



# WARM WEATHER PLAN

PROMOTING SAFE AND HEALTHY STREETS IN THE MASS & CASS AREA

The City of Boston is committed to meeting the needs of individuals impacted by substance use and homelessness, as well as the needs of the communities in which they live. This commitment includes the Mass & Cass area, near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. During warmer months, more individuals spend time outside in the area, increasing needs related to public health, public safety, and quality of life. To meet the increased need, this Warm Weather Plan enhances the City's strategies for supporting both individuals accessing services and the surrounding neighborhood.

## What does this plan aim to achieve?

Together, the initiatives in this plan aim to have the following impacts on the neighborhood:

1. Improve public safety
2. Improve health and cleanliness
3. Reduce overcrowding
4. Prevent encampments from forming

## Which City agencies will contribute to this collaborative approach?

The City's Coordinated Response Team (CRT) - made up of over 10 departments that respond to the needs of unsheltered individuals and their surrounding communities - will implement the Warm Weather Plan. The CRT includes the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Boston Public Works Department (PWD), and Boston Police Department (BPD).

## Strategies the City is implementing in spring and summer 2022:

### 1. Promote public safety through BPD and BPHC Public Safety

The Boston Police Department will continue to promote public safety in the neighborhood, through close coordination among the Street Outreach Unit, District C6, District D4, and District B2, as well as specialized units including the Bike Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, and Drug Control Unit. BPHC Public Safety will promote safety around the Engagement Center.

- *By the numbers:* 24/7 operations
  - i. At any given day and shift, the BPD has multiple units operating in the Mass & Cass Blvd area
  - ii. Daily collaboration among internal and external law enforcement agencies



**2. Increase presence of joint public health and public safety outreach teams**

BPHC street outreach workers and BPD officers are working together on a team to help individuals transition off the street during scheduled cleanings, offering information about how to access other services and transportation.

- *By the numbers:* Since an April pilot, 2 BPHC outreach workers and 2 BPD outreach officers have conducted outreach together to help individuals stay safe and connect to services.

**3. Prevent encampments**

Under the Homeless Encampment Liaison Protocol, the City provides advanced notice and offers individuals services before removing tents and temporary structures on City property. The Coordinated Response Team will continue to implement the encampment protocol citywide, to prevent entrenched encampments.

- *By the numbers:* The City is adding 4 staff to support the CRT's Citywide Encampment Response and serVice Engagement (CERVE) team with resolving all tents and temporary structures on City property.

**4. Increase street cleaning**

The Boston Public Works Department will conduct street sweeping on Atkinson St. and Southampton St. to reduce litter and promote a healthy environment for all.

- *By the numbers:* Through an April/May pilot, PWD has added street sweepings multiple times a week.

**5. Promote safe environment for accessing services at Engagement Center**

Given recent events concerning public safety in the neighborhood, BPHC is enhancing safety procedures at the Engagement Center to ensure continuity of critical services, including essential supplies, medical and behavioral health care, and access to substance use treatment and support.

**6. Increase parking enforcement**

The City has posted “no parking” restrictions on Atkinson St, to make the street safer for vehicles passing on the road and for pedestrians passing on the sidewalk and will enforce these parking restrictions.

**7. Make the neighborhood more beautiful and walkable**

The City will enhance graffiti removal and repaint crosswalks in the neighborhood, to create a more welcoming, safe environment for all those who pass through the neighborhood, including residents walking to services and jobs.

- *By the numbers:* In April, the City repainted crosswalks at 3 high-traffic intersections in the neighborhood.
- *By the numbers:* In the summer, the City will fund community art projects through the 2022 Paintbox Program and other city programs.



- *By the numbers:* In the summer, the City will begin a bike network project that will improve pedestrian safety on Massachusetts Avenue.

**8. Increase outreach**

The City will enhance street outreach citywide by increasing the number of outreach workers and increasing coverage of overnight hours, to ensure critical homeless + harm reduction services reach individuals who are on the street inside and outside the neighborhood

- *By the numbers:* Increase outreach with 6 additional staff

**9. Open new day centers outside of the neighborhood**

The City will support community-based providers with opening new day engagement centers in other areas of Boston, to increase the availability of places across Boston where individuals can spend time off the street and connect with services.

- *By the numbers:* Two new daytime spaces will open in summer 2022 outside of the MassCass area

**10. Provide transportation and referrals to day centers outside of the neighborhood**

The City is piloting transportation to day centers in other areas of Boston, to support individuals with accessing services like hot meals and linkage to care. This program will use “warm hand-offs,” meaning that City staff will accompany individuals in-person as they arrive at the new provider site.

- *By the numbers:* A van shuttle is offering transport to four day centers.

**11. Strengthen supportive services at low-threshold shelter and housing sites**

The City will enhance the medical care and housing navigation available on-site at the new low-threshold shelter and housing sites across Boston, to ensure individuals have access to critical services in the place they call home.

- *By the numbers:* The 180+ residents of the 6 low-threshold sites will have access to primary care, behavioral health services, and a housing navigator.