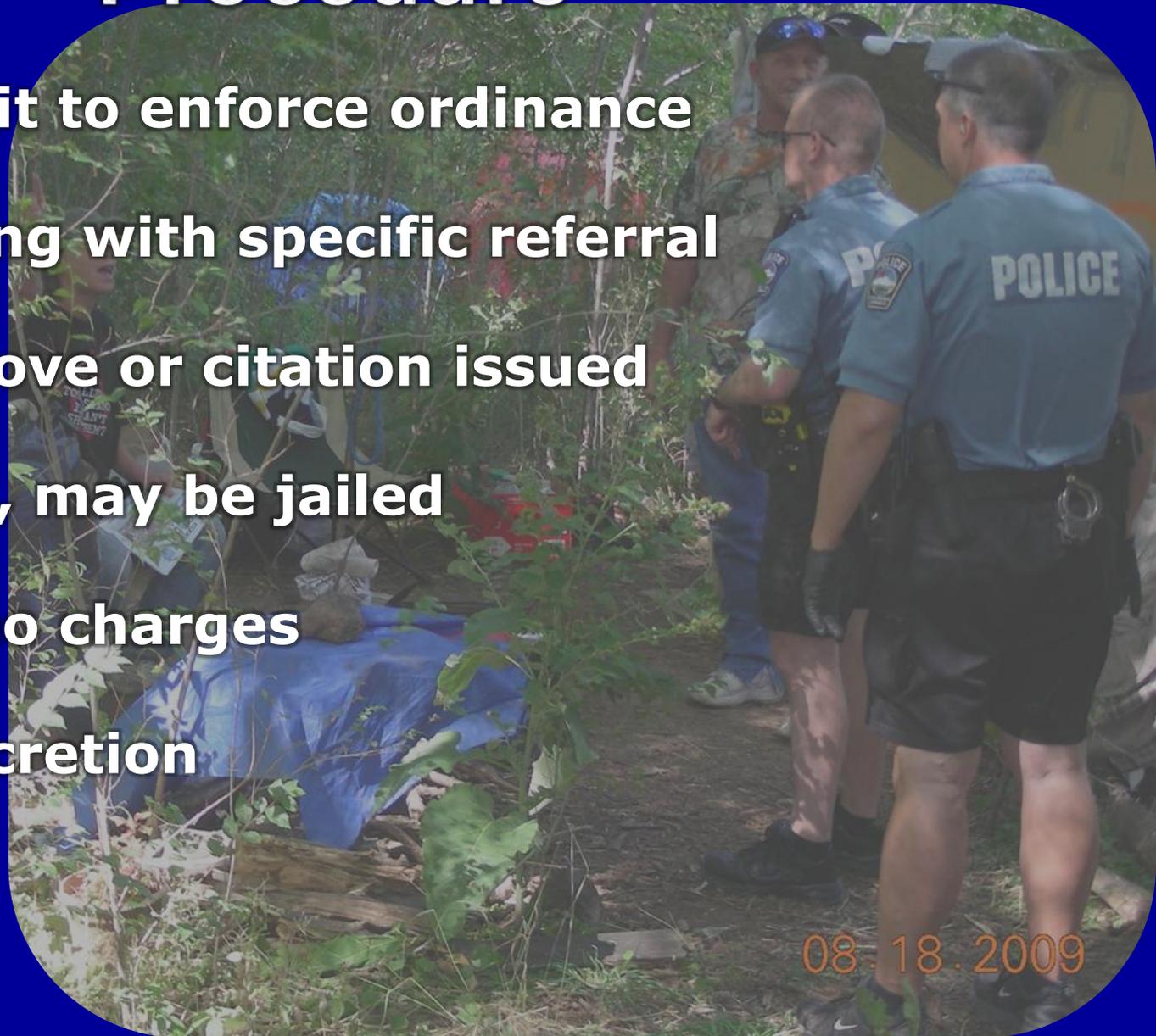
Written warning with specific referral

48 hours to move or citation issued

24 hours later, may be jailed

No shelter = no charges

H.O.T. has discretion



Methodical Approach

Homeless forewarned

HOT focused on help

One area at a time

Written warnings

Clean-ups



Cops begin enforcing no-camp ordinance with a soft touch

March 11, 2010

[BARBARA COTTER](#)
THE GAZETTE

There was no high drama Thursday as the Colorado Springs Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team began enforcing the city's new no-camping ordinance. In fact, there was no drama at all.

Providing a Way Home

\$5,000 grant for transportation home

Locate family and verify support system

Reuniting families

Additional \$25,000 in funds



EL POMAR FOUNDATION

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

FUNDING IN A RECESSION

PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY

DANIELS FUND

FAITH BASED PARTNERS



Homeward Pikes Peak Phase I Goals



Reach out to all homeless campers

Assist at least 2/3

Continuous move toward self-sufficiency

Collaborative effort for funding and service

Cost effective

Open communication



Communication

Cost Efficiency

Collaboration

Keys to Success





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Phase I

Nearly 610 homeless offered assistance

- 159 reunited with family
- 85 subsidized housing
- 27 voluntary rehab
- 88 voluntary move-outs
- 75 still in program



Phase I (total)

People assisted: 434

+

Dismissed for infractions: 176

Total offered assistance: **610**



Homeward Pikes Peak Phase II Goals

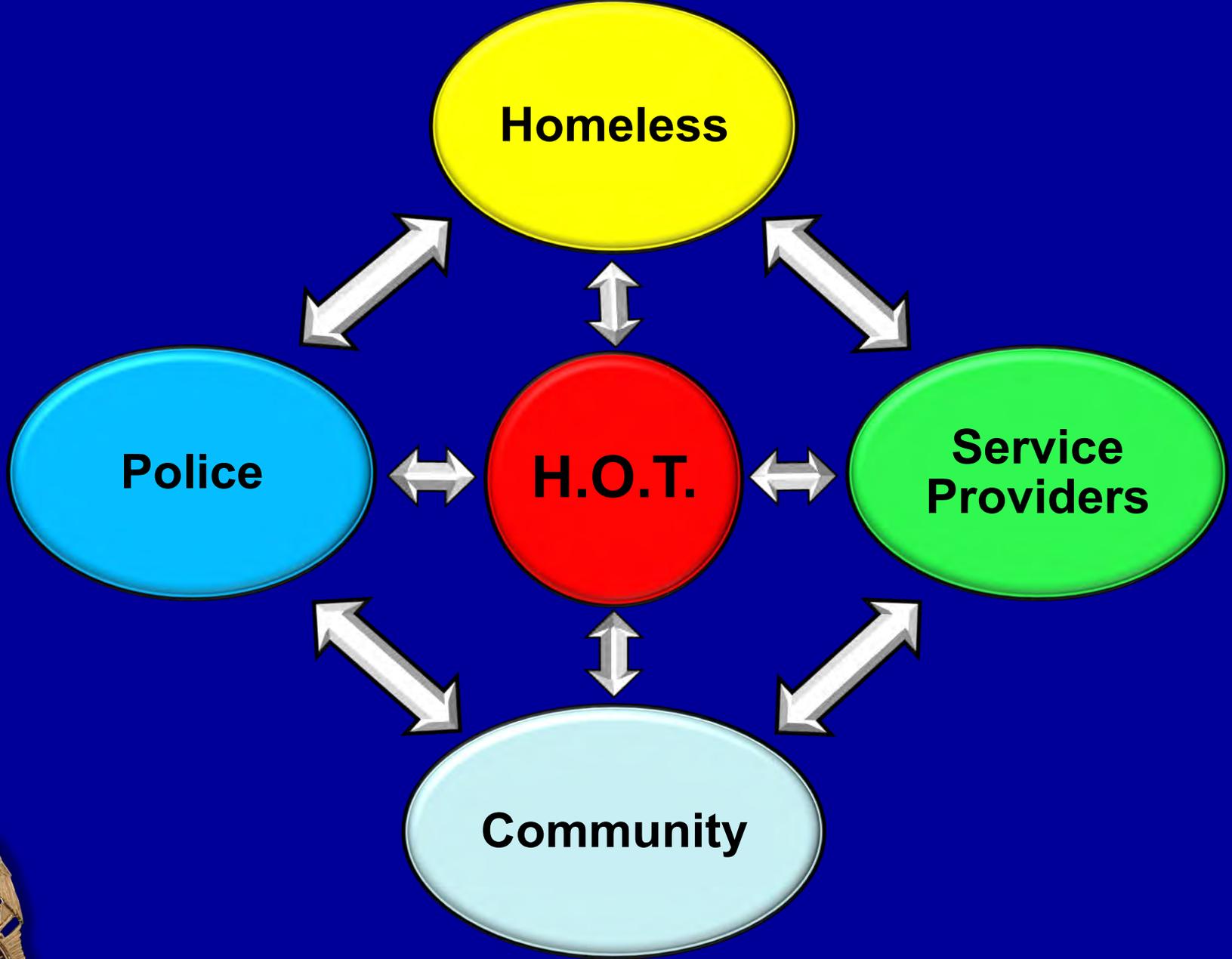
- Reach out to the 176 dismissed as well as remaining and newly homeless
- Hire trained mental health outreach worker to accompany HOT
 - Very slow outreach process
 - Never “close the door” on anyone



Thinking Through Good Intentions or Caring Versus Enabling

- Realistic Goals
Client must want it
- Collaboration
Everyone works toward **SAME** goals
- Candor
Remain impartial and focused
Keep community informed
- Caring
Clients know





Overall Success

Initiative and
innovation

Always available

Homeless appreciative
and trusting

Lasting relationships
built



Citizens
express
satisfaction

Homeless
advocates
pleased

Civil rights
groups
satisfied



RESULTS

(AUGUST 2009 – AUGUST 2010)

399 CALLS FOR SERVICE

193 COVER CALLS

2932 CONTACTS

1288 REFERRALS

1056 SPECIFIC REFERRALS

361 VERBAL WARNINGS

44 FELONY ARREST

116 MISDEMEANOR ARREST



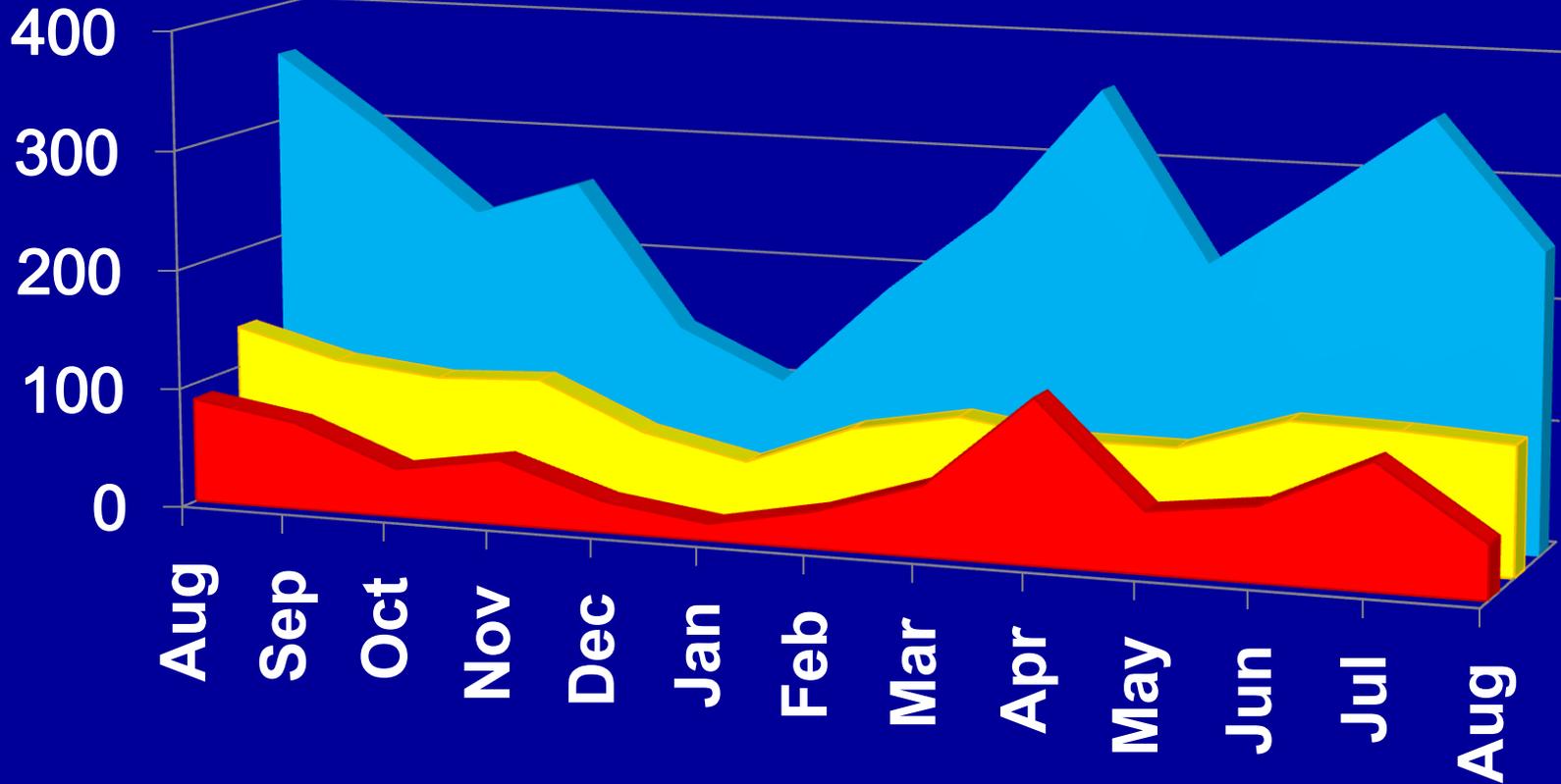
RESULTS

(AUGUST 2009 – AUGUST 2010)

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 77 | HOSPITALIZATIONS |
| 104 | REFUSALS |
| 30 | REPORTS |
| 269 | HOUSINGS |
| 157 | BUS TICKETS |
| 51 | WRITTEN WARNINGS |
| 18 | CASES CLEARED |
| 183 | REQUESTS FROM PATROL |



Homeless Related Calls For Service



● CALLS FOR SERVICE
(AUG 2008 – AUG 2009)

● PATROL ● HOT
(AUG 2009 – AUG 2010)



NOT ONE

CITATION ISSUED

FOR VIOLATION OF THE

“NO CAMPING” ORDINANCE!



Paving the Way...

- Manitou Springs, CO Police Department
- El Paso County, CO Sheriffs Office
- Fountain, CO Police Department
- Douglas County, CO Sheriffs Office
- Grand Junction, CO Police Department
- Houston, TX Police Department



What's Next?

Continue HOT program

Train CSPD officers

Create a Metro HOT

Provide assistance and training
to outside agencies





Before

After



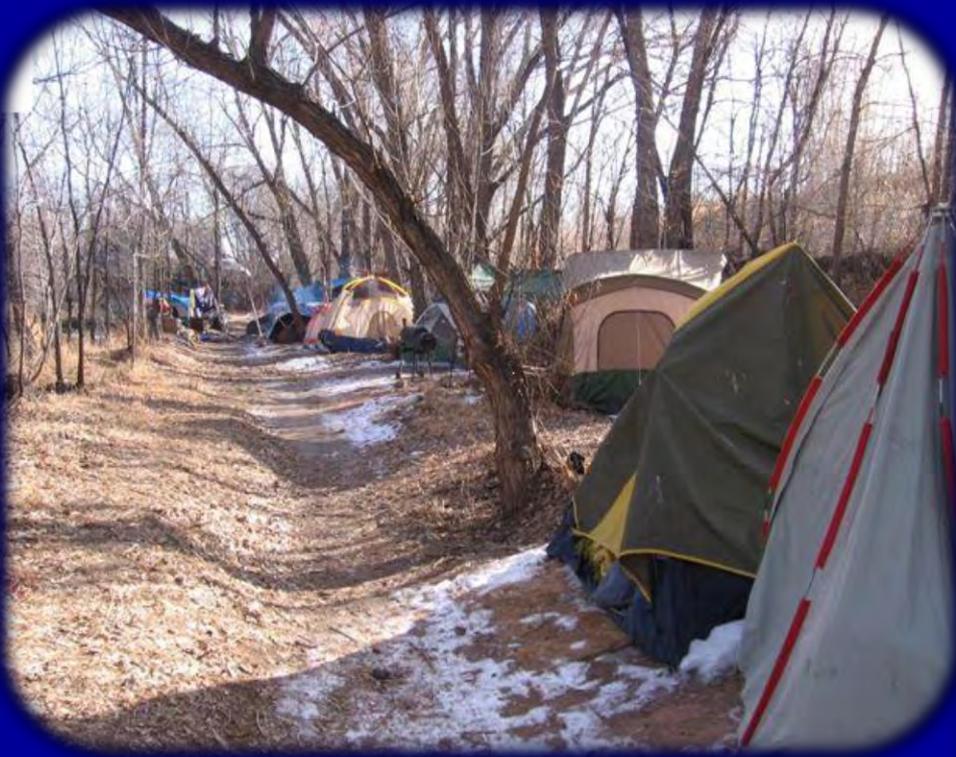


Before



After





Before



After





Before



After



Living Conditions



Before



After





Before

After





Before



After





Before



After



Thank You!



CSPD Homeless Outreach Team

Officer Brett Iverson
Officer Dan McCormack
Officer M.J. Thomson



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