

# Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homeless Outreach



Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Sparks Police Department

Reno Police Department

University of Nevada Reno Police Services

# Homeless Outreach Overview

- Brief overview of each law enforcement agencies programs, resources and assigned personnel
- Inter-agency outreach efforts
- Next steps



# Sparks Police Department - H.O.P.E. Team



- The Sparks Police Department has three full-time officers assigned to the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement, H.O.P.E. Team.
- The main goal of the H.O.P.E. Team is to offer services and assist those experiencing homelessness. They work with various organizations and charities to help those in need with such things as affordable housing, shelter space, food, clothing and obtaining identification and social security cards.
- The H.O.P.E. officers create a rapport and provide empathy, support and resources to those experiencing homelessness.

# Washoe County Sheriff's Office

## Homeless Outreach Team



- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, through funding from the County Manager's Office, is currently in the process of establishing a Homeless Outreach Team.
- The Team will be made up of two deputy sheriff's and one sergeant.
- The Team will be operating on a full-time basis in July of 2021.
- The Team supervisors will gather statistical information and relay the successes and challenges of the Team back to the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB).

# WCSO (cont)



- The Team will begin training and working with Sparks Police Department's HOPE Team, also collaborating with the Reno Police Department and other LE partners in the region.
- The Team believes in and will work closely with Built for Zero and will continue to work with all outreach organizations, and charities to identify and help persons experiencing homelessness.
- The Team will also work closely with the WCSO Detention Services Unit (DSU).
- Relationships and rapport will be established in order to offer outreach and services to each person experiencing homelessness

# Reno Police Department - Homeless Outreach Team

## Clean and Safe Team



- The Reno City Manager's Office launched the Clean and Safe Team in January of 2020, which addresses homeless living conditions affecting the public health and welfare of those living in encampments along the river and other areas within Reno's jurisdiction.
- The Team is comprised of a program assistant and personnel from the Reno Police Department, MOST, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Neighborhood Services, the City Attorney's Office and the Reno Fire Department, all coordinated through the City Manager's Office.
- This multidisciplinary partnership provides outreach, resources and enforcement actions to address the health and public safety of those affected by homelessness.

# RPD (cont)



- The Reno Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team plays an important role in the City of Reno's Clean and Safe Team..
- Community Action Officers (CAO), work seven days a week meeting with those experiencing homelessness. Their goal is to connect people to resources which includes local advocacy groups, charities, shelters, addiction services and mental health counseling.
- Currently, the Homeless Outreach Team consists of four fulltime Community Action Officers (CAO) and one fulltime team Sergeant.

# University Police Services



- **Historically-** Several Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) properties are located within close proximity of homeless populations. They are as follows:
  - University of Nevada, Reno Main Campus
  - UNR Wolf Pack Meats (UNR Sparks Farm) – 5895 Clean Water Way
  - Knudtsen Resource Center/Greenhouse – 1000 Valley Road
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Street/Center Street (small grass area north of Walgreens)
  - 785 W. Sixth St. (Early Head Start Child Care Center)
  - 401 W. Second St. (Nelson Building)



# UNRPD (cont)



- University Police Services does not have any personnel specifically assigned to handle homeless related calls for service.
- Our approach for University Police Services includes creating a part-time team of:
  - 2 patrol officers designated to focus on NSHE specific issues related to homelessness and will be available for inter-agency efforts.
  - 1 lieutenant will oversee the communication efforts until such a time that sergeant vacancies can be filled and then responsibility will transition to a sergeant.
  - 2 UNR social work students participating in an internship within University Police Services and assigned to the team.

# Inter-Agency Outreach

- Executive, command and first line supervisors have been meeting since last December to determine best practices moving forward.
- Pooling our resources will allow our individual agencies to work together with all of the benefits of a regional team.
- Each partnering law enforcement agency can stay focused on their jurisdictions while exploring opportunities to work jointly on major projects.

# Next Steps

- Commitment to improved communication at all levels with each participating agency.
- Discussion and planning of small and large scale joint outreach operations to coincide with the opening of the Cares Campus.
- Improved processes for data collection to better share and compare statistical information.
- Consistency in service and resources provided to community members experiencing homelessness.

# Questions

