



Homelessness and Enforcement of Downtown Issues

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – July 8th, 2025

City Staff Representative:
Department:

Matthew Domenico, Chief of Police
Police

Downtown Quality of Life and Crime Issues

- Complaints of “loitering” and camping in the downtown business district.
- Concerns from business owners and the public of not feeling safe.
- Complaints about:
 - Trash
 - Public urination/defecation
 - Drug paraphernalia
 - Aggressive behavior

City of Brighton Current Ordinances

Overnight camping is prohibited in any open space area, City park, or park facility.

- "Camping" means to reside or dwell temporarily in a place with shelter.
- "Shelter" includes, without limitation, any tent, tarpaulin, lean-to, sleeping bag, bedroll, blankets, or any form of cover or protection from the elements, other than clothing.
- "Reside" or "dwell" includes, without limitation, conducting such activities as eating, sleeping, or the storage of personal possessions.

Before a camping citation can be issued, the City must provide a Notice of Violation, which must state the specific violation and a reasonable deadline for compliance.

Other City Ordinances

Greeley

It is unlawful to camp on public property.

It is unlawful to camp on private property (even your own property) for 7 days or more in a calendar year.

Camping means using the property for the purpose of overnight occupancy or to reside or dwell in a place by using or erecting a shelter (temporary or otherwise).

Camping does not include napping during the day or picnicking.

Other City Ordinances

Colorado Springs

It is unlawful for any person to sit, kneel, recline, or lie down in the Central Commercial District or in the Old Colorado City Commercial District upon any surface of any public right-of-way, or upon any bedding, chair, or stool, or any other object placed upon the surface of the public right of way between 7:00 am and 10:00 pm daily and then 10:00 pm to 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday.

Numerous defenses like sitting because of a medical emergency.

Police must notify the person that their conduct is prohibited and give an opportunity to cure the problem.

Other City Ordinances

Denver

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sit or lie down in the Downtown Denver Business Improvement District upon the surface of any public right-of-way or upon any bedding, chair, stool, or any other object placed upon the surface of the public right-of-way between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Similar exceptions to Colorado Springs.

Police must (1) notify the person orally and if the person refuses, police must give written notice that the conduct is prohibited and the person could be cited; and (2) attempt to see whether the person is in need of medical or human service assistance and make reasonable efforts to provide such services .

Enforcement Challenges

- Few locally available services and shelters
 - Most people experiencing homelessness in the Brighton community do not want to leave Brighton to access shelter services in other communities.
- Addressing underlying issues/root causes of homelessness vs. displacing to other areas of the community.
 - Best practices and successful strategies used in other communities do not rely on an enforcement first philosophy.
 - Enforcement is a component of a broader strategy that focuses primarily on addressing root causes and connecting to services.

What are we doing now?

- Increased patrol and enforcement action in the downtown business district.
- Actively working to connect those experiencing homelessness in Brighton with our Mental Health Co-Responder team.
- Engaging with Almost Home to help facilitate engagement in their available services.
- Recently implemented new policies and procedures to address encampments on both public and private property in a timely manner.
- Increased coordination between city departments (Parks, PD, Public Works, others) to address concerns quickly.

What can we do moving forward?

- Consider dedicated staff to focus exclusively on addressing homelessness.
 - City Staff vs. Contract staff.
- Consideration of additional ordinances that may help Brighton address our specific issues and concerns.
- Other ideas?

Questions?