

Compassionate Communities



“Encampments are painful reminders of the persistence of dire poverty in the midst of plenty.”

(National Health Care for the Homeless Council)

**OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE
GIBSON MCELHANEY**

**LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER
15TH 2016**

Background to Current Crisis

Low Incomes, Expensive Housing, and Barriers

- 1 in 2 lack three months of poverty level savings
- Zero vacant apartments affordable for these Oaklanders
- Barriers to housing for ex-offenders and youth

Insufficient Safety Net

- Insufficient housing resources
 - Too few shelter beds
 - \approx 300 units built in last decade for 0-30% AMI residents
 - Few housing options for victims/special needs



The Need For Compassion

Insufficient resources – for instance:

356 Unsheltered
Victims of
Domestic
Violence

30 Beds
reserved
for DV
Survivors

Proliferation of Encampments

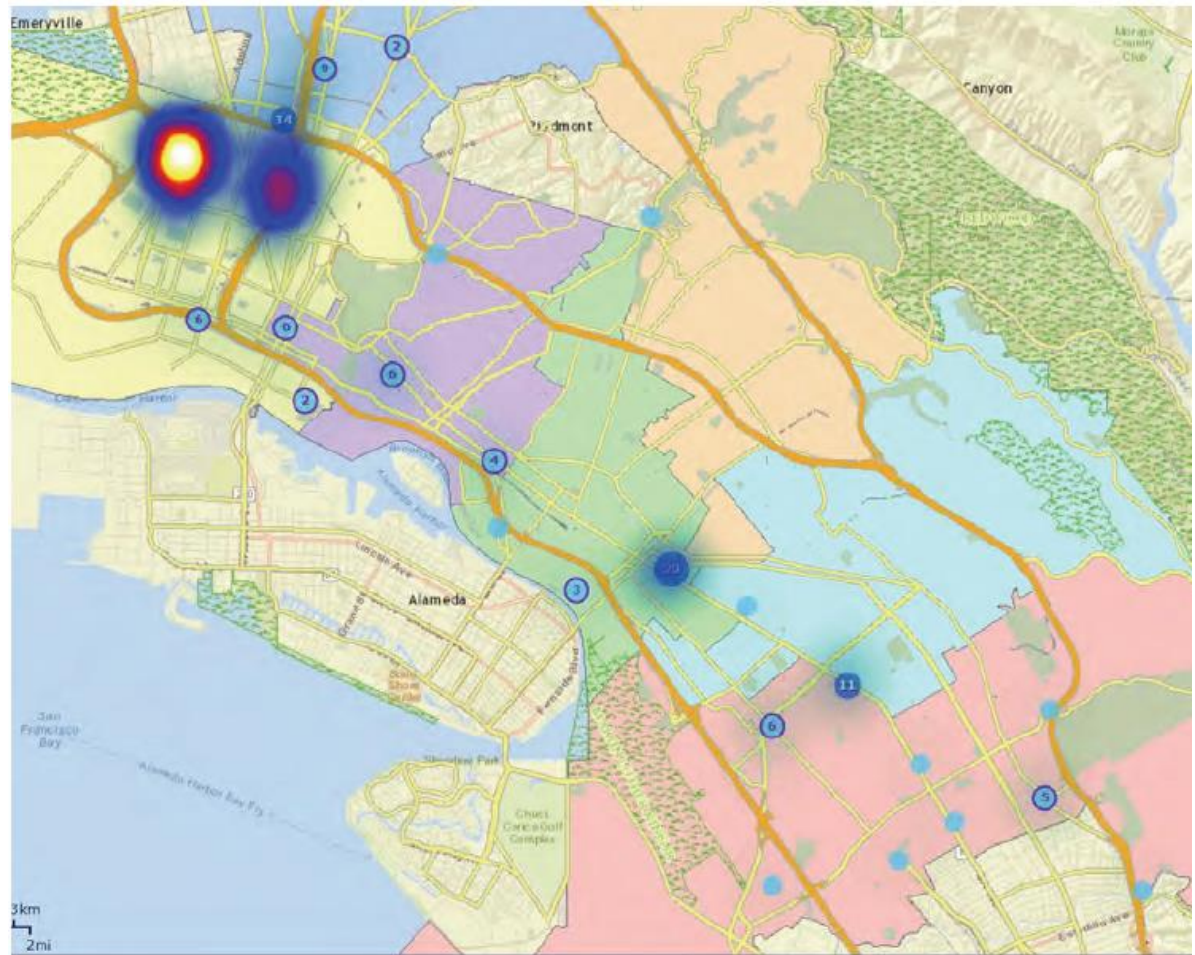


Figure 1. Encampment Hot Spots Map, courtesy of Public Works.



Standard Operating Procedure For Encampments

- **‘Encampment Sweeps’**
 - Complaints build
 - 72 Hour Notice/Services Offered
 - Public Works cleanup
 - Resettlement of Camp

- **Counterproductive at best**
 - Doesn't house residents
 - Makes accessing services more difficult
 - Retraumatizes victims
 - Inefficient use of Staff time and resources

Three Prongs of Compassionate Communities



Prong 1 Services in Place

- Now – April 1st
- Collaborate with Sup. Keith Carson and County Admin
- Harm reduction while working to house unsheltered residents

Prong 2 Safe Camping/Safe Parking

- In planning stages
- A ‘meanwhile’ solution to improve health and safety through very low barrier interim housing on parking/empty lots

Prong 3 Housing First

- City’s adopted long-term strategy
- Housing is the only permanent solution to homelessness



**Opportunities
to Create More
Permanent
Housing**

1. Community Partnerships
2. County Housing Bond A1
3. Affordable Housing/Anti-Displacement Portion of Measure KK
4. Whole Person Care Pilot
5. 'No Place Like Home' State Bond
6. Pay for Success Financing