City of Dallas

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Encampment Servicing Procedures

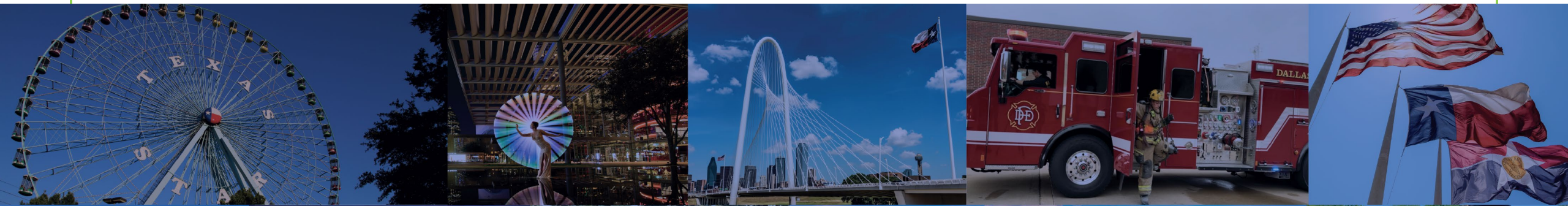
Housing & Homelessness Solutions Committee

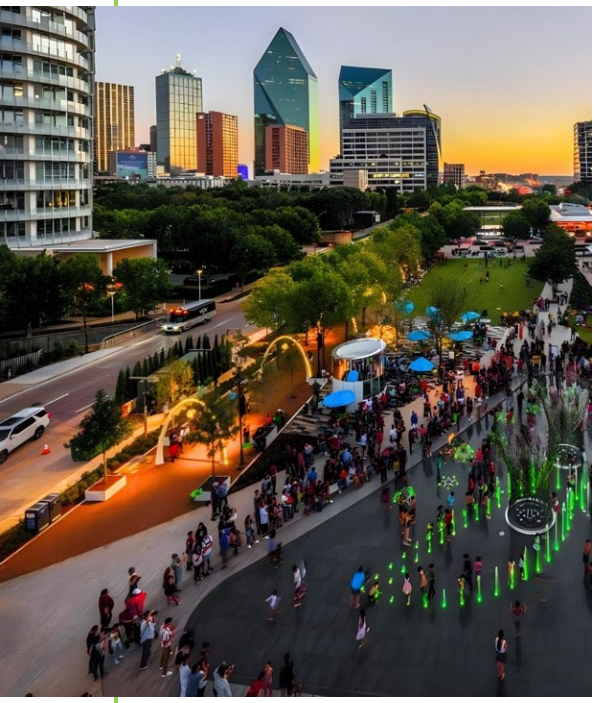
February 10, 2026

Kevin Oden

Director

Emergency Management & Crisis Response





- **Purpose**
- **Available Enforcement Tools**
- **Encampment Servicing Overview**

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Purpose

- Outline available enforcement tools
- Review current encampment servicing process on public property
- Receive feedback from the committee

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Enforcement Tools

Citation	Offense Description	Offense Type
Texas Penal Code Section 30.05	Prohibits entering or remaining on or in property of another	Class C, B, A Misdemeanor; 3rd Degree Felony
Texas Penal Code Section 42.03	Prohibits obstructing highway, street, sidewalk, etc.	Class A Misdemeanor
Texas Penal Code Section 48.05	Prohibits camping on public property	Class C Misdemeanor
Dallas City Code Section 7A-3	Prohibits throwing or depositing litter in public places	Class C Misdemeanor
Dallas City Code Section 31-13	Prohibits sleeping in a public place	Class C Misdemeanor
Dallas City Code Section 31-13.1	Prohibits unauthorized temporary shelters on designated public property	Class C Misdemeanor
Dallas City Code Section 31-18	Prohibits urinating or defecating in public	Class C Misdemeanor
Dallas City Code Section 32-1	Prohibits overnight camping in parks	Class C Misdemeanor

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Overview of Encampment Servicing Process

Intake & Assessment

- Staff receives requests to address encampments through 311, 911, and extraordinary requests.
- Staff inspects the site, documents encampment conditions/occupants, and identifies any immediate health and safety risks.
- Encampments may by a single occupant or many occupants and may be isolated to one property or spread across several properties.
- The encampment may contain tents, mattresses, bed rolls, sleeping bags, clothing, food, etc.

Response Classification

- If private property, CCS notifies owner of any outstanding violations and escalates enforcement and/or abates violations.
- If public property, EMCR evaluates conditions to determine appropriate response, necessary resources, and timeline.

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Overview of Encampment Servicing Process

Intervention

- Staff engages occupants onsite to assess needs and offer services.
- Another outreach is attempted within 24 hours, if any occupants remain.
- Intervention is generally required prior to issuing citations for prohibited camping.

Notice Issued

- If intervention does not result in all occupants accepting services and leaving the encampment, staff issues notices to remaining occupants.
- The notice includes violations observed and timeline to vacate.
- Notices are also posted in visible, protected ways.
- Occupants are allowed to claim and move their property.
- The notice period is typically at least 24 hours if exigent circumstances exist; or at least 72 hours.

Overview of Encampment Servicing Process

Enforcement

- Following expiration of the notice period, law enforcement conducts enforcement, if necessary.
- Enforcement is rare and only used if safety demands.
- Should enforcement result in arrest, officers must collect, inventory, or store the arrestee's property.
- Notice is required prior to enforcement of criminal trespass or city code violations for placement of unauthorized temporary shelter on public property.

Cleaning

- Depending on conditions, staff for Transportation and Public Works or private contractors clean the site.

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Overview of Encampment Servicing Process

Monitoring

- Team revisits sites regularly to prevent re-establishment.
- Early return to encampments helps stop cycle of re-encampment.

Documentation

- All actions are documented, including number of visits, services offered, compliance status, and lessons learned.

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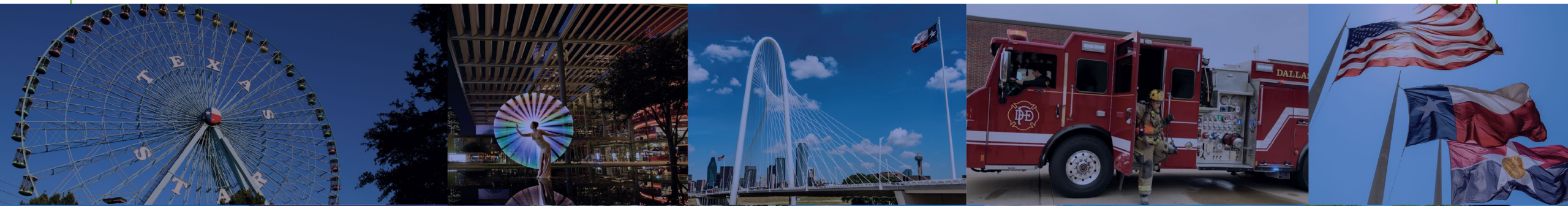
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