




**INFORMATIONAL MEETING: PROPOSED DAY SPACE  
FOR UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS  
5:00 – 6:30 PM, NOVEMBER 10, 2020**


**CITY OF SAINT PAUL & RAMSEY COUNTY**

PRESENTATION TO WEST 7TH STREET-FORT ROAD FEDERATION  
NOVEMBER 10, 2020

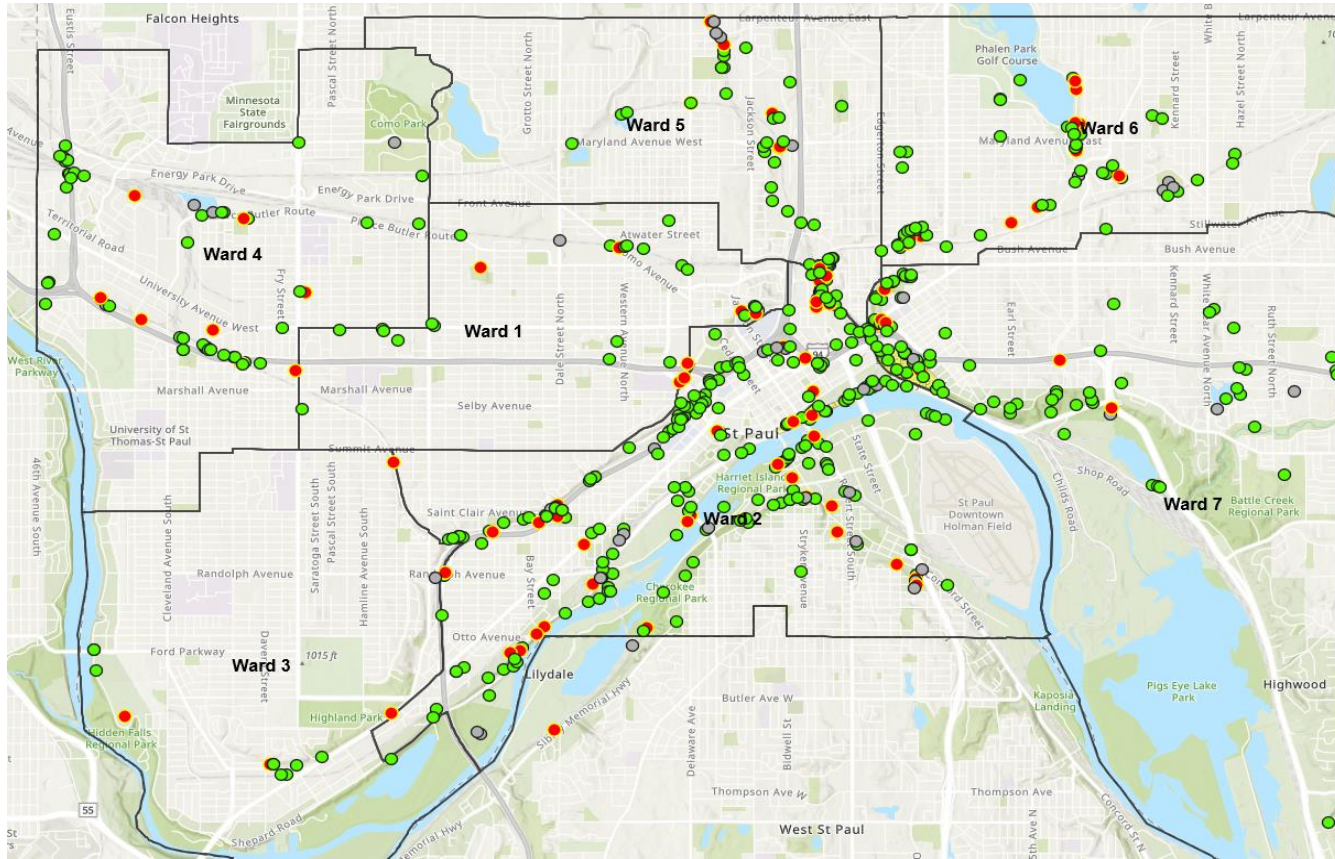
# AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
  - 2. Group Agreements**
  - 3. Housing Crisis Background and Coordinated Response**
  - 4. Freedom House**
  - 5. Next Steps**
  - 6. Questions/discussion**
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# GROUND RULES/GROUP AGREEMENTS

- Be open-minded
  - Listen actively/respectfully when others are speaking.
  - Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
  - Respectfully ask challenging questions and refrain from personal attacks
  - Be engaged and provide feedback
  - The goal is not to always agree -- it is to gain a deeper understanding.
  - Be aware of your facial expressions --they can be perceived as disrespectful as words.
  - Do not dominate the discussion, allow others to be heard.
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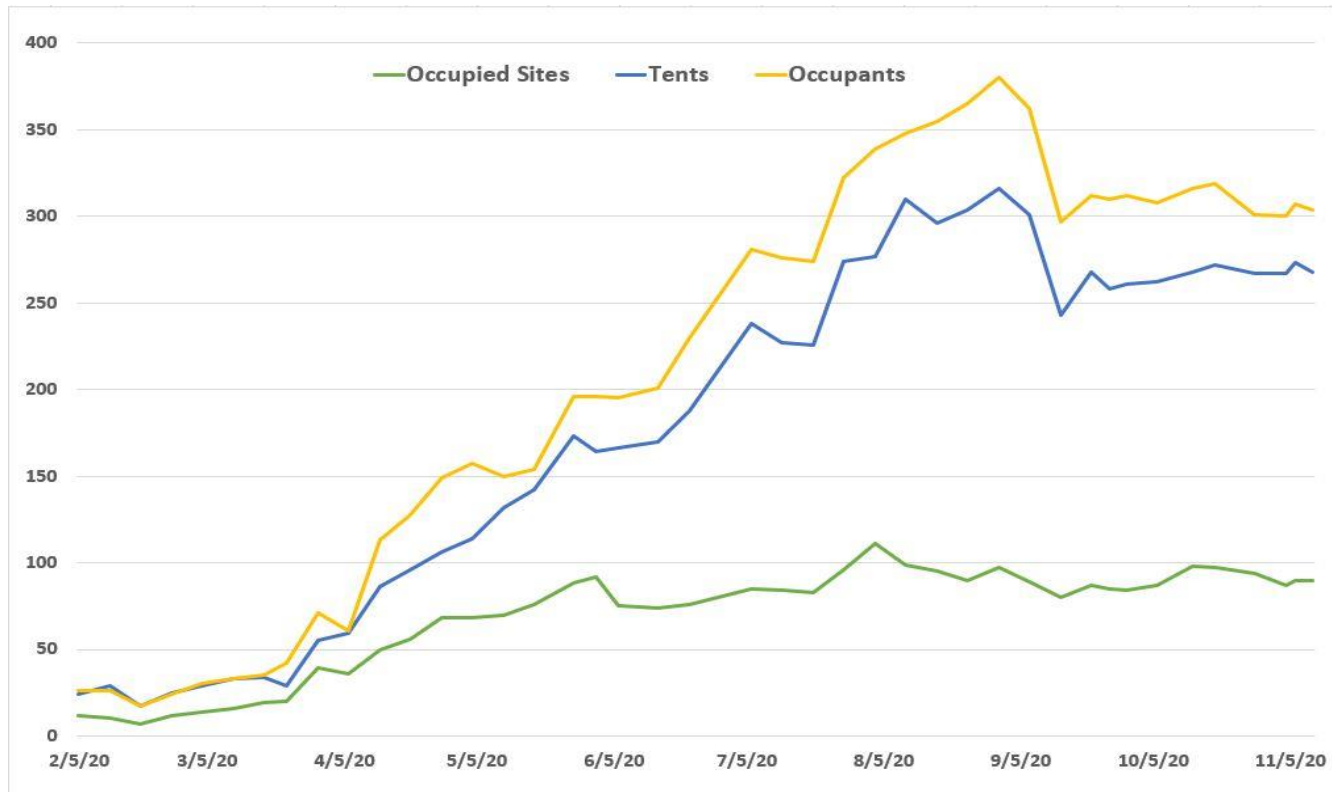
# CURRENT ENCAMPMENT SITES



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL & RAMSEY COUNTY**  
COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HOUSING CRISIS EXACERBATED BY COVID-19



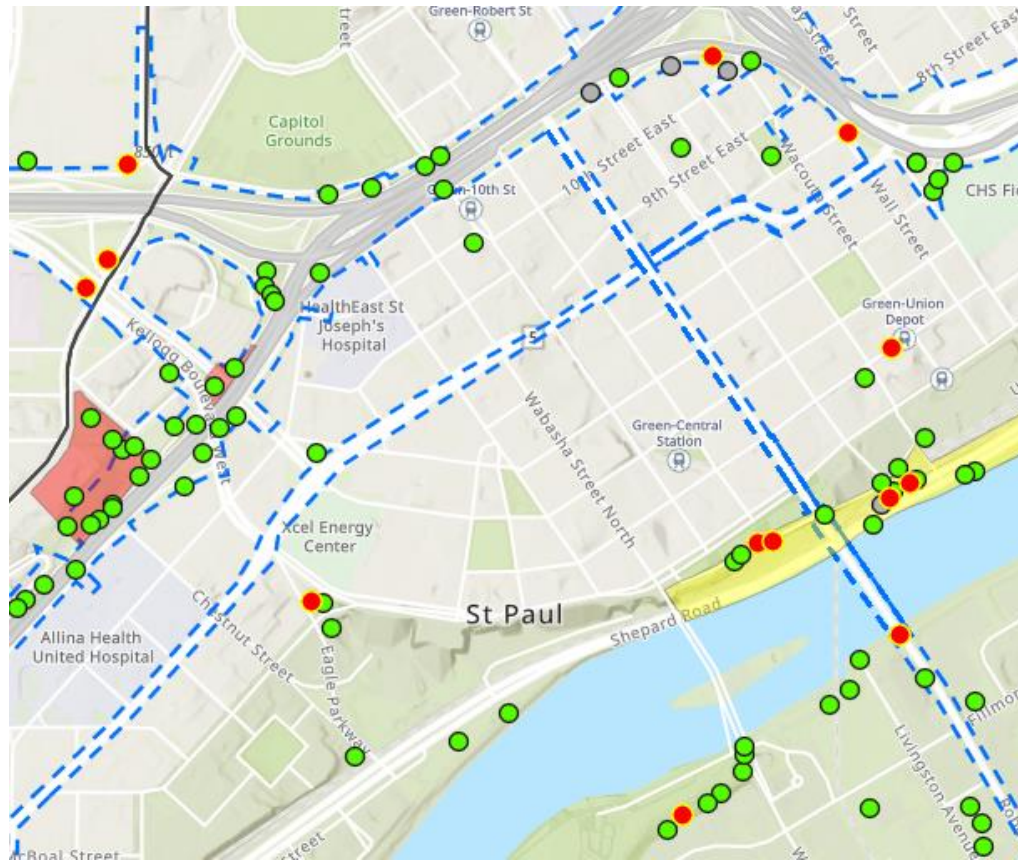
# UNSHELTERED NUMBERS



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# DOWNTOWN ENCAMPMENT SITES



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# OUR PLAN

Our community faces an urgent need for additional locations throughout the City where services may be provided to promote the health, safety, and welfare of our unsheltered residents in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Saint Paul proposes to use Freedom House, a City-owned property on West 7th Street, as a low-barrier space where individuals experiencing homelessness can access essential services.

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# SELECTION PROCESS

- Ramsey County engaged the services of a Real Estate broker to identify possible spaces throughout the City.
- Selection criteria included: personalized meeting spaces for outreach & service providers; facilities to address basic needs, bathrooms, showers; space for respite and food; turn-key conditions requiring minimal construction/investment; access to transportation and other social services
- Freedom House on West 7th Street, best fit the criteria. It is located near other services, accessible by public transit, and offers capacity for individuals to meet privately. Other locations in the City are being considered for expanded overnight shelter space.

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# FREEDOM HOUSE OPERATIONS

- Proposal: Convert Freedom House into a low barrier day-time community drop-in and resource and referral center, open from 8 AM to 8 PM, seven days a week
- Freedom House would be operated by Listening House, an experienced day service provider for adults experiencing homelessness, pending a lease agreement with the City of Saint Paul and a service contract with Ramsey County.
- Listening House has been operating in Saint Paul for 37 years. Pre-COVID, facility served 40-120 people daily; that facility would continue operations.

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# Saint Paul Police Department

- Collaborate with other agencies and groups
- Address any "hot spots," if needed
- Proactive patrols
- Emergency response

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# NEXT STEPS

- Freedom House Day Shelter would be operational for a minimum of two winter seasons.
- The use of the property as shelter space would be permitted under an Emergency Ordinance, considered and passed by the Saint Paul City Council.
- Lease agreement and an Emergency Ordinance voted on at the November 18 regular meeting.

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# CITY'S FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

These foundational principles have guided our collaborative efforts:

Everyone experiencing unsheltered homelessness and deserving of being treated with dignity and respect and in accordance with their rights.

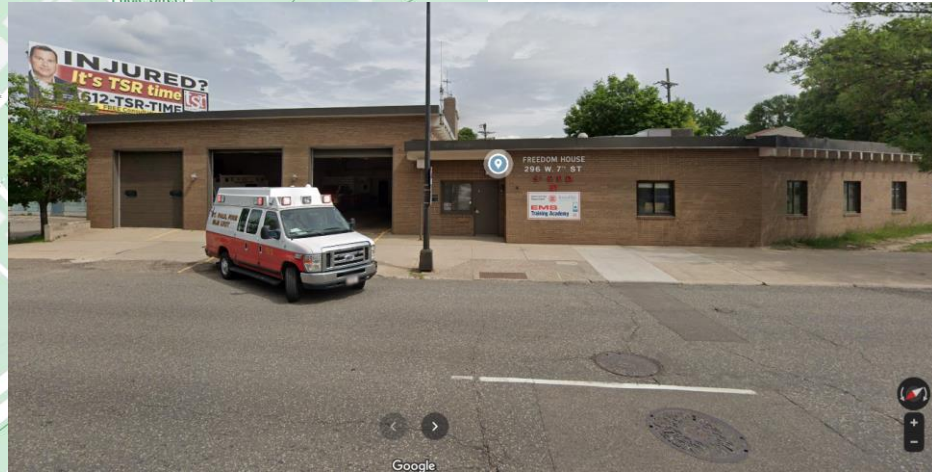
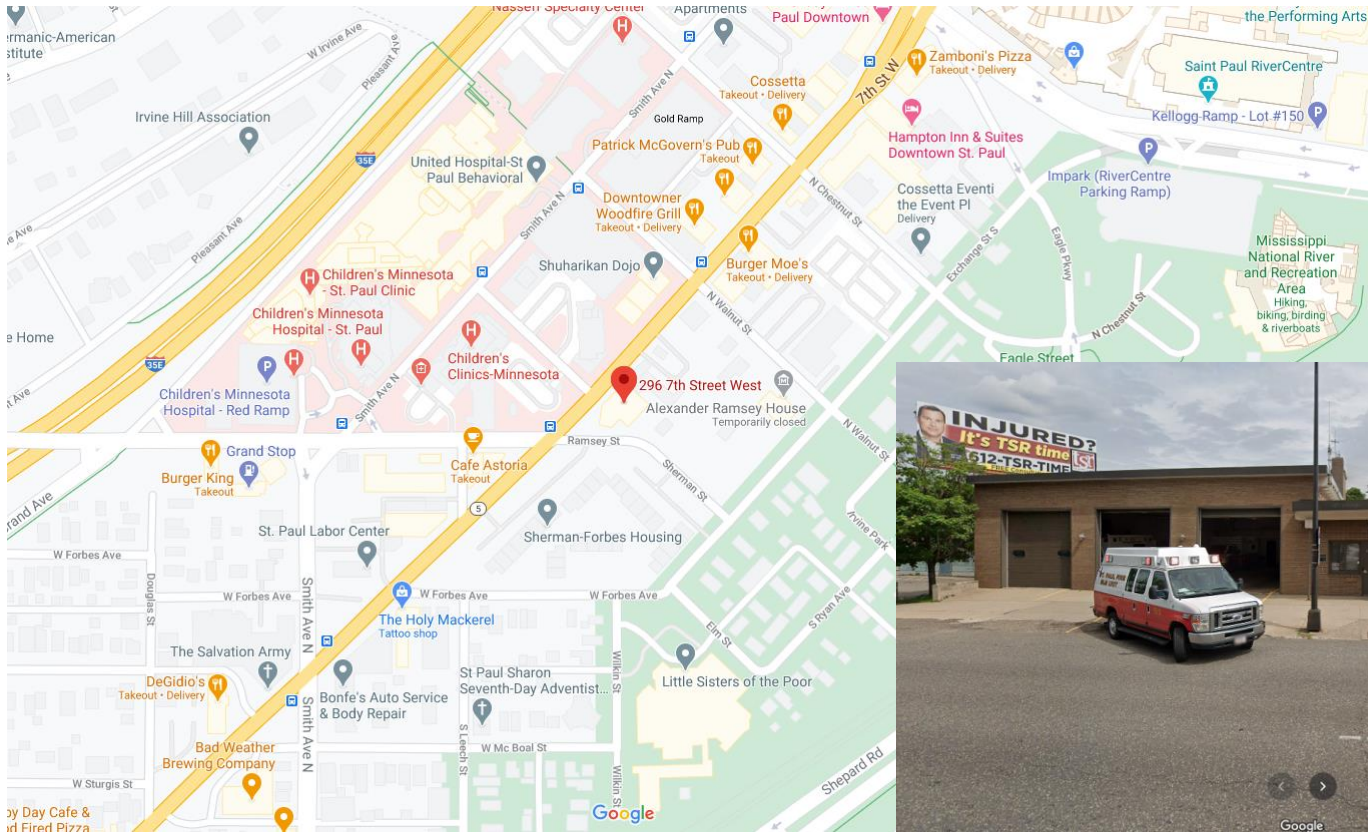
Every effort must be made to connect people to housing, shelter, and services.

Encampments represent a serious health and safety risk – particularly for those staying within the encampment – and do not represent a dignified form of shelter.

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# FREEDOM HOUSE OPERATIONS



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# RESOURCES

LINK TO Aug 19 City Council presentation

<https://stpaul.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8732870&GUID=CF7320AD-FC1E-4FA6-A655-8CE9C552F6EE>

City of Saint Paul “Coordinated Response to Encampments”

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/coordinated-response-encampments%C2%A0>

Ramsey County RISE: Help for Those Experiencing Homelessness

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/covid-19-info/county-services-initiatives/investment-support-efforts-cares-funding/rise-help-those-experiencing-homelessness>