

When all else fails:
Dump the Problem
on
Local Government

- Jerry Gillham

WHAT THE HECK



JUST HAPPENED

Memes

We Survived Mother Nature



SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 - THE 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS RULED

NO SERIOUSLY

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

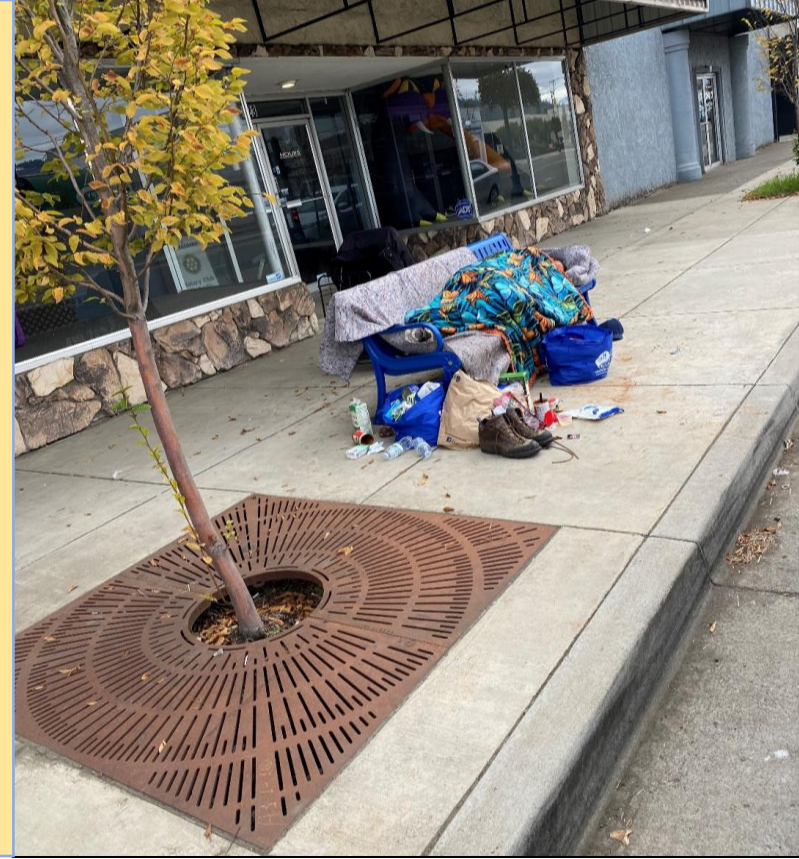


Overnight, Sutherlin's focus shifted from the hope of a "Land of Opportunity" to homeless response.

What was our response?

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

- Walt Disney



We heard two community wants/opinions:

1. Don't care what you do, get them off our streets and out of town.
2. Move them off the streets but be compassionate and help these individuals get the help they need.

Our initial response, strategies and ongoing agenda:

- Initial response.
- Problem-solving. Education and Partnerships.
- Intermediate action. Creating long term Plan.
- Transitions. Tent-to-shelter-to permanent home.

INITIAL RESPONSE “Immediate Action”

Selected an initial location

We needed to move quickly because the onslaught had begun on our streets



Immediate action, establish an interim location:

1. We selected and immediately prepared a small city-owned lot, and
2. Moved them off the streets.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- When faced with multiple difficult decisions, choose one and take action without regret; own it and be honest about it.
- Have a plan of response to council, neighbors and the community.
- Keep your promises.

WHAT WE DID NEXT: Follow the dots...

- We moved quickly to obtain ownership of a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot at the entrance to our industrial park from the County.
- We formed a partnership with a local homeless advocate and service worker for the homeless. A. He agreed to create a community support coalition of churches, non-profits and volunteers; B. We agreed to form an internal homeless response team and commit financial resources to assist the coalition in creating a more-permanent lay-out on the lands we were acquiring from the county.
- The initial site became rapidly unpopular with the neighboring community but wildly popular with the downtown businesses so you can imagine the climate of our next council meeting or you don't have to imagine because you've already lived through it.
- This meeting was extremely important. To most it didn't matter that it was interim, we formed a coalition and team; people wanted answers. I used the word important because I ask that you please consider three critical responses that helped ease almost everyone's angst:
 1. Everyone wanted to know who's decision this was. I accepted 100% of the responsibility and explained from my heart what I was thinking and why I made the decision. This was uncomfortable but ultimately well received.
 2. I used the moment to explain the new law, what options were available at this moment and seek ideas from them.
 3. I then reintroduced our two teams and presented a plan with a timeline for transitioning to alternative location.

LESSONS LEARNED

- We discovered that a number of the most emotional complainers didn't even live in Sutherlin.
- Our ultimate success in easing tensions came from satisfying the impacted neighbor issues to our best ability.
- Again, keep your promises.

INTERMEDIATE SITE

We swiftly prepared a new longer-term site and moved campers here where they currently remain. We have 30 homeless individuals.



Permanent Plan

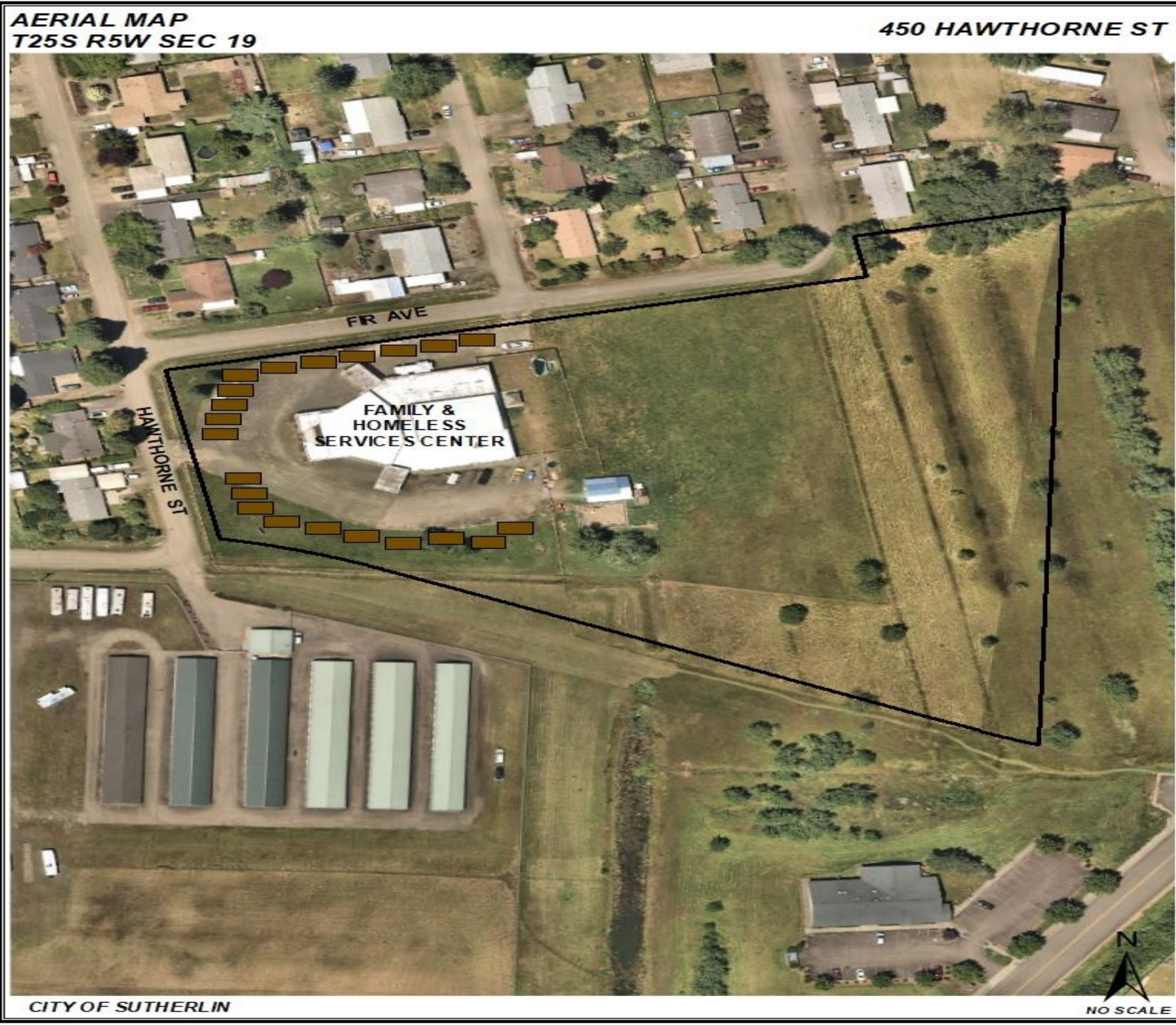
We've done this
before in 2014



PERMANENT

This is our “hoped for”
final location.

There are 27 homeless that
have resided in our Hastings
Village for two years and have
progressed to the point in
their Program of Care to now
qualify for independent
permanent housing.



Thank you for
your time and
attention:

JG

THE END

