

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: 5/2/05
Reviewed by _____

SUBJECT: Update on Waterfront Encampments

FROM: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

BACKGROUND

The issue of encampments on the Albany Bulb was raised by the Waterfront Committee, which has recommended clean-up of the old abandoned sites and enforcement of the City's existing "no camping" ordinance. (AMC 8-4.4) Although the Bulb is still owned by the City of Albany, it is now included in the East Shore State Park Plan, and is designated as a Conservation area.

DISCUSSION

Based on this recommendation, City staff members (including public works and police) will go to the Albany Bulb next week to assess the existing situation. Staff has contacted Operation Dignity, (Alex McElree) and BOSS (boona Cheema) to request their assistance in providing social services to any individuals who are camping on the Bulb. According to boona, who visited the site this week, there were three encampments, and she saw approximately 10-15 people, not all of whom were necessarily living at the campsites. Both boona and Alex will assist the City in our initial walk through to determine the location of existing campsites and the scope of clean-up of abandoned sites. (In 1999, the encampments were broken down, but the debris was not removed.)

Following the initial walk-through, the Public Works Manager will determine the equipment and personnel needs for removal of debris. Once the timing of a clean-up is determined, the City will notice the campsites, again in the company of service providers, who can help to provide assistance to individuals, if they so desire. Following the notice period, Public Works will arrange for the removal of both the abandoned and the more recent campsites.