

Homelessness & Policing - A Collaborative Approach

Trainee Name	Date
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As you watch the video, follow along and complete the questions in this guide. You can stop the video and view a section again if needed. The goal is for you to complete this guide and then discuss the material with your designated agency trainer or facilitator.

When dealing with chronic homeless in an encampment or in an enforcement situation, proper and thorough documentation is important for which of the following reasons?

- A: To document your actions so that the next person dealing with this situation knows what has been done and/or attempted
- B: So that you may keep track of what you have done for this situation (i.e. warnings and/or offered assistance)
- C: To provide documentation to your city attorney and/or DA as a way of detailing past occurrences for an enforcement situation
- D: To help build rapport by being familiar with past contacts when talking with a homeless individual
- E: All of the above
- F: All of the above except D and E

The chronic homeless are those that have been living on the streets and outdoors for many years, and are those that are most willing to accept aid from service providers.

Answer: _____

It has been shown through studies of police interactions with the homeless that the tone of voice and mannerisms used by officers during these contacts has very little impact on whether or not the outcome of the contact is successful.

Answer: _____

When doing a cleanup of a homeless encampment, if officers arrest a person from the camp, there is an obligation for that officer to secure the property of the arrested person.

Answer: _____

When dealing with homeless who continue to commit violations of the same type, in the same general location, and where citations/arrests do not seem to impact their conduct, what are some examples of alternate resolutions to the problem?

- A: Use a problem solving perspective to think beyond one incident: Consider the next five or ten incidents and come up with a plan to avoid those
- B: Work with the City Attorney and/or the DA to see if there is more that can be done
- C: Think “outside the box” to look for potential causes of the chronic violations (such as inexpensive alcohol sales in the area, free food being offered in a non-zoned area, etc.)
- D: Work collaboratively with other stakeholders to find sources of the criminal activity and/or find alternate resolutions to the situation.
- E: All of the above
- F: All of the above except B and E



When contacting the homeless, which of the following might NOT be an example of inexpensive items officers might offer to them in order to help build rapport and cooperation?

- A: Bottles of water
- B: Hygiene kits
- C: Socks
- D: Shoes

What are some of the reasons officers should not ignore a homeless encampment?

- A: Your agency will likely continue to get calls for service because of the situation
- B: There are potential health and safety issues for the community
- C: It may be in violation of your code enforcement or other municipal code ordinances
- D: It will likely continue to grow in size
- E: It is an eyesore when located within a community setting
- F: All of the above
- G: All of the above except A, E and F

The elements of the acronym “TACT” suggest tactics officers may employ during contacts with the homeless in order to potentially increase successful outcomes. Which of the following is NOT one of the elements of “TACT?”

- A: Time
- B: Atmosphere
- C: Communication
- D: Totality

Each of the following is an important method officers should practice when contacting the homeless, in order to avoid violating the civil rights of a homeless individual, EXCEPT:

- A: Do not take the person’s conduct personally
- B: Ensure that the officer understands whether the contact is consensual or a detention and can defend that decision
- C: Notify public works to respond and throw away the remaining property of an arrestee
- D: Do not let the person pull you in emotionally
- E: When searching the person or their personal property, ensure you have lawful justification or consent

When conducting a pat-down search for weapons on a homeless individual, officers must have which of the following articulable facts present?

- A: The person is or may be armed
- B: The person’s conduct is related to crime
- C: The person is a danger to that officer
- D: The person is acting suspiciously
- E: A and B only
- F: A and C only

Which of the following is true of the homeless trends in society today?

- A: The number of homeless individuals is decreasing
- B: The number of homeless families is decreasing
- C: The number of homeless individuals is increasing
- D: The number of homeless families is increasing
- E: Both B AND C
- F: Both A AND D

