



# City Manager's Office

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 27, 2024

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Doug Thornley, City Manager **Approved Electronically**

**FROM:** Cynthia Esparza, Chief Equity & Community Relations Officer  
Cindi Gil-Blanco, Senior Code Enforcement Officer

**SUBJECT:** 4th Street and Dickerson Road Encampment Activity

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Encampments along the train tracks of East 4th Street and Dickerson Road pose a persistent public health and safety issues for those camping along the train tracks, those on the train, and those in the adjacent areas. This corridor is primarily Union Pacific-owned, while the City of Reno reserves a right-a-way along East 4th Street, identified as north of the fence. Currently, the camping activity is a civil issue between Union Pacific, a building owner, and tenants.



The following is a summary of recent developments:

**December 11, 2023** - Staff met with Union Pacific personnel to address ongoing concerns and request a prompt and coordinated response. The discussion included the East 4th Street and Dickerson Road area. Staff proposed collaborative approaches to address issues and reiterated their commitment to providing necessary outreach. Union Pacific committed to addressing encampments in January 2024.

**December 29, 2023** - In response to service requests, Code Enforcement issued a warning of violation for two Union Pacific-owned parcels (APN 006-290-10 and APN 006-290-11) adjacent to the train tracks, with a compliance date of January 12, 2024. In a good faith effort, the inspection was rescheduled pending a Union Pacific clean-up date.

**January 2024** - Before Union Pacific's cleanup efforts, Clean and Safe coordinated outreach with the 25 individuals residing in the area. Outreach outcomes:

- 14 individuals accepted services and are currently engaging with outreach teams for ongoing resources.
- 2 individuals are working on securing housing with outreach teams, because they have income.
- 0 individuals transitioned to a regional emergency shelter.

**January 31, 2024** - Union Pacific began addressing the Dickerson/East 4th Street train tracks. Individuals then resettled south to the adjacent Union Pacific-owned parcel and are currently abutting the leased building on their property. Union Pacific informed Code Enforcement they would not address activity on their parcels as the building owners and tenants are responsible.

**February 7, 2024** - Code Enforcement issued administrative citations to each Union Pacific-owned parcels (APN 006-290-10 and APN 006-290-11).

**February 20, 2024** - Staff connected with Union Pacific about the ongoing concerns. Union Pacific informed Staff per the land lease agreement, the property owner is responsible for a 25-foot setback. Staff also informed Union Pacific of resident concerns about infrastructure safety due to embankment erosion.

**February 23, 2024** - Code Enforcement reinspected the parcels on Dickerson and issued each additional administrative citations. Code Enforcement noted the camps were significantly reduced at the time of inspection. Debris and trash accumulation remained.

To date, Union Pacific is directing these citations to the building owners and has outstanding fines for this area totaling \$1066. Due to the extenuating health and safety concerns for the

community, Code Enforcement will continue to review the area and issue a citation to Union Pacific for identified violations.