



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 8, 2015

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Homeless Encampments**

Following my December 1, 2015 memorandum to the Board of Supervisors regarding homeless encampments, there was an inquiry from the public suggesting we follow the Albuquerque, New Mexico model where homeless individuals are employed and paid \$9 per hour to provide basic services such as litter pick up, weed removal and general landscaping.

We have reviewed the Albuquerque model and find it was implemented after the City of Albuquerque, through its Council, passed an anti-panhandling ordinance that was barred from being enforced by the District Court due to the ordinance being in violation of the First Amendment.

The City of Albuquerque provided a 12-passenger van to St. Martin's Hospitality Center, a homeless service provider, and provided a grant of \$50,000 to St Martin's to operate the program. However, they only operate the program two days a week, leaving a severe gap in services. We understand next year the City will budget \$100,000 and provide an additional van to the program.

In our case, it would be necessary to coordinate any such activity with the City of Tucson and our surrounding communities. Regardless of the City of Tucson's ordinance, I, on a daily basis, observe individuals on the City's public right of way panhandling. Hence, the ordinance has not been a deterrent.

It would appear the Albuquerque model would be of limited benefit and would only scratch the surface in addressing homeless issues. More importantly, many of the costs incurred by Albuquerque are transferred to City departments and administration for providing safety equipment, signage, etc. for those who provide limited services in the public rights of way for two days per week.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

There's a Better Way – ABQ's Innovative, Collective Impact Driven Panhandling Solution

Reasons why we do this program:

1. Give people dignity in work
2. Connect individuals with services
3. Collective Impact to end panhandling
4. Help the Community to understand *There's a Better Way*

May 2015 – Mayor Berry thought up program during a morning staff briefing discussing the panhandling issue.

- In Albuquerque, panhandling is a public safety issue but it not illegal. In 2003, the City Council passed an anti-panhandling ordinance, but State District Court Judge William Lang barred the city from enforcing the ordinance after the ACLU fought it on the grounds that it was a First Amendment violation.

June 2015 – originally 15 signs posted across the city displaying the following info:

- City 311 operators equipped with a resource directory to help those in need of food and shelter
- Drivers who are interested in helping the panhandlers have an opportunity to redirect their donations to a list of service providers – maximizing their donation for the greatest possible impact.
- We partnered with United Way of Central New Mexico to be the fiscal agents with NO administrative costs
 - Donors can have their money support: The Community Fund, Feeding the Hungry, Shelter the Homeless, and to Pay for a Day's Wages for Someone in Need of Work
- Donations Collected now have the potential to have a Collective Impact. For example, a driver could hand \$5 out the window to a panhandler and help them purchase one meal – or they could donate \$5 to Roadrunner Food Bank and feed 20 people.
- The popularity of the signs resulted in the city expanding to 33 signs



September 2015- The second phase of the initiative is the “There’s a Better Way” van.

- City refitted a 2006 12-passenger van to drive to areas frequented by panhandlers and offer them day labor
- The City teamed up with St. Martin’s Hospitality Center by providing \$50,000 for the program to run the program for two reasons:
 - Personal engagement to get people connected to the right resources
 - To transition them from this job into a more stable employment through St. Martin’s Employment Support program
- The van transports individuals to a job site under the City’s Solid Waste Department’ supervision to do work such as landscape beautification. Lunch is provided by St. Martin’s
- Paid above minimum wage at \$9/hour- They can work up to \$600/ year under the tax code
- After their work day is complete, passengers are transported back to St. Martin’s to be connected with emergency shelter to house them overnight as needed.
- To date, the van has been full every Tuesday and Thursday they have gone to pick people up.
- We have had over 40 states and cities across the country interested in the program including: San Diego, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; Honolulu, HI; Seattle, WA; Cincinnati, OH; Portland, OR

To date, the program has received over 4,800 calls with over 94% of those calls looking to be connected to resources

Total donations to date: \$3,125

In house video that was made: <https://vimeo.com/146947306>

There's A Better Way

ABQ's Innovative, Collective Impact Driven Panhandling Solution



PART 1: Directing people to 311 to get connected to resources. Encouraging donors to have a collective impact to end panhandling by giving to DONATEabq.org

PART 2: Working with St. Martin's Hospitality Center to offer panhandlers jobs beautifying the city at \$9/hour.

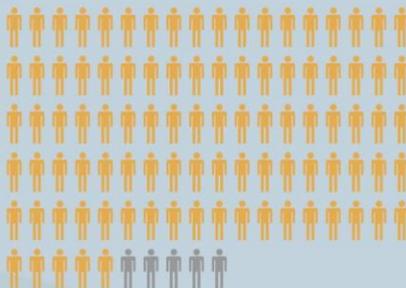
In the first 6 months **4,500+** lives have been impacted



94% of the 311 calls on this program get are people asking to be connected to services

JOBS

In the first 2 months of the Van Program, 189 jobs have been accepted out of the 200 asked.



There's a Better Way Van Program workers have cleaned **35.5 city blocks**

And cleared out **19,400 + lbs.** of litter and weeds.

7 Emergency/ Hotline Numbers

The City of Albuquerque grants over **\$18M** to our local service providers

14 Overnight, Day, Teen, & Emergency Shelters

20+ Substance Abuse, Recovery, & Mental health Programs

8 Meal Sites

80 + misc. services including clothing & legal aid



CALL 311



Visit DONATEabq.org

Infographic on the program's first 6 months of success.

Updated 11/17/2015

Supplement Page, National Coverage of the Program:

NBC Nightly News: <http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/see-how-these-homeless-people-are-working-their-way-to-a-better-life-575747139785>

PBS News Hour: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/albuquerque-mayor-heres-a-crazy-idea-lets-give-homeless-people-jobs/>

Governing Magazine: <http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-albuquerque-gives-panhandlers-jobs-not-tickets.html>

Upworthy: <http://www.upworthy.com/the-mayor-of-albuquerque-saw-a-homeless-man-with-a-will-work-sign-it-gave-him-a-great-idea>