

# Update on McMinnville's Camping Ordinance

# Tonight

IS...

An update on the challenges  
with camping on city property  
(Right of ways & Parks)

IS NOT...

- A report about camping on private property
- Addressing the houseless crisis or shortage of affordable housing
- A request for action

# Timeline

- 1999** Council passes ord. 4698 prohibiting camping in city parks.
- 2017** City code does not regulate camping in the ROW. Campsites begin to pop up throughout the City. Some on public right of way, some in vehicles
- 2018** Park Rangers are moved from P&R to PD to deal with increased safety issues in parks.

The City experiences clusters of camps on Destin Ct., Marsh Lane, and NE 4<sup>th</sup> Adams Street. Public frustration from residents and businesses is at a high level.

# Timeline *con't.*

**2019**

(April) Martin v. Boise decision is issued which essentially limited a city's ability to prohibit camping within public rights of way.

(May) Council passes ordinance 5064 which prohibited camping in certain locations outright, while camping on the right of way is allowed during certain hours in certain locations of the city (time, place, manner).

The City sends PD staff to Oregon City to learn on the ground methods to try and provide more wrap around services with the County and non-profits such as YCAP in conjunction with efforts to enforce ordinance 5064 .

PD liaison works directly with houseless community and connecting people to resources (change in emphasis).

# Timeline *con't.*

- 2019–2021** MPD and the other City Departments work on cleaning up most of the problem campsites out on Marsh Lane and Dustin Court. MPD removes numerous RV's and vehicles that are in violation of the prohibited camping ordinance.
- 2021** SB 410 passes requiring cities to tag/notice and store all property of utilitarian value for 30 days and store within the City limits. This includes vehicles.
- 2022** Marsh Lane campsites return, and McDaniel Lane has an increase in RVs and vehicles violating the prohibited camping ordinances. Some cleanup of vehicle sites are done using the abandon vehicle code, however our inability to obtain a site to store vehicles within the city cause business and resident complaints to spike involving RV's and vehicles being lived in and the garbage they accrue.
- 2022** The city secures a storage lot for abandoned vehicles, tows first abandoned vehicle.

# *Community complaints*

- Safety Concerns
- Visual Impact on neighborhoods
- Garbage/environmental concerns
- Long term camping (in excess of the ordinance)
- Appearance of a lack of response from the city
- Damage to infrastructure

# *Enforcement challenges*

- Challenging assumptions
- Reasonableness
- Finding property and resources for towing
- Lack of a long-term solution/silver bullet
- Telling our story about what we can and can't do  
under the law
- Not enough resources for enforcement and clean-  
ups - costly

# Rights of Way



McDaniel Lane  
July 2022



# Rights of Way



Marsh Lane



City of  
McMinnville

# Rights of Way



Screened tow lot



# Parks



West Wortman  
June 2022





# Parks

West Wortman  
July 2022





# Parks



West Wortman  
July 2022



# *Looking Forward*

- Anticipate more towing of violators
- Continue with houseless liaison work as part of enforcement
- Towing requires 72 hour notice in Spanish & English (multiple visits)
- Include resources for housing assistance in the notice

# *Looking Forward (con't)*

- Increased Park Ranger presence (year round)
- Additional park programming
- Additional park maintenance
- Looking for long-term solutions with our partners  
(public, private and non-profits)
- Continue consistent approach to help those that  
want help and use enforcement tools when  
necessary