NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING DIVISION

Outreach

The City of San Diego and the Police Department created the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), to provide homeless citizens a liaison to available social services.

The HOT team consists of police officers, mental health professionals and social workers who go out into the community seven days a week. They contact homeless individuals to build trust, provide education and assist them with available resources.

Progressive Enforcement

The San Diego Police Department’s Neighborhood Policing Division uses a “progressive enforcement” model that provides a consistent approach that is compassionate yet firm. Officers are trained to always offer services to individuals with whom they come in contact, encourage homeless individuals to accept services and educate them on the law when necessary.

Diversion

San Diego works to offer a variety of diversionary options for individuals facing certain quality of life offenses. In 2019, the Neighborhood Policing Division began a Direct Placement Diversion pilot program to provide individuals a shelter bed and access to services. Under the program, if an individual accepts placement and stays in a shelter or subsequent housing solution for 30 days, their citation will not be filed. This along with other mental health and substance abuse treatment programs are vital first steps to ending the cycle of homelessness for many.