



# *Rights, Responsibilities and Resolutions:*

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A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO  
ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

# Chula Vista Police Department Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T)

Operational August 2016

- ▶ Lieutenant Henry Martin
- ▶ Sergeant Frank Giaime
- ▶ Officer Hugo Cardenas
- ▶ Officer Jeff Pace
- ▶ Nancy Verdin, PERT Clinician
- ▶ Mark Jones, H.O.T Coordinator

# Catalyst for the formation of the H.O.T Team

- ▶ 1. Increased numbers of homeless individuals in the city
  - ▶ Point in time count:
  - ▶ 2015- 498

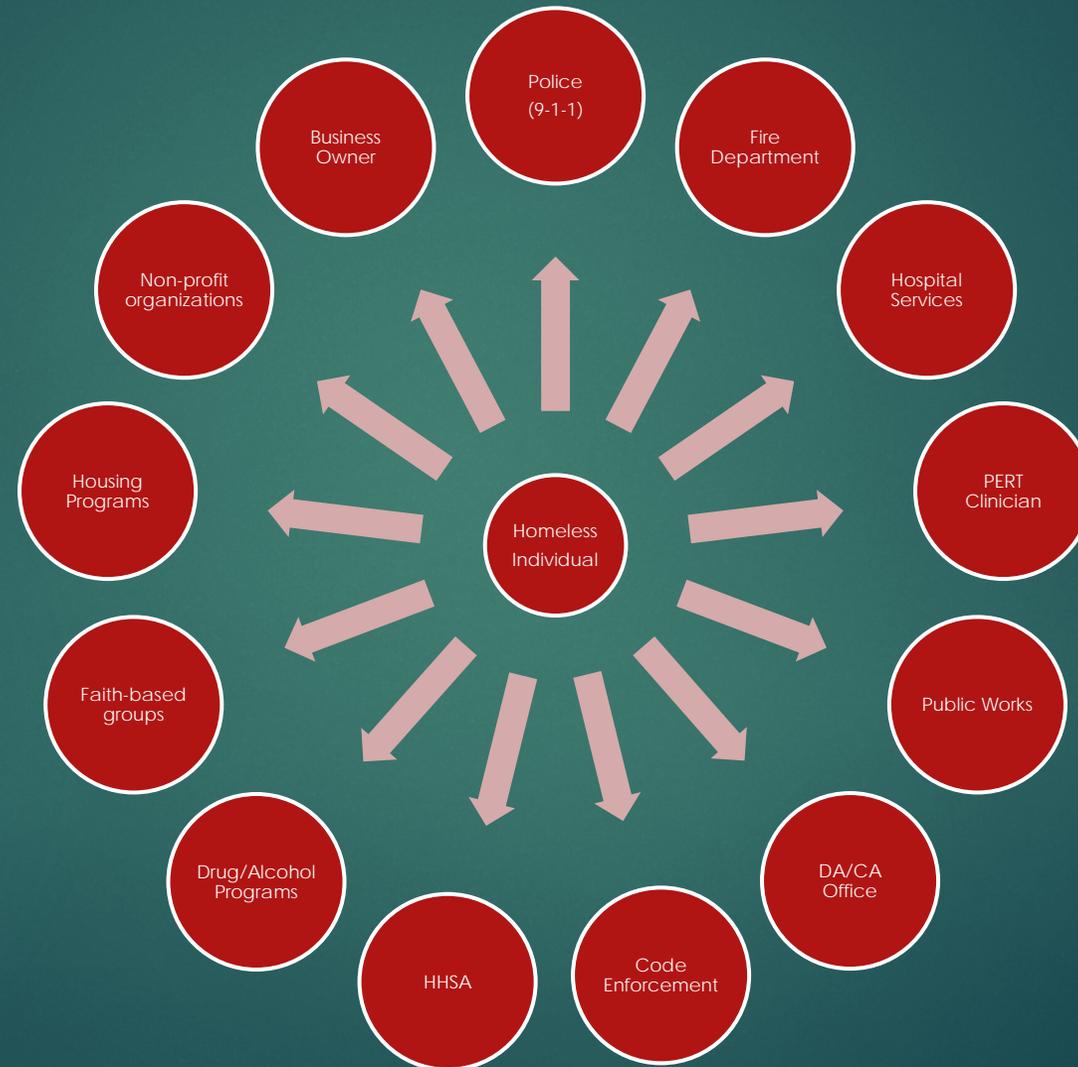
Sheltered: 177				Unsheltered: 321				Total: 498	
Emergency Shelter	Supportive Housing	Transitional Housing	Total	Individual	Vehicle*	Hand Built Structure/tent*	Total	Total	% of Total
19	0	158	177	61	120	25	321	498	6%

- ▶ 2016- 538
- ▶ 2. Increase in police calls for service (CFS) many of which are for perceived criminal acts committed by the homeless:
  - ▶ 2015- 3500
  - ▶ 2016- 3600

# H.O.T Team Duties/Goals

- ▶ Responsible for creating a coordinated Department-wide response to issues pertaining to the homeless.
- ▶ Engender relationships that support the concept of “wrap around services”.
- ▶ Reach the homeless community with services that assist them with becoming viable members of the community.
- ▶ Educate the public on their rights, responsibilities and legal resolutions should they become victimized by the homeless.
- ▶ Reduce calls for service.

# Multidisciplinary Approach



# Your rights as a business owner

- ▶ Operate a business free of distraction and obstruction.
- ▶ Right to refuse service to anyone.
- ▶ Ask a person to leave your business and to have them placed under citizen's arrest for refusing to leave.



# Your responsibilities as a business owner



- ▶ Understand the ramification of an “anonymous reporting party” when requesting police assistance.
- ▶ Trespass letters- be willing to prosecute.
- ▶ Refuse service to those who are intoxicated.
- ▶ If you feed the homeless, you will instill a belief in them that things are provided tax-free and labor-free.
- ▶ Work with all involved parties in order to provide a coordinated/collaborative response to homelessness.



# Resolutions to your complaints and concerns.



- ▶ The homeless have rights, too. Be patient as we develop a holistic response to the individual.
- ▶ Many of the crimes the homeless are charged with are infractions. For those misdemeanor crimes, please know:
  - ▶ 1. Many jurors will not convict, although they later admit that they believe the crime was committed.
  - ▶ 2. Evidence is often lacking.
  - ▶ 3. Chula Vista PD/San Diego County District Attorney's Office is seeking to establish alternative courts to address crimes committed by the homeless.

# FAQ's

- ▶ Visit our website at [www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/crime-prevention/homeless](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/crime-prevention/homeless)
- ▶ For further questions, call the Chula Vista Police Department's Community Relations Office at (619)691-5187.