

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Initiative Ordinance - Police Code - Process for Removal of Encampments and Transition to Housing]

Ordinance amending the Police Code to provide process for the removal of encampments when housing or shelter is available for encampment residents.

Existing Law

City law does not provide a process governing the City's removal of tent encampments.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance will create a process the City must follow when the circumstances allow for removal of an encampment pursuant to the enforcement of existing law. Prior to ordering the removal of an encampment, the City must identify specific shelter, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, or affordable housing for all occupants of the encampment. At least 72 hours prior to removing the encampment, the City must offer the identified housing or shelter option to encampment occupants and must guarantee that the space be available for at least 24 hours after removal of the encampment. The notice must be provided in writing and must also advise the residents of the encampment of (1) the City's intent to remove the encampment, (2) that any property remaining will be impounded and stored for 90 days and will be discarded if not retrieved by the owner, and (3) other similar issues. If encampment residents are placed in shelter, the City must develop a transition plan to move residents into more permanent housing. The City cannot offer residents of the encampment shelter space if it would displace individuals on the City's shelter bed waiting list. The ordinance also addresses the process for storage and retrieval of any personal property left behind or otherwise seized by the City.

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