

September 14th, 2021

Department of Public Safety
City Council Briefing Document
Street Enforcement Team (SET) Briefing

Executive Summary

The Street Enforcement Team (SET) is a new program from the Department of Public Safety (DOS). SET is composed of six unarmed civilians that will respond to low level enforcement calls in the City and will have authority to write tickets for ordinance violations such as destruction of property, trespassing, scooter infractions, and unauthorized camping on public or private property. In partnership with the City Attorney's Office and other civilian enforcement departments like Park Rangers and Right of Way Enforcement, DOS is developing policies and a robust training curriculum on sensitivity, crisis intervention, mental health, and first aid that will help guide the success of the SET program.

Background

Community complaints have increased in relation to local ordinance violations in recent months. The SET program is a direct response to the community's call for innovative action that encompasses both a trauma-informed approach and addresses concerns using well-trained civilians for enforcement measures after other options have been utilized. Like the civilian enforcement models of Right of Way personnel and Park Rangers, SET staff will have the authority to issue citations related to specific ordinances (see the list below), but will not be armed nor will they have authority to arrest violators. SET staff will engage with individuals violating the ordinances for which they are authorized to enforce and will issue citations after options for non-enforcement resolutions are provided. Should safety issues arise, the Street Enforcement Team will contact law enforcement.

SET personnel will receive robust training including quarterly presentations on emerging promising practices in outreach and resource navigation, as well as receive regular wellness support.

FAQs

Q: Why was this team formed?

A: The Street Enforcement Team ("SET") was designed to address ordinance infractions utilizing unarmed civilians. By handling the enforcement of these ordinance violations, the police can respond to more urgent calls for service.

Q: What does SET do?

A: SET is an unarmed civilian team that enforces certain ordinances that affect quality of life in Denver.

Q: Are members of this team part of the Denver Police Department (DPD)?

Department of Public Safety
1331 Cherokee St. #302 | Denver, CO 80204
www.denvergov.org/safety
p. 720-913-6020 | f. 720-913-7028

A: No. Members of this team are not police officers nor are they employed by DPD. The SET program is housed in the Department of Safety. The police will provide backup to SET as necessary.

Q: What authority does SET have to handle violations?

A: SET has authority to issue citations. SET members do not have the authority to arrest violators.

Q: Which ordinances does SET enforce?

A: SET has the authority to enforce the following violations:

- Destruction of private property
- Destruction of public property
- Damaging trees on public property
- Trespass
- Graffiti materials
- Littering
- Illegal dumping
- Unauthorized use of trees on public property
- Park curfew
- Destruction of park property
- Violation of park rules & regulations
- Violation of court orders
- Failure to obey a lawful order
- False information
- Urinating/defecating in public
- Unauthorized camping on public or private property
- Possession or consumption of marijuana
- Scooter ordinances
- Parking ordinances
- Obstruction of a passageway

Q: How many SET members are there?

A: For 2021, there are a total of six team members including a supervisor. Personnel needs will be reevaluated as the program moves forward.

Q: How does the SET program cost?

A: The Department of Safety is utilizing vacancy savings from the 2021 budget to cover SET expenditures for this fiscal year. The Department has submitted a request for 2022 funding for continued program support.

Q: I've heard of the Early Intervention Team ("EIT"). What is the difference between EIT and SET?

A: EIT conducts outreach and facilitates a connection to services for people experiencing homelessness. SET is primarily tasked with enforcement and has authority over a wide range of ordinances. When SET personnel interact with people experiencing homelessness, they will also advise them of available services.

Q: Will SET be dressed in police-style uniforms?

A: No. SET members will wear City of Denver polo shirts, which do not resemble traditional law-enforcement uniforms.

Q: What training will SET personnel receive?

A: Training includes but is not limited to the following topics: legal training, homelessness sensitivity and resources, mental health and first aid, crisis intervention, CPR certification, abandoned vehicle response and homeless encampment response. The training curriculum is in development and subject to change depending on identified needs of the team moving forward.

Q: What hours is SET available?

A: SET uses staggered shifts to be available during daytime hours, with flexible scheduling during the weekends.

Q: How do I request SET's assistance?

A: SET can be requested by calling 311 or 720-913-2000.

Additional Materials

Please see the additional materials that accompany this Briefing Sheet:

- 1) Delegated Authority
- 2) Housing Outreach Resources
- 3) PowerPoint Presentation

Points of Contact

Elise Rahn
Community & Government Affairs Manager
Department of Public Safety
Elise.Rahn@denvergov.org
720.636.3306

Armando Saldate, III
Assistant Deputy Director
Department of Public Safety
Armando.Saldate@denvergov.org
720.347.9989