

Dear Mayor and Members of the Tucson City Council,

The following ten-point framework is respectfully submitted to support the development of a comprehensive, humane, and enforceable citywide ordinance package addressing unsheltered street homelessness, trafficking, public safety, and infrastructure misuse in Tucson.

This approach emphasizes **clear expectations, meaningful resources, time-limited compliance, and consistent enforcement**, while prioritizing human dignity and public safety.

## Mayor

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## Additional Contacts

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# TEN-POINT ORDINANCE FRAMEWORK FOR TUCSON

## 1. Citywide Resource Distribution & Notice Program

The City shall implement a standardized outreach and notice program for unsheltered individuals that includes:

- Written information on housing, food, medical, and employment resources
- Clear explanation of applicable ordinances and expectations
- Clothing, hygiene supplies, and food access information

**Policy Goal:** Ensure no individual lacks information or basic resources prior to enforcement.

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## 2. Defined Transition Period (10–20 Days)

Following documented outreach and receipt of resources, individuals occupying public spaces unlawfully shall be provided a **clear, time-limited transition period (10–20 days)** to engage with housing or services, with City and partner agencies actively assisting during this period.

**Policy Goal:** Move people off the streets through assistance first, enforcement second.

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## 3. Green Lots Program (Designated Safe Transition Areas)

The City shall establish designated, regulated **Green Lots** where temporary presence is allowed while individuals complete housing placement, assessment, or treatment.

- No drugs, violence, trafficking, or permanent structures
- On-site outreach and monitoring
- Time-limited stays only
- Introduces to Greenlots homeless work programs

**Policy Goal:** Replace unsafe street encampments with controlled, transitional environments.

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## 4. Elimination of Long-Term Public Encampments

City ordinances shall prohibit:

- Permanent or semi-permanent structures in public spaces
- Storage of excessive personal property
- Generators, open flames, or electrical hookups
- Continuous occupation beyond defined time limits

- Does not include short-term vehicle camping

**Policy Goal:** Prevent entrenchment and concealment of trafficking, drugs, and violence.

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## 5. Shopping Cart & Property Misappropriation Control

- Possession of commercial shopping carts off business premises shall be prohibited
- Retailers shall be required to secure and retrieve carts
- Confiscation without arrest shall be the default

**Policy Goal:** Protect private property, reduce encampment infrastructure, and improve sanitation.

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## 6. Panhandling & Solicitation Regulation

- Panhandling shall be restricted in medians, intersections, near storefront entrances, and high-risk traffic areas
- Regulations shall be content-neutral and safety-based
- Organized or coercive solicitation shall be subject to enhanced penalties

**Policy Goal:** Reduce traffic danger and disrupt organized exploitation networks.

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## 7. Median, Right-of-Way, and Infrastructure Safety

- Prohibit presence in medians based on width, speed, visibility, and time of day
- Establish absolute no-occupancy zones in high-risk corridors
- Apply rules uniformly to all persons

**Policy Goal:** Prevent pedestrian injury and traffic fatalities.

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## 8. Mandatory Assessment After Repeated Refusal

After multiple documented refusals of outreach:

- Individuals may be required to undergo assessment (mental health, substance use, trafficking screening)
- Diversion courts shall be used instead of jail

**Policy Goal:** Shift from chronic tolerance to structured intervention.

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## 9. Drug Use, Violence, and Business Safety Enforcement

- Strengthen enforcement against public drug use and distribution
- Increase penalties for violence, intimidation, and disorderly conduct at or near businesses
- Support businesses through clear trespass and enforcement protocols

**Policy Goal:** Restore safety for workers, customers, and residents.

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## 10. Traffic Safety, Aggressive Driving, and Policing Capacity

- Increase enforcement of Arizona aggressive driving laws, including honking abuse, intimidation, and road rage
- Expand police presence in high-impact Tucson sectors
- Coordinate traffic enforcement with pedestrian safety initiatives

**Policy Goal:** Reduce violence, accidents, and escalation linked to aggressive driving behaviors.

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## Conclusion

This ten-point framework provides Tucson with a balanced path forward: **resources first, timelines second, enforcement third**—while directly confronting trafficking, smuggling, drugs, unsafe public space use, and violence.

Clear standards, consistent enforcement, and defined exits from street homelessness are essential to restoring safety, dignity, and trust citywide.

Respectfully submitted,

**D. Cowdrey**