MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

165 – HOMELESS PERSONS

GENERAL ORDER: 2025-21 **ISSUED:** April 24, 2025	**EFFECTIVE:** April 24, 2025	**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:** Assistant Chief Steven Johnson **DATE:** March 6, 2025
ACTION: Amends General Order 2023-12 (March 8, 2023)		**WILEAG STANDARD(S): NONE**

ROLL CALL VERSION
Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

165.10 ENGAGEMENT

~~E. The Technical Communications Division shall attempt to dispatch at least one H.O.T. officer to calls for service involving known or suspected homeless persons (if available).~~

E~~F~~. Work locations shall ensure all H.O.T. officers assigned to their work location are designated as H.O.T. officers within the Special Training module of the Online Time Entry System.

165.15 HOMELESS VERIFICATION REFERRAL MEMO (PR-3H)

C. The *Homeless Verification Referral Memo* (form PR-3H) can be used by officers for submission to homeless shelters or any other service that requires a homeless verification. A copy shall be sent to the Crisis ~~Intervention~~ Assessment Response Team via fax (extension [redacted] or interdepartmental mail for entry into the ~~Wisconsin Servicepoint~~ Homeless Management Information System.

165.20 HOMELESS CAMPS

A. Homeless camps on private property should initially be referred to H.O.T. officers, if practical. Subsequent contact should consist of a warning as a step toward developing probable cause for an arrest. Members shall document this warning in the ~~comment~~ add info section of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and include the location of the homeless camp and the name and date of birth of any individuals in the homeless camp.

C. If complaints of criminal activity or health code violations require the Department of Public Works to initiate a clean-up, homeless individuals will be given one (1) week to vacate after notification to remove their personal property. Camps should be monitored until clean-up.

~~**Note: The United States Department of Justice has noted that sleeping is a life sustaining activity, and when adequate shelter space does not exist,**~~

~~**criminalization of persons sleeping in public violate the 8th amendment of cruel and unusual punishment (Bell v. City of Boise et al.)**~~

165.35 PERSONS REFUSING SHELTER SERVICES OR NO SHELTER AVAILABLE

A. Occasionally, individuals experiencing homelessness may refuse shelter services and choose to stay in a public area or there is no shelter space available. Members shall consider these alternatives for referrals:

3. Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)
   1818 ~~—30~~ North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
   414-263-7673

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk