



City of Edmonds Media Release

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Human Services
700 Main Street, Edmonds WA 98020

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CITY OF EDMONDS COMMITTED TO CLEANING UP PUBLIC PROPERTY WHILE CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS TO SERVICES

New agreement with non-profit provides compassionate mechanism to clean-up encampments while offering wrap-around services

(Edmonds, WA) – The City of Edmonds is partnering with The Hand Up Project, a local nonprofit that cleans-up unauthorized encampments in compliance with environmental laws. At the same time, they connect individuals to wrap-around services, leading them towards more permanent housing. The Hand Up Project cleans-up certain toxic waste, removes garbage and provides assistance to individuals in need.

This is part of Mayor Nelson’s vision addressing homelessness that has included adding a human services division, partnering with Compass Health’s Community Transitions program for embedded social service and healthcare coordination with the Edmonds Police Department, proactive outreach to unhoused individuals, partnership with Washington Kids in Transition to provide household support grants to prevent homelessness, and County collaboration on time-limited bridge housing.

“Each of the initiatives we have undertaken play a part in ensuring our vulnerable residents are treated with compassion and dignity while ensuring our community remains a safe and welcoming place to live,” states Mayor Nelson.

In addition to providing cleanup services, The Hand Up Project has over a decade of experience assisting individuals that are sometimes inhabiting these areas. The Hand Up Project complies with all federal, state, and local codes to provide one-on-one Certified Recovery Coaching and counseling to the individuals that sometimes call these spaces “home”. They can assist with moving individuals towards their goals for a healthier life, working closely with the City’s Human Services Department and Compass Health Care Coordinator.

“Having the services of The Hand Up Project means the City has a mechanism in place to address situations requiring encampment cleanup when they arise. Knowing that all codes are being followed and additional services offered when needed, expands how the city is helping vulnerable residents while protecting public property and

the environment,” shared Deputy Director Shannon Burley.

The current agreement shall not exceed \$25,000 annually. Each cleanup has a minimum call fee of \$500 and each service call will have a quote provided that outlines costs before work commences. For more information about The Hand Up Project, visit <https://www.thehandupproject.org/>.

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