

# San Diego Police Department Neighborhood Policing Division



## OVERVIEW

The mission of the San Diego Police Department's Neighborhood Policing Division (NPD) is to enhance the quality of life and safety in San Diego neighborhoods in a manner that is compassionate, professional, and fair to all.

The HOT team facilitates weekly coordinated outreach events bringing together services in one location to connect individuals on the streets to help.



HOT Team Officers



Shelter Service Providers



Mental & Behavioral Health Services



Family Reunification



Medical Care

## OUTREACH

The **Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)** provides homeless community members a liaison to available social services.

The purpose of HOT is to provide an alternative to enforcement for those who find themselves in need of assistance and willing to accept help. The HOT team consists of police officers, mental and medical health professionals, and social workers who go out into the community seven days a week to connect with homeless individuals to build trust, provide education, and direct them to available resources.

### Tents and Hand-Built Structures

Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change Last Year
City of San Diego	221	248	411	674	372	-45%
Downtown	115	134	204	418	199	-52%

This count is no longer gathered. Given ongoing efforts, it can be inferred this has been further reduced.

## Homelessness in San Diego

2020 Annual Point-In-Time Count

Overall

4%

Unsheltered

12%

## PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT

NPD uses a "progressive enforcement" model to provide a consistent approach that is compassionate yet firm. Officers are trained to always offer services to individuals with whom they come in contact prior to taking enforcement action and continue to provide offers for shelter and services at each interaction.





# Neighborhood Policing Division



## DIVERSION

San Diego offers a variety of alternatives to the criminal justice system for individuals who have committed certain offenses. Diversion programs include:

- **Serial Inebriate Program (SIP)** – for alcohol abusers
- **Prosecution and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (PLEADS)** – for narcotics abusers
- **Serial Misdemeanants At Risk Track (SMART)** – for chronic misdemeanor offenders
- **Partnering with the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT)** – for those with mental health issues
- **Direct Placement Diversion Program** – Established by NPD to provide direct access to shelter or safe parking in lieu of enforcement. If an individual accepts services and participates in the program for 30 days, NPD does not file their citation.

## COMMUNITY RESPONSE

NPD teams are paired with the City's Clean SD crews to respond to encampment requests received through the City's Get It Done mobile app to connect homeless individuals with services and clean up trash and debris. This is in addition to calls or emails for assistance that the team receives from community members, SDPD's dispatch system and other City departments.

## RIVERS AND CANYONS

Homeless encampments pose a public health and fire risk when located along rivers and in canyons. NPD teams have worked with community groups, nonprofit organizations and other park and law enforcement agencies to address encampments in these areas and reduce the risk they pose to public safety and get individuals into safe, sanitary environments. Efforts along the San Diego River have reduced the number of homeless encampments by **90 percent**.

## HISTORY OF NPD

March 2018	Division established
March 2018	Progressive Enforcement Model implemented
March 2018	HOT team begins weekly coordinated outreach events
August 2018	NPD gets connected to <a href="#">Get It Done</a> app
July 2019	Direct Placement Diversion Program launches
March 2020	NPD and Clean SD pair up directly for encampment response

San Diego Police Department



## BY THE NUMBERS

**27,400**

Get It Done Reports

**1,700**

Outreach Drop-Offs to Operation Shelter to Home

Since April 2020

**49**

Average Daily Outreach Contacts



Get It Done Customer Rating

76% of users give 4 of 5 stars in Get It Done



BEFORE



AFTER