



City of Stockton

Stockton Safe Grounds Initiative



Goals

- Humane, lawful alternatives for unsheltered residents
- Reduce illegal encampments and trespassing
- Protect rights while addressing community safety

Legal Guardrails

- **Martin v. Boise (2018):** cannot criminalize if no shelter available
- **Lavan v. Los Angeles (2012):** property protections
- **California Constitution & Civil Rights**
- **SB 1380 – Housing First principles**

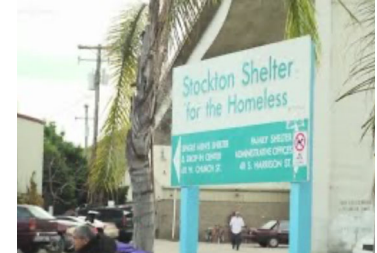


The 1-2-3 Model

- **Option 1: Shelter or Navigation Placement**
 - Option 2: Safe Camping & Parking
- **Option 3: Voluntary Relocation Assistance**



Option 1: Shelter or Navigation Placement



- Individuals who select this option will be transported immediately to the City's Navigation Center or a local partner shelter (St. Mary's Shelter, Pathways, or others).
- Services include 24/7 access to showers, laundry, case management, mental health and housing referrals.
- City-provided transport ensures placement on the spot.



Option 2: Safe Sleeping

- Designated safe sleeping villages with basic services: bathrooms, trash, security. This option is not long-term housing and participants will be connected to outreach and support services from local community-based organizations (CBOs).



Option 3: Voluntary Relocation Assistance

- For those who request travel to family/other cities
- Bus/train fare, food voucher, coordination with destination
- Strictly voluntary, not forced





Operational Process

- Initial Contact – Outreach team + SPD
- Notification – Individual given written info on 3 options
- Choice & Transport – Based on individual selection
- Property Protocol – Stored for 90 days if seized

Citywide Plan Elements



- Identify sites (North, Central, South Stockton)
- Staffing: Outreach + SPD Community Response Officers
- Funding: Measure M, HHAP, ERF, private partnerships
- Accountability: Monthly council reports

Next Steps

- Site feasibility study
- Legal review
- Draft SOP for staff & SPD
- Funding strategy
- Pilot program launch (6–12 months)



Closing Remarks

- The Safe Grounds Initiative will only succeed through partnerships—between the city, nonprofits, and our community. Together, we can move from plans on paper to real impact on our streets. And as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, ‘The time is always right to do what is right.’ Providing safety and dignity for our most vulnerable is the right step for Stockton.

Questions

