

OUR COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE HOUSING CRISIS EXACERBATED BY COVID-19

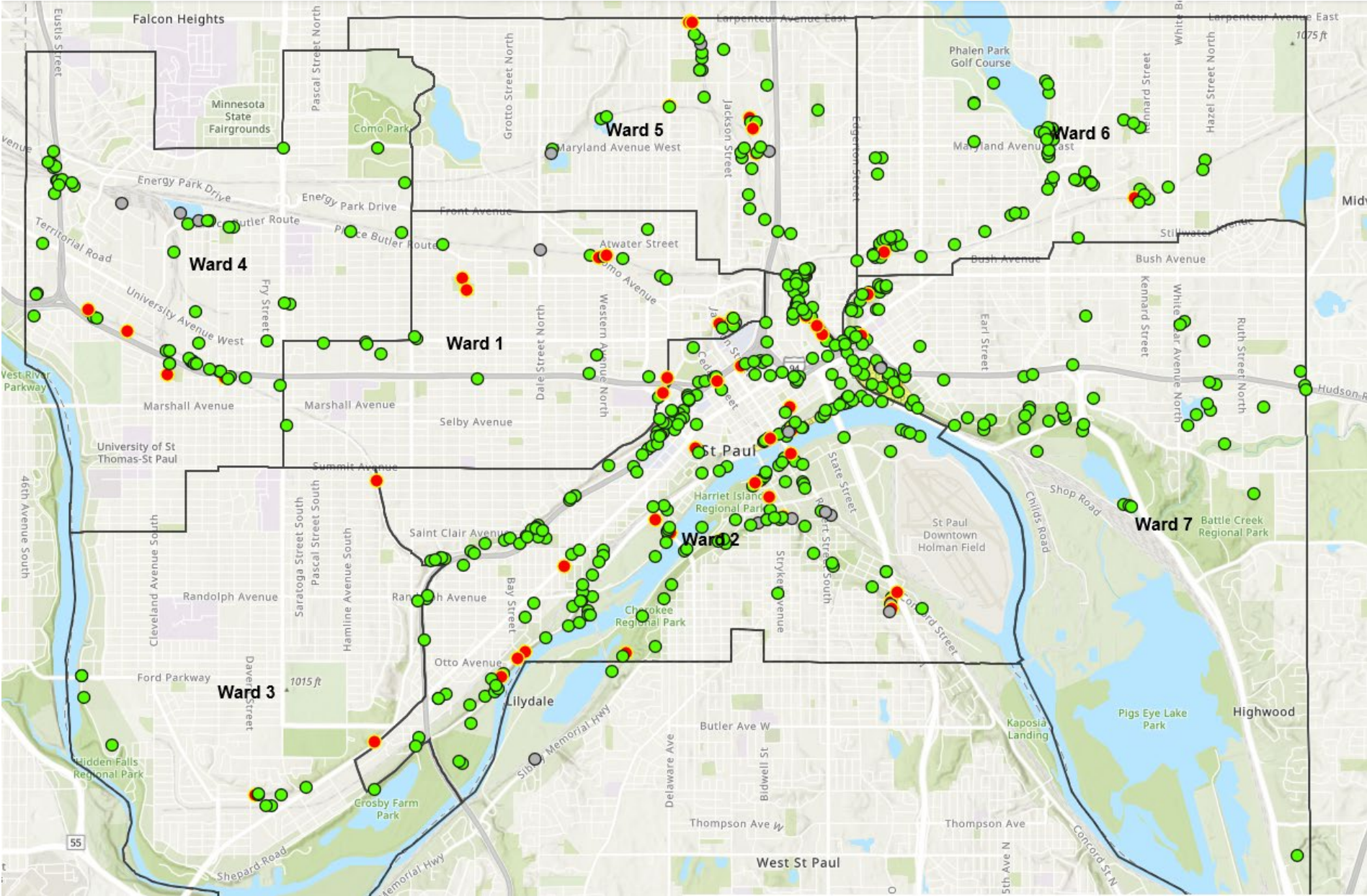
Saint Paul Planning Commission: Informational presentation, May 14, 2021

Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher, DSI Director Ricardo X. Cervantes, Deputy Director Travis Bistodeau,
Saint Paul Police Department Senior Commander Jeremy Ellison



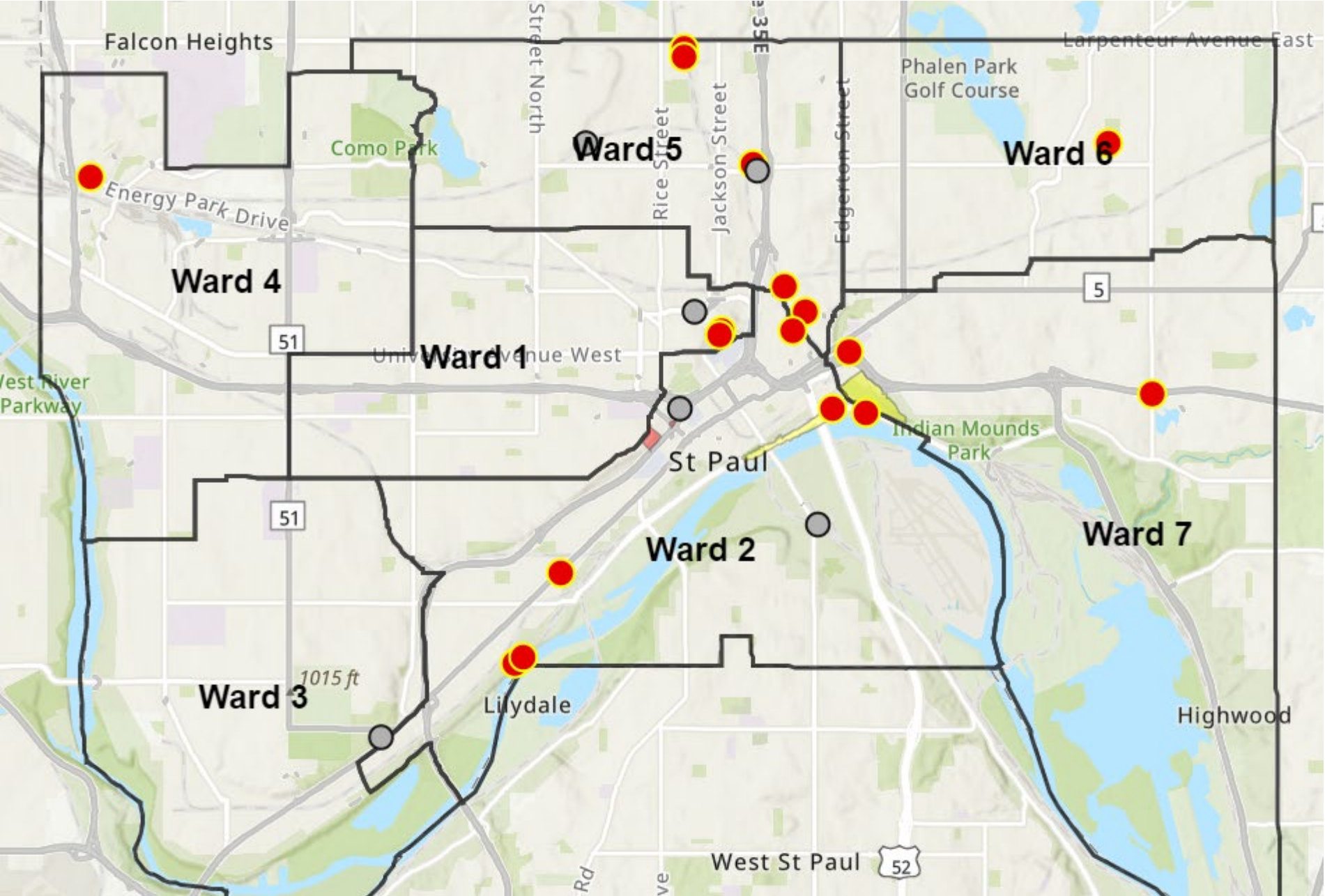
SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

1.26.2021 Unsheltered Homeless Encampments Saint Paul, MN



- Legend**
- =cleaned/cleared
 - =to be cleared
 - =under assessment

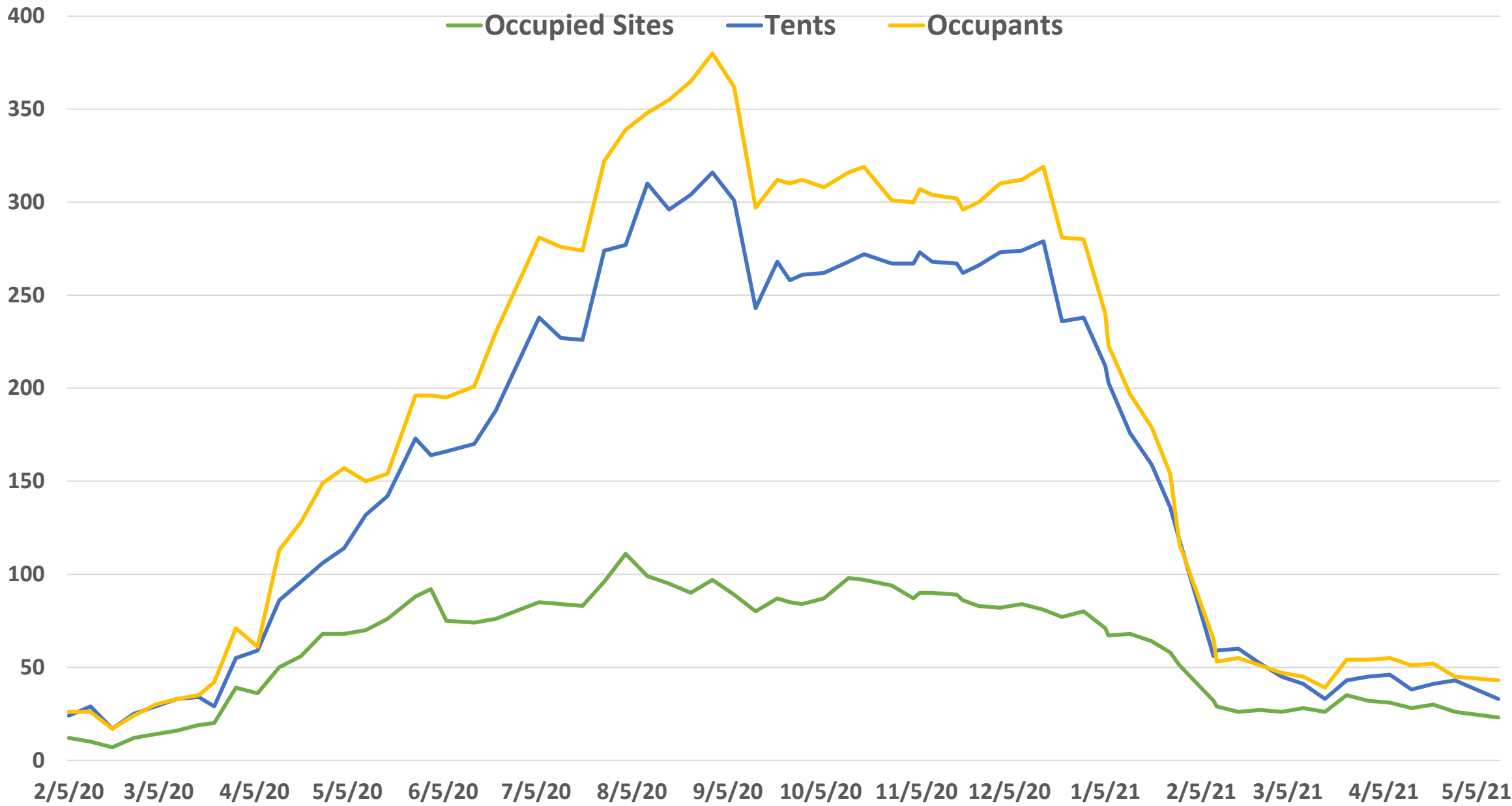
5.13.2021 Unsheltered Homeless Encampments Saint Paul, MN



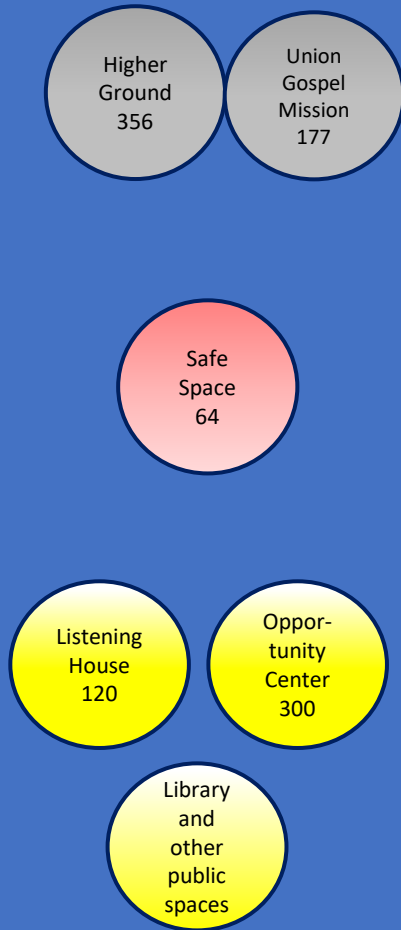
Legend

- =to be cleared
- =under assessment

5.12.2021 Unsheltered Homeless Encampments Saint Paul, MN Summary Graph



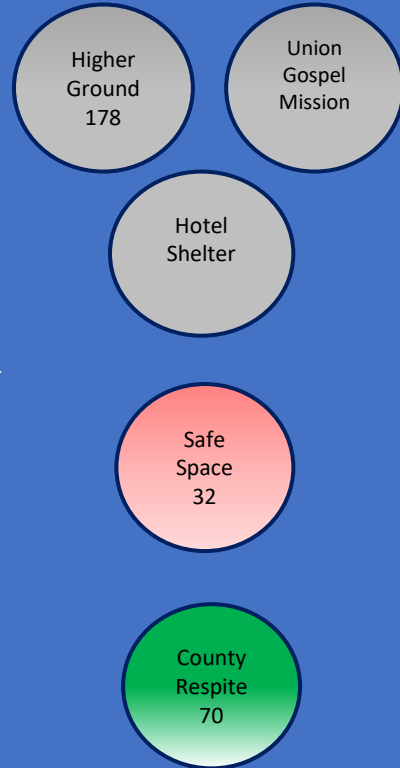
PRE-COVID



Sheltering Outdoors

People: <30
Tents: <30

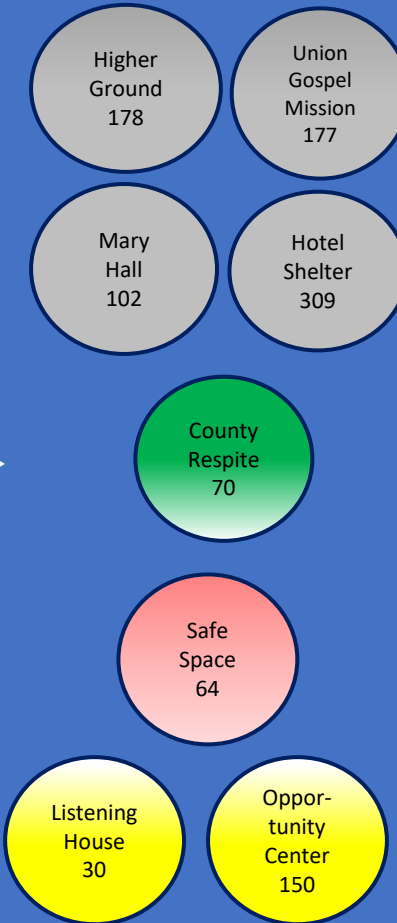
COVID – Initial Response



Sheltering Outdoors

People: 177
Tents: 147
Encampments: 84

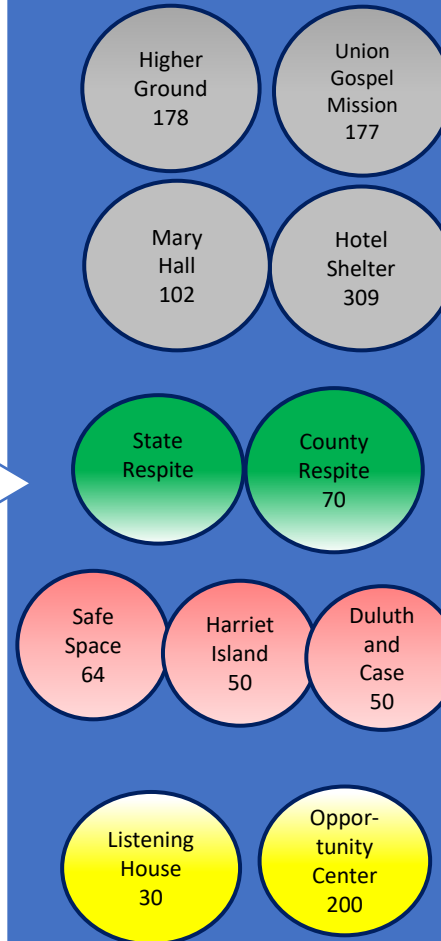
Action Planning



Sheltering Outdoors

People: high of 380
Tents: 277
Encampments: 117

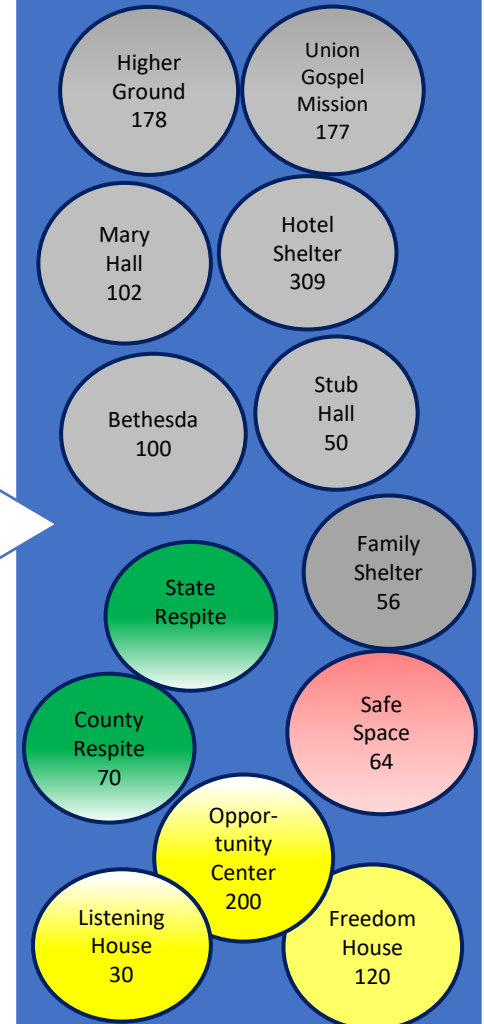
Winter



Sheltering Outdoors

People: ~300

Current



Sheltering Outdoors

People: 43
Tents: 33
Encampments: 23

EXPANDED SHELTER OPTIONS

BETHESDA



Added capacity: 100+ private rooms

EXPANDED SHELTER OPTIONS

MARY HALL



Capacity: 134 private rooms
(*single adult men*)

LUTHER SEMINARY/ STUB HALL

EXPANDED SHELTER OPTIONS



Capacity: 50 private rooms
(women and couples)

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Harriet Island and Duluth & Case



SAFE AND STABLE SHELTER OPERATIONS



24/7 On-site Staffing

- Staff reflect the residents and have diverse experiences
- Build relationships with residents
- CPR and Narcan trained

Wraparound Services

- 3 meals per day provided
- On-site mental health services
- Transportation services
- Health care and nursing

Pathways to Housing Stability

- On-site benefit and housing navigation
- Removing barriers for housing readiness

Trauma-informed Security

- Rooted in de-escalation
- Aware of mental health crises
- 24/7 presence
- Inside and outside facility



2021 CITY OF SAINT PAUL ENCAMPMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- 2020 experience confirmed that homeless encampments do not provide a safe, healthy or secure living environment
- City has thoughtfully closed approximately 50 encampments over the last nine months, aligning resources and services with occupants prior and during closures
- Many occupants are now in new, low-barrier shelters that have been established through city/county partnerships and have access to county 'Step Up' programming
- City will continue to close encampments based on safety risks as long as low barrier shelter beds are available
- City is committed to maintaining all previously closed encampment sites clear. Those who re-occupy will be provided 72 hour notice and access to shelter referrals/services before a site is re-closed

2021 Area Action Plans

City responded by organizing four major Area Action Plans working group engaged in targeted strategies designed to minimize identified local community impacts by mobilizing key partners

- 5th Street and Cedar
 - 7th Street W. and Grand Avenue
 - Pedro Park/10th Street and Robert St.
 - Lowertown (Mears Park) Neighborhood
-
- Address community impacts include but are not limited to trash, vandalism, aggressive behavior, panhandling, public intoxication, mental health needs, drug dealing, theft
 - Timely, iterative, effective response to conditions
 - Response consists of specialized teams to address specific concerns

2021 Area Action Plans

1. **Strategic Direction:** Reduce crime and increase sense of safety and security

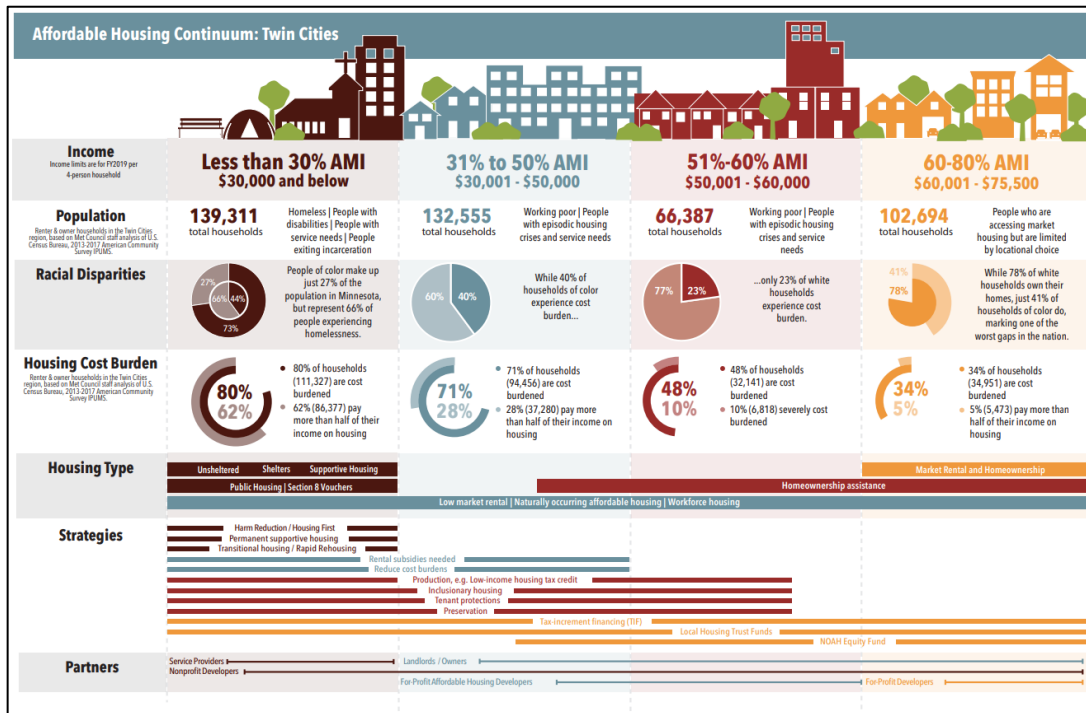
Partners: Saint Paul Police Department; Metro Transit; Ramsey County Attorney and County Attorney-Civil Commitment Section; Saint Paul City Attorney; Community Ambassadors

2. **Strategic Direction:** Improve sense of clean and well-maintained spaces, decrease trash and graffiti

Partners: Downtown Alliance-Block-by-Block Clean Team Ambassador program; City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, DSI, Public Works and Office of Financial Services departments; Metropolitan Council

3. **Strategic Direction:** Coordinate and augment services and resources to support unsheltered residents

Partners: Deputy Mayor Tincher; Saint Paul City Council Member Rebecca Noecker; Metro Transit-Capt. Brooke Blakey; DSI Director Ricardo Cervantes; Cmdr Mollner; Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care; East Metro Crisis Alliance



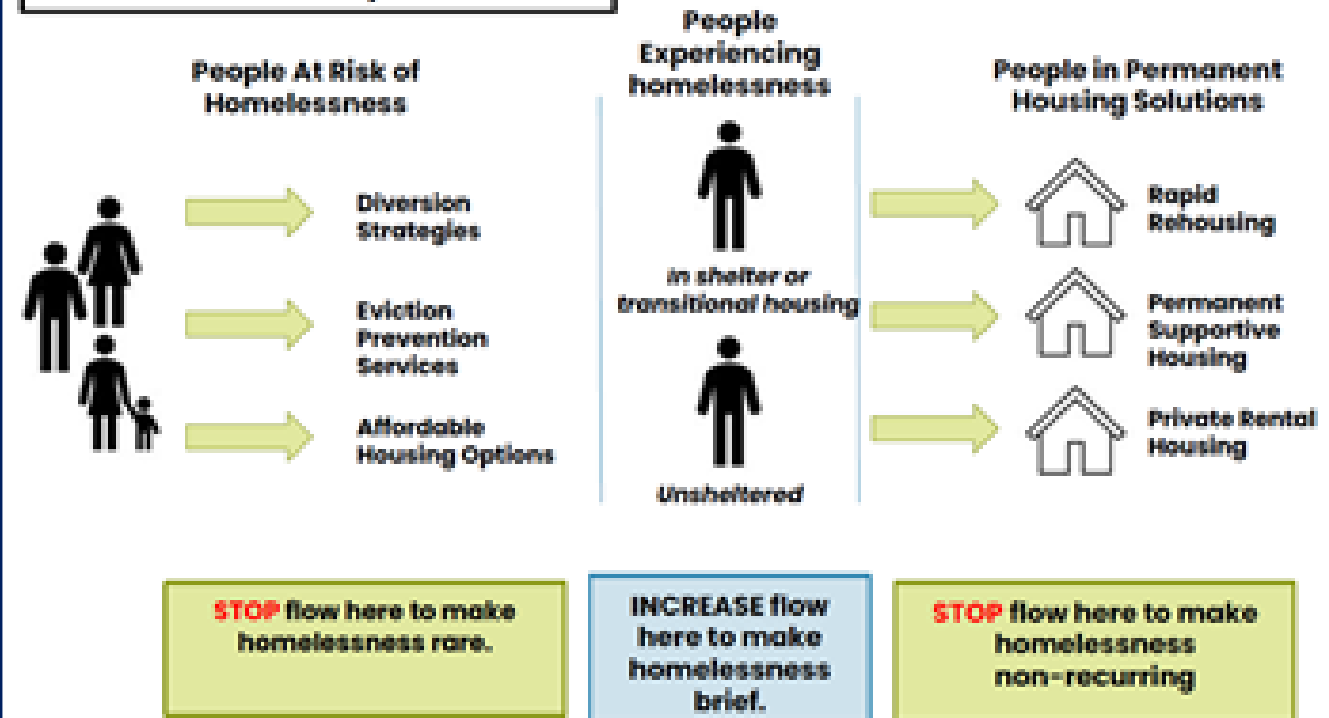
Excerpt from Minnesota Housing Partnership <https://www.mhponline.org/publications/housing-continuum>

Heading Home Ramsey (HHR) is the Continuum of Care for Ramsey County, a community-wide partnership committed to the goal of ending homelessness in the cities and neighborhoods of Ramsey County. HHR is a coalition of social service providers, housing providers, philanthropic partners, business, community, government and resident. HHR is responsible for long term strategic planning and managing on-going work being done to reduce and end homelessness in Ramsey County.

Context: Effective Homeless Response Systems

Making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring

Homeless Service System "Flow"



Adapted from [City of Baltimore Mayoral Workgroup on Homelessness](#)

THANK YOU