



Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP)

What is the issue?

It is estimated that 30-35 chronically homeless spend the majority of their days and nights in Beverly Hills. Many more “Nomadic” homeless individuals travel through Beverly Hills but rarely stay more than a night or two on the streets. People have a constitutional right to be homeless however no community member can inappropriately use public facilities such as streets, parking structures, public restrooms, or bus stop benches. The City of Beverly Hills recognizes that the quality of life expected by residents and the dignity of our homeless must be addressed together. The entire region faces the same challenge, and the City meets regularly with the Westside community to seek regional solutions that benefit everyone.

What is the City doing to address this issue?

The City of Beverly Hills has developed a program to address conditions affecting the quality of life for those who live in the community, both housed and homeless. The program consists of an ordinance establishing standards of conduct and behavior combined with incentivizing homeless individuals to access supportive social services. The City contracts with a non-profit agency to outreach, engage, and assess homeless individuals to determine their specific needs and link them with services.

When and how is the program being implemented?

The program began in January 2008. The CLASP team works in tandem with Beverly Hills Police Department by initiating relationships with homeless individuals to assess their needs and introduce them to available services. When appropriate, the offer for services happens before a citation is issued. Depending on individual needs, social services referrals may include: mental health, physical health, case management, vocational training, drug rehabilitation, and housing placements. Successes to date include housing numerous individuals in emergency, transitional and permanent housing. Read more about this work in the Steve Lopez *Los Angeles Times* article titled, “Even in Beverly Hills, Helping Homeless is a Struggle” August 20, 2013.

What should you do if you encounter a homeless individual in Beverly Hills that appears to be in need?

The City has engaged the services of a professional outreach team trained in how to approach and assess the needs of these individuals. You can help by calling the outreach team at 310-487-0313 and providing the location and description of the homeless person. The team will seek out this person, assess their needs and make appropriate referrals for services.