



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Agenda

City Council

*Mayor Spencer Boudreau
Mayor Pro Tem Kalei LaFave
Council Member Ruth Kendall
Council Member Angie Wean
Council Member MaryAlice Wallis
Council Member Keith Young
Council Member Erik Halvorson*

Thursday, June 6, 2024

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, that the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, will conduct a special meeting in the Longview City Hall Council Chamber, 1525 Broadway, Longview, on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The topics of discussion follow. No final action will be taken.

The City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Office at 360.442.5004 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting. Please note - virtual attendees may comment verbally during public hearings only. Virtual attendees may also submit written comments to the Clerk's Office with the heading, "Public Comment for disbursement to the City Council".

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82394132374>

Telephone options (dial any of the following numbers):

1-253-215-8782
1-346-248-7799
1-408-638-0968
1-669-900-6833
1-301-715-8592
1-312-626-6799
1-646-876-9923

Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. FLAG SALUTE
3. ROLL CALL

4. WORKSHOP**24-00501 HOMELESSNESS (TIME ESTIMATE 2 HOURS)****5. ADJOURNMENT**

*** Any invocation that may be offered at the Council meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Council. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.**

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:**THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.****THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.****NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOPS:****THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 – 5:00 P.M. – WCIA COUNCIL COURSES****TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 - 6:00 P.M. - CIP BUDGET**

Longview Police Department: Historical Challenges and Responses to Homelessness



This is a history of the Longview Police Department's engagement with homelessness in Longview. It covers the evolution of homelessness in the city over the past 10 years, key incidents and policy changes, and the department's strategies and responses over time. The aim is to provide an overview of the challenges faced, the lessons learned, and the ongoing efforts to address homelessness effectively.

**This presentation is not intended to be insensitive to the needs and plight of individuals experiencing homeless. It aims to provide an objective overview of how the police department has addressed challenges related to homelessness in our community while providing public safety services to the community at large.*

Overview

- Historical Context Pre-2017
- Martin v. Boise
- 2017 - 2019 and the Creation of Camps
 - Detail the events leading to the establishment of the camp at City Hall and, subsequently, Camp Alabama.
- Camp Alabama (December 2019 – December 2022)
 - The changes of Camp Alabama over the years, leading to the creation of Hope Village and closure of Camp Alabama.
 - Summer 2021-2022: LPD saturation patrols in the area surrounding Camp Alabama
- Closure of Camp Alabama and creation of Hope Village:
 - Discuss the challenges following the closure of Camp Alabama and the displacement of individuals.
 - LPDs, led by BHU, education campaign to inform citizens of pertinent statutes and direct them toward available community resources.
 - LPD enforcement blitz targeting issues such as trespassing, shopping carts, park hours, and illegal camping.
- Current State of Affairs
 - Provide an update on the current state of homelessness in our community, including any recent developments.
 - Pending Supreme Court decision on Johnson v. Grant's Pass and its potential implications.



Historical Context: Pre-2017



Kelso's newest homeless shelter is off to a rocky start.

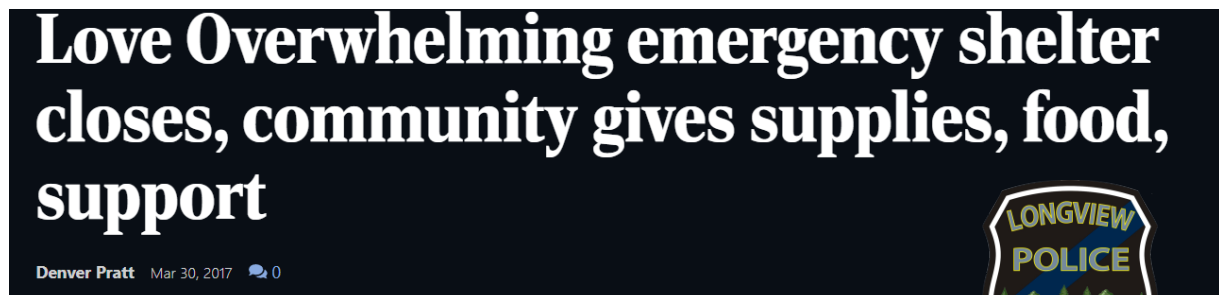
Since Love Overwhelming opened Jan. 29, police and fire personnel have beaten a trail there responding to drug overdoses and assaults.

"A conservative estimate is an increase of three to five calls a day from Love Overwhelming and the clientele coming and going from there," Kelso Police Captain Darr Kirk said.

Complaints have come from community members, employees at the Cowlitz County Administration Building next door and from the shelter itself, Kirk said.

"I honestly am concerned for the safety of the people who are staying at the shelter. I am concerned for the vulnerable population that realizes there is no safeguard for them there."

The "low-barrier" shelter, located at 304 Cowlitz Way, does not require residents to be sober, though drugs are prohibited onsite. It offers case management, overnight stays, restroom facilities and showers and has been at full capacity since opening.





THE
STORY

HOW DID WE GET HERE?: MARTIN V. BOISE



2017 – 2019: Camps in Longview



June 8, 2018: Numerous encampments removed from private property to make way for Beech St extension

To make way for development, about 20 homeless people Wednesday were evicted from their encampments on private property in the Longview industrial area, perhaps pushing more people into an already tight shelter system.

While Longview police say no one was arrested or injured, it does raise the question: Where will these people go?

Maggie Kennedy, program manager with Love Overwhelming, said she and her team had been connecting them with showers, medical appointments, food banks and other basic needs. When they heard Wednesday that the fields east of 14th Avenue, north of the train tracks and south of the Beech Street right-of-way would be evacuated, Love Overwhelming began trying to relocate people, she said.

Many of those displaced had been camping in the fields for years and were “devastated” to be told they had to move, she said.



2017 – 2019: Camps in Longview



City Manager Kurt Sacha said there is no immediate plan to establish somewhere else for homeless people to stay or to ask them to leave the shelter. Anyone is allowed to be at the park until curfew begins at 10 p.m.

Many homeless people staying at the shelter have said they began staying there after police broke up other camps in the county last summer.

“There is an ongoing dialogue regarding homelessness with various groups trying to find a longer-term solution,” Sacha said.

Homeless camp moves out of Lions shelter to other side of lake

The Daily News May 21, 2019 0



2017 – 2019: Camps in Longview

About five Longview police officers escorted city parks employees Wednesday morning as they cleaned up around the new \$800,000 gazebo at R.A. Long Park after reports that homeless people sleeping there had been threatening city employees.

“They’re trying to keep the park clean, and it’s just nasty,” Police Chief Jim Duscha said Wednesday, surveying the scene. “They’ve been threatened with ‘Why are you at the park? We don’t want you here.’ The transients have taken over the park and they don’t want people around.”

Duscha said he’s tired of his department getting “bashed” on social media for not addressing the problem when there’s not much law enforcement can do because of legal constraints.

He criticized social service programs for not doing enough to find housing for the homeless people.



Police have their hands tied by a federal appeals court ruling that an anti-camping ordinance was unconstitutional because it criminalized homeless people for sleeping outside on public property. That ruling supersedes any city ordinance and restricts local law enforcement’s ability to address homeless camps in public spaces, Duscha said.

“We can’t arrest people for being here and making this a dump. It’s horrible,” Duscha said, referring to garbage around the gazebo from the campers.

The city built the gazebo last year with state and local grants.

The area’s homeless problem has grown more visible since Cowlitz County shut down the controversial Love Overwhelming shelter in Kelso in March 2017. The number of homeless has grown despite the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on assistance programs supported by state grants and local document recording fees and charitable contributions. The county alone, for example, awarded grants totaling \$512,000 from document recording fees in the period from July 2018 to June this year.

Police escort parks workers to gazebo after alleged threats from transients

Rose Lundy Oct 24, 2019 0

2017 – 2019: Camps in Longview



Longview's crackdown on homeless camps drives some campers into public eye

Mallory Gruben May 24, 2019

A homeless man with a homemade flatbed trailer stacked high with his belongings drew criticism from local residents this week as he camped near the intersection of 14th Avenue and Douglas Street.

But the camper, Jim Nicholas, said he ended up in the middle of town because police forced him and others out of their camps on the outskirts of the city.

“Every time we got a camp going, (police) shut it down. ... We can’t stay here, and we can’t stay there,” but there’s nowhere left to go, Nicholas said.

Local advocates for the homeless say the city’s crackdown on homeless camps — leaving some with no other options for places to stay — is driving the issue into the public eye. Longview city officials could not be reached for comment Thursday.

“(We should be) spending as much time and effort trying to find a solution instead of chasing people around,” said Luke Keilwitz, a pastor at the Evergreen Terrace Gospel Chapel in Longview. “There needs to be a temporary fix ... instead of putting everyone in an impossible situation” with nowhere to go.



November 20, 2019



November 22, 2019





Camp Alabama: December 2019 – December 2022



Camp Alabama: December 2019 – December 2022



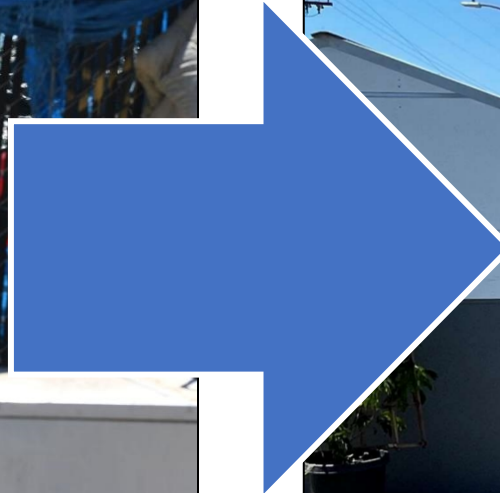
The “Blake Decision”



Summer 2021-2022: LPD saturation patrols in the area surrounding Camp Alabama



Closure of Camp Alabama and creation of Hope Village



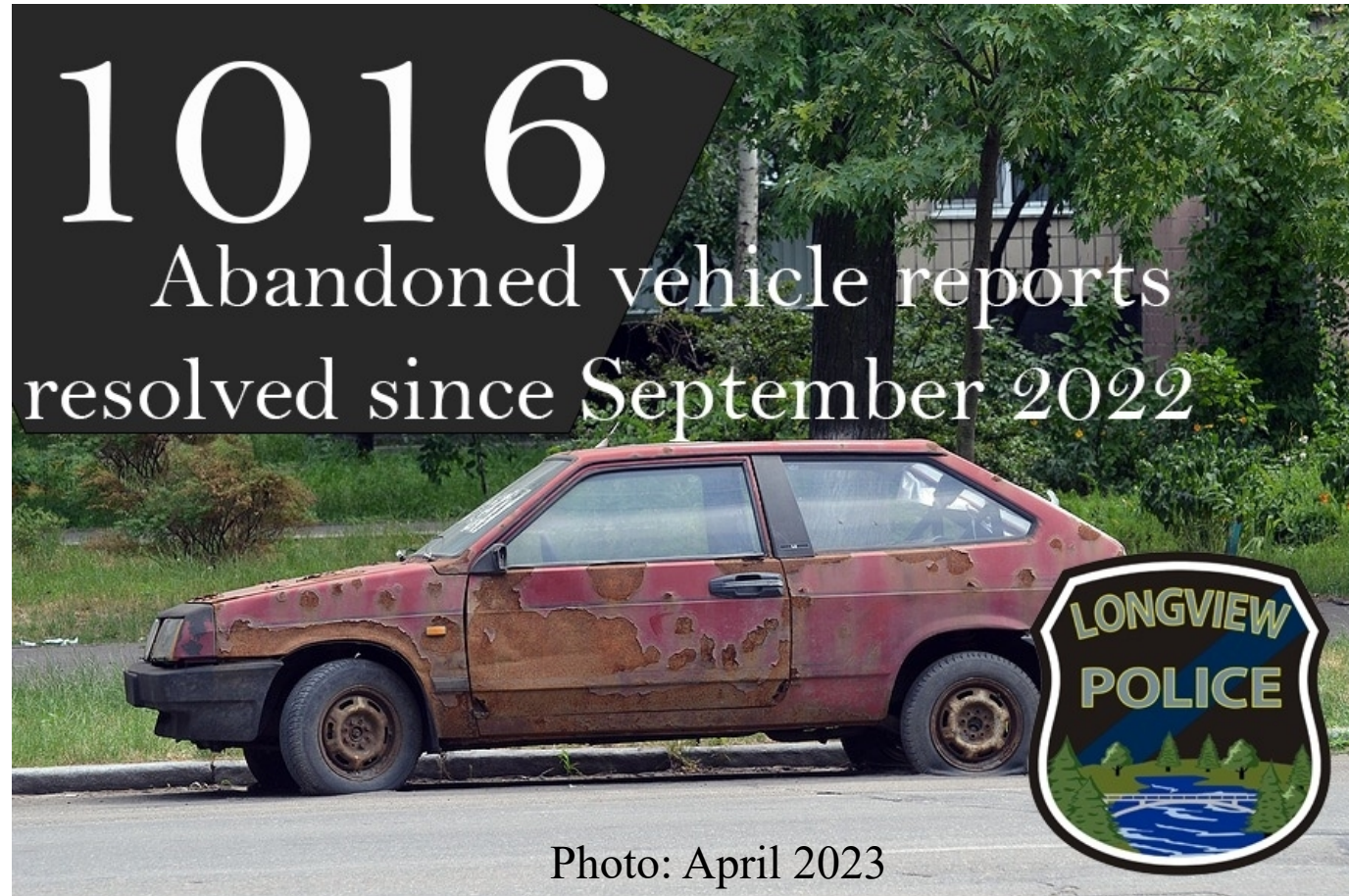
Response: Education campaign led by BHU and Community Outreach Coordinator



Camp Alabama Closure: Displaced Individuals



Abandoned Vehicle Blitz: including vehicles being used illegally as dwellings on city streets



Bridging the gap

Outreach Coordinator and
Behavioral Health Unit



Bridging the gap

Aug. 2021 Behavioral Health Unit created to provide short-term, intensive case management

Nov. 2022 Outreach Coordinator assigned to Community and Economic Development to proactively direct people to social services

Jan. 2024 Outreach Coordinator position transferred to Police Department and Sgt. Watson assigned to supervision of BHU and Outreach



LONGVIEW

Longview issuing fewer illegal camping citations, as new officer takes over outreach

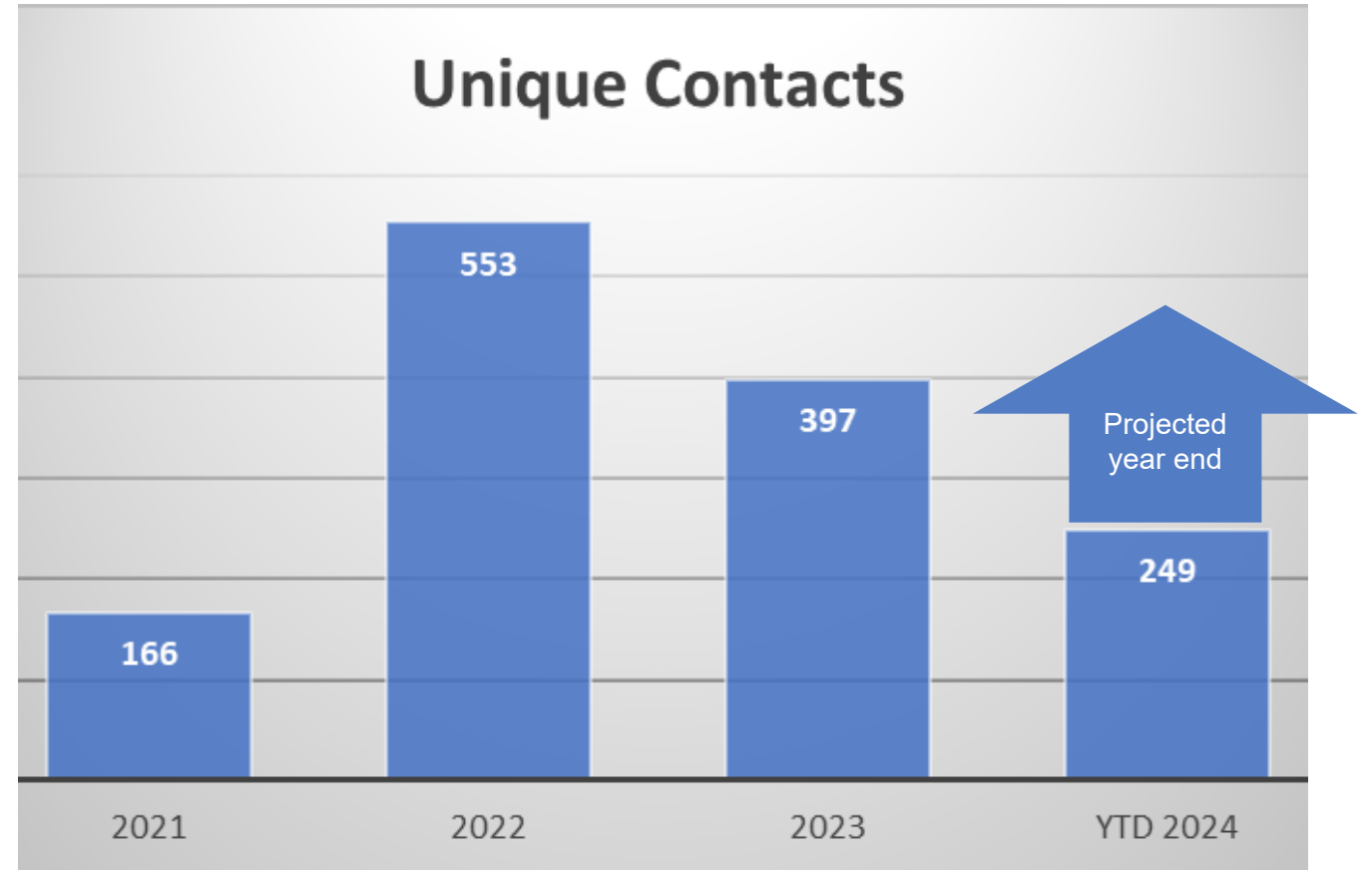
Caleb Barber Mar 28, 2024 2



Behavioral Health Unit

Types of crisis calls for service:

- Mental Health
- Welfare Check
- Disorderly Conduct
- Suicidal Subjects
- Substance Use



Trespassing in commercial areas

To address individuals trespassing on commercial properties during closed hours, our Outreach Coordinator contacts affected business owners to gather information for police officers to make an arrest.

REQUEST TO REMOVE TRESPASSER(S) or UNAUTHORIZED PERSON(S)			
The undersigned owner, or authorized agent of the owner, of the premises located at:			
hereby represents and declares under the penalty of perjury that (initial each line):			
	The declarant is the owner of the premises or the authorized agent of the owner of the premises.		
	The person or persons were not authorized to enter or remain.		
	The declarant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless law enforcement for its actions or omissions made in good faith pursuant to this declaration.		
Additional Optional Explanatory Comments:			
Declarant Information: (Print legibly)			
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Date of Birth
Address:		Phone:	
I represent and declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing information is correct. I understand that a declarant of premises who falsely swears on a declaration may be guilty of false swearing under RCW 9A.72.040 or making a false or misleading statement to a public servant under RCW 9A.76.175, both of which are gross misdemeanors.			
Declarant Signature	Date		
This trespass notice is effective for five (5) years from date of signature.			



For Individuals who refused to heed education and redirection to available resources: Enforce





Current State of Affairs



Questions?

