

## Homeless Update

**Ashley Chambers**

01/19/2023 at 12:41 PM

To: Details ^

**From:** Ashley Chambers <ashleyc@gjcity.org >

**Sent:** 01/19/2023 at 12:41 PM

**To:** Tamra Allen <tamraa@gjcity.org>

📎 1 Attachment(s) Total 34.1 KB View v

Tamra,

Sherry and I attended the homeless coalition meeting this morning and wanted to fill you in that it was a really firey meeting. I had to leave early, but when I left it was the upset over camp cleanups due to the lack of housing options elsewhere – I will have Sherry brief me once she is back from some other meetings. I'm certain that we will be hearing loudly from several groups in the next few weeks particularly as more data was presented today and more is coming down later this week as the PIT count is being completed on Tuesday night, which based on projections will reveal a really big surge.

Here are some data points that were of major interest to our work and that council may want to be apprised of before it goes to newspapers.

PIT count: between 2021-2022 homelessness increased 45%, service providers believe that we will have another exponential growth number between 2022-2023. The PIT count is definitely not a comprehensive assessment of homeless numbers only a shadow as it takes place the same date and time every year, but lasts only for a few hours and only includes the places volunteers can get to.

D51: shared that they currently have 732 kids enrolled, last year it was 600 the same time of year. (approximately 110.7% increase). The D51 coordinator shared that the most shocking part is that typically after the school year starts they see the numbers level off by January. They are currently getting about 11 referrals a week. So those numbers are increasing.

Additionally, many service providers shared that their numbers of aging (those above 55 years old) fixed income folks were increasing especially those with medical needs who historically would not have been homeless. Many stated they believe that increased homelessness is because of a rise in evictions, raised rents or homes being sold out from under renters.

I think we are significantly increasing in homelessness, and our vacancy rate for homeownership is 0.9% and rentals is 1.9% which means once someone loses their housing there's literally no where for them to go. Vacancy rates that low are typically due to people moving out of area and/or moving out of a rental or home and there is a brief moment for repairs and painting, etc. before it is occupied again.

All that to say – I'm concerned that crisis level is fast approaching.

Should I get together with Sara to put together talking points (for council and others?), a press release about what we is happening in the city, or other methods of community information? It may be more helpful to get ahead of it instead of playing catch up.

Let me know what direction (if any) I should pursue.

Thanks,

***Ashley Chambers, M.P.A***

**Housing Manager**

***ashleyc@gjcity.org | 970.256.4081***

**To Schedule a Meeting, [click here](#)**



**250 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**City Hall is open Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm. We also conduct business online, by phone or by appointment as needed.**