

For Immediate Release | April 29, 2022

Fellow Citizens:

Concerns have been raised about the presence of homeless people in two separate areas of our city. First, between the Reeder Construction office building and Hawks Creek Golf Club, and second, in the area between a recently-rezoned office site on Roaring Springs and Westworth Park.

Evidence of their presence has been discovered: shopping carts, clothing, and personal effects. All these have been removed, both by concerned citizens and by our police department and public works staff.

While our police department believes to this point there are no safety issues, nevertheless it is a problem we take seriously, and the city will be moving proactively to minimize if not eliminate our citizens' concerns.

First, a **remote trail camera** has been installed in the area off Roaring Springs between the office site and Westworth Park to detect human presence.

Second, as homeless people do not like open areas, the city will be **clearing low-lying brush** in the golf course area to make the location less attractive to transients and will be encouraging other private property owners to do the same. This was very effective when Oncor cleared the brush in the area between the Westworth Boulevard commercial area and The Fairways.

Third, our police department will be stepping up **nightly patrols and inspections** of these two locations to determine the extent of any problem, and to dissuade transients from using these locations.

Fourth, city staff will be **visiting with commercial business owners** on Westworth Boulevard with suggestions for making their business operations less inviting for homeless people.

As most of our troubled locations are on private property, property owners' installation of "**no trespassing**" signs will assist our police officers to prosecute offenders for criminal trespass.

These measures should let the police department analyze the extent and act upon our problem, and also encourage homeless people to move on to other locations.

We take your concerns and this problem seriously. If you observe *anything* disconcerting, please call either our police department or me, at my cell number of 817-239-0440, at your earliest convenience, and we will respond immediately and appropriately.

As always, feel free to contact me with any thoughts and concerns.

--Mayor Kelly Jones