

# Memorandum

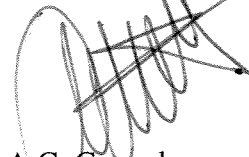


DATE: March 22, 2013

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Camping Regulation**

Attached is briefing material on the "Camping Regulation" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, March 25, 2013.



A.C. Gonzalez  
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Rosa Rios, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Libro, Public Information Office  
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager



# Camping Regulation

Public Safety Committee

March 25, 2013



[www.dallaspolice.net](http://www.dallaspolice.net)

David O. Brown  
Chief Of Police

# Purpose

- Explain the need for a proactive effort to address potential issues arising from public gatherings and events on designated public property owned/controlled by the city

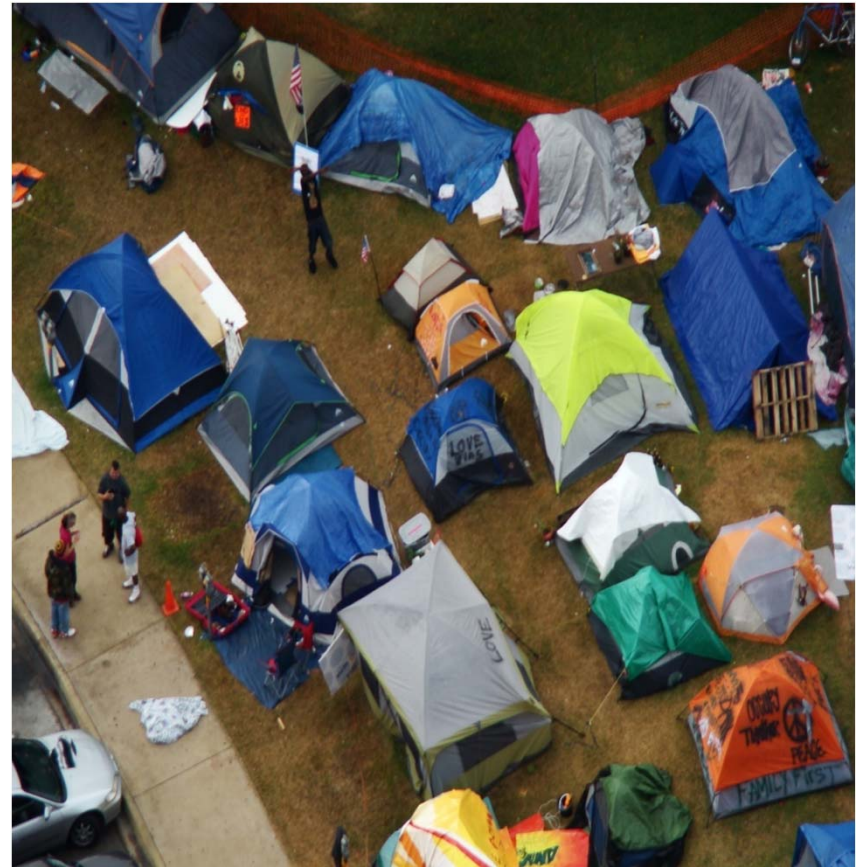
# Goals

- Enhance public safety associated with camping on public property with improved law enforcement tools

# History

- Currently, there is limited regulation of camping on city owned/controlled property
  - Section 32-1 of City Code prohibits overnight camping on park property without a special permit
- Has led to confusion in the case of....

# Spontaneous Encampments



# Lessons Learned

- Lessons learned from past events:
  - Enforcement tools to manage camping are limited
  - Health hazards (unsanitary conditions) are created
  - Fire hazards (fuel based lanterns and heating in tents) are created
  - City Staff response is frequently required (Sanitation, Police, Fire, Health Inspector, Code, Parks, CAO)
  - An atmosphere for increased crime can be created
  - Damage to public property can occur
  - Interference with use and enjoyment of property by the public is diminished

# Highlights of Proposed Ordinance

- Camping Ordinance
  - Restricts the erection and maintenance of temporary shelters on “designated public property”
    - City Hall and City Hall plaza
    - Park property
    - City owned/controlled vacant and unimproved lots
    - Convention Center
    - Central library
  - Defines “temporary shelter” as a tent or other portable or impermanent structure in or under which a person can be sheltered from the elements



# Highlights - Continued

- Provides a defense where express city authorization/permit is obtained
- Requires oral/written warning before enforcement
  - Person will be given one hour to remove the temporary shelter and any other personal property
  - City will remove and handle remaining property using existing police department and city policies

# Next Steps

- Public Safety Committee recommendation
- Council consideration of ordinance change
  - March 27, 2013
- Enforcement as required



QUESTIONS?