



NEWS RELEASE

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CITY COORDINATES VISIT FROM LOCAL AGENCIES TO ASSIST HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS LOCATED DOWNTOWN

Yesterday, the City of Tucson's Housing and Community Development department coordinated a joint visit to Veinte de Agosto Park from ten different social service agencies, in an effort to connect homeless individuals with programs and services. Representatives from Primavera Foundation, The Salvation Army and other groups that specialize in providing transitional housing spoke with individuals gathered at the downtown location to assess their needs and provide resources. Agency representatives were successful in assisting several individuals and will continue to perform outreach in the park, which has become a hub of political activity surrounding the issue.

"The professionals in our local social service agencies coordinate the comprehensive solutions needed to transition people off the streets, and we appreciate their efforts yesterday," said Interim City Manager Martha Durkin. "This is a community issue and it will require the cooperation of public and private organizations to provide long-term solutions. The City is committed to handling this issue in the most humane way and respecting the dignity of those individuals in need."

The City's enforcement efforts in the area surrounding Veinte de Agosto Park became limited when U.S. District Judge David Bury granted the organizers of a group based in the park an injunction preventing the police from enforcing a limit on personal possessions. The City of Tucson has filed an appeal from the Order of injunction by Judge Bury. In a separate motion, the City is requesting certain modifications of the Order, so that the City may have clear guidance as to its enforcement authority.

The Downtown Tucson Partnership provides daily trash removal and sweeping and weekly power washing of the sidewalks.

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