YESLER TERRACE
Public Safety Pamphlet
The Yesler Terrace Public Safety Pamphlet

This pamphlet presents public safety information collected for Yesler Terrace, a diverse community located in Seattle, Washington. It borders the neighborhoods of First Hill to its north, the Central District to its east, the International District to its south and west, and Pioneer Square to its west. The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide the community basic public safety information as well as to increase awareness about the issues of which residents are concerned. During the creation of this document, community members and stakeholders were surveyed and interviewed and the issues identified are reflective of the current concerns of those living and working in the neighborhood. Information was also collected on crime reduction and public safety improvement techniques, along with input from the residents and other community stakeholders, to make recommendations for how these issues can be fixed. Residents of Yesler Terrace will need to work closely with community and government organizations to implement initiatives specifically developed to address each concern.

This pamphlet consists of several distinct sections. The first section identifies the top public safety issues identified through multiple data collection efforts. In the second and third sections, more details about the 9-1-1 incident response data and the public safety survey results are provided. The fourth section provides basic emergency management and preparedness information for the community. Finally, the last section of the pamphlet provides important public safety and emergency contact information that is of interest to members of the community.

This pamphlet could not have been completed without the assistance of the residents of Yesler Terrace, who volunteered their time to provide information about public safety in their community through focus groups and surveys.

Top Public Safety Issues in Yesler Terrace

Findings from 9-1-1 incident responses, the community survey, and focus groups demonstrate the community is consistently concerned with several public safety issues. Yesler Terrace residents, community organizations, and community partners should work together to address these issues and increase public safety.

Homeless Encampments

One of the most pressing issues in the Yesler Terrace community is the homeless encampment and accompanying garbage between Yesler Terrace and I-5. This is a serious public health and safety crisis that has enormous implications. There is a proliferation of individuals making their home on state property, which has resulted in an unsafe environment for Yesler Terrace residents and for those living in the encampments.

Recommendations

• Complete and continual removal of homeless encampments and accompanying garbage in conjunction with social services outreach by the City of Seattle.
• Enforcement of trespassing ordinances in and around Yesler Terrace.
• Increased lighting and surveillance in the area.
• Increased patrol by non-Community Police Officers.
• Development of a garden, park, and public pathway on the state property west of the community. This park should be connected to the Yesler Neighborhood Park and include a public garden/pea patch, music, organized activities for youth and adults, an exercise/running/walking trail, and a colorful decorative freeway sound and safety barrier.

Community Partners: Harborview Medical Center, The City Attorney, Seattle City Light, Department of Neighborhoods, SHA, Human Services Department, The Mayor’s Office, Parks & Recreation, SPD, Vulcan Inc. & Other Redevelopment Partners, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Patrol.

The Yesler Terrace Public Safety Pamphlet was developed through a collaborative effort between Yesler Terrace residents, the Seattle Housing Authority and Seattle University. It was authored by William S. Parkin, Jacqueline B. Helfgott, Peter A. Collins, Elisabeth Jandro and Kidist Messelu.
**Next Steps:** As the homeless encampment is a multijurisdictional issue, the solution must also be multijurisdictional. Although there are multiple recommendations for how the space could potentially be redesigned to discourage its use for temporary housing, the first step is the organization of community stakeholders who will directly benefit from the removal and relocation of homeless encampment residents to other temporary housing. The development plan to transition the land west of Yesler Terrace from that of unsupervised homeless encampments must begin with a collective effort to offer transitional housing to individuals living on the land, followed by the removal and cleanup of trash and other materials. This step must be immediately followed with a redesign of the environment that encourages public use of the land by the community, as well as active enforcement of trespassing statues. As SHA has already taken the initiative to examine the homeless encampments, they should continue to be the primary leaders for this particular issue. However, the Yesler Terrace Community Council and Citizen Review Committee should work closely with SHA offering insight on how they believe the land should be best used.

**Property Crime & Quality of Life Offenses**

Residents are mostly concerned with low-level crimes such as property crimes and quality of life offenses. In some cases, these appear to be directly tied to the homeless encampments. In other cases, the patterns in incident response calls to 9-1-1 appear to conform to general patterns across Seattle. Although it appears that streets and intersections within the Yesler Terrace community have more calls for certain types of incidents, it is important to note that Yesler Terrace residents feel safe within their community.

**Recommendations**

- Increased police presence – foot and bike patrol.
- Private security, especially around vacated housing not yet demolished.
- Territorial markers identifying Yesler Terrace as private property in areas that transients and non-residents use as thoroughfares or places to loiter.
- Community education regarding crime reporting and other crime prevention strategies that address cultural and language barriers influencing decisions to not contact or rely on police.
- Development of a community block watch and other community organizing activities.
- Organized activities that bring safe activities into unsafe street segments.

**Community Partners:** Seattle City Light, SHA, 9-1-1 Center, SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators, SPD, Vulcan Inc. & Other Redevelopment Partners.

**Next Steps:** It is recommended that there should be an immediate increase in routine patrols by SPD, especially on foot or by bicycle. As Yesler Terrace is situated within a precinct that has several large nightlife and business districts it must compete with these areas and their constituents for law enforcement attention and city resources. SPD should be cognizant of this and develop local patrol patterns that routinely direct resources into the community to assist residents. This will not only address community perceptions that the area is under policed, but also potentially act as a crime deterrent.

The Citizen Review Committee, the Yesler Terrace Community Council, and SHA can also engage in several initiatives that can begin to address these community safety issues. Community members have expressed some interest in the reinstitution of a Block Watch group in the neighborhood. The Yesler Terrace Community Council should contact the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator and facilitate a community discussion with SPD to identify parties interested in developing this program. Also, residents should continue to be encouraged to contact 9-1-1 for all public safety and crime related issues. Although such an initiative will initially increase the number of calls for service in the community, the long-term impact will be a reallocation of police services to areas with higher calls and, subsequently, a decrease in property crime and quality of life offenses.

**Traffic, Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety**

Yesler Terrace residents, as well as other community stakeholders, are concerned with the increased traffic on E. Yesler Way as well as the new and impending changes in traffic patterns. In addition, the new First Hill Streetcar adds another unknown element to traffic safety in the neighborhood. This, coupled with the fact that several busy thoroughfares divide Yesler Terrace and that Bailey Gatzert Elementary School is only one block away, creates a potentially dangerous mix of pedestrian and automotive traffic.

**Recommendations**

- Work with the Seattle Department of Transportation’s Pedestrian Program to install a crosswalk and lighted signal on E. Yesler Way at 10th Ave.
- Contact the Seattle Department of Transportation’s Neighborhood Traffic Operations to slow traffic on E. Yesler Avenue, Boren Avenue, and 12th Avenue.
- Contact the Seattle Department of Transportation and request assistance under their Safe Routes to School program.
- Timely and repetitive communication to Yesler Terrace community of changes in traffic patterns and/or the opening of previously closed roadways.
- Community education about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

**Community Partners:** Seattle Department of Transportation, SHA, SPD
The Yesler Terrace Redevelopment
As the redevelopment continues, there appears to be a general unease expressed by residents. This seems to be driven by the fact that many residents have already been relocated, construction and demolition has brought disorganization and transient populations into the neighborhood, and that empty units have the potential to be crime generators.

Recommendations
• Continued communication with Yesler Terrace residents about redevelopment and relocation.
• Evening programs at the Yesler Community Center for youth and adults including evening community events such as concerts and speakers.
• In housing areas that are under construction or vacant residences there should be increased lighting, territorial markers, and a continuous effort to keep the area free from debris and garbage.
• Limit physical disorder of demolition and construction.

Community Partners: Vulcan Inc. & Other Redevelopment Partners, SHA

Next steps: The Yesler Terrace community currently has the infrastructure and organizations to help mitigate the potential negative impact of the redevelopment. Yesler Terrace residents organize and run the Yesler Terrace Community Council and are also involved in other community groups such as the Citizen Review Committee. The Seattle Housing Authority currently partners with community organizations to provide educational, health, and economic services to the community and also has dedicated a fulltime Community Builder position to Yesler Terrace. Seattle Parks and Recreation operates the Yesler Terrace Community Center, which provides programming for both juveniles and adults. All of these community members and stakeholders should continue to encourage and engage in information sharing and direct dialogue regarding the redevelopment. All efforts should be made that distributed information on the redevelopment is multilingual and easily accessible. Some of the concerns, such as the social disorganization caused by the redevelopment and the impact of vacated housing on crime rates must be addressed directly by Seattle Housing Authority, the demolition and construction companies working in the neighborhood, and the Seattle Police Department. All vacated housing should be boarded up and routinely inspected. Increased patrols should take the time to walk through, or bike through, the neighborhood.

Relationships with Law Enforcement
Yesler Terrace residents overwhelmingly have made positive comments about their Community Police Team (CPT) officer in the focus groups and overall hold positive views of the Seattle Police Department. However, residents have also expressed the belief that the community is under policed, noticing no or very little routine patrol. Residents have also relayed experiences with law enforcement officers who have refused to take reports, but instead told them to talk with the CPT officer next time they are on duty. In addition, residents also have expressed frustration with slow response times, minimal explanation or instructions for how to follow up on filed reports, and the perception that for low-level offenses officers never show up. Finally, as Yesler Terrace houses many individuals who are not fluent in English, they face communication obstacles when calling 9-1-1 or talking with a law enforcement officer. Many of these concerns can be addressed through increased levels of communication between residents, law enforcement officers, and 9-1-1 dispatchers.

Recommendations
• The hiring of a second CPT officer to cover evenings and/or weekends.
• Increased police presence – foot and bike patrol.
• Educational programming by the 9-1-1 Center to explain to residents what to expect when calling, especially if the call has to be connected to an interpretation service.
• Additional, or refresher, training for law enforcement officers on how to respond to calls where community members may not be fluent in English.
• Multi-lingual educational programming by SPD explaining police procedures so that community expectations for police response times are realistic, especially for low-level offenses.

Community Partners: 9-1-1 Center, East Community Police Team, SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators

Next steps: SPD should increase patrol in the Yesler Terrace neighborhood, especially on foot or by bicycle. As officer visibility increases, this should lower the community's perceptions that the neighborhood is ignored by law enforcement. In addition, SPD should make sure that all patrol officers treat each Yesler Terrace resident as they would any community member that does not have a dedicated CPT officer. CPT officers are meant to augment traditional patrol, not replace it. Although it is an extremely positive outcome that Yesler Terrace residents trust their CPT officer enough to report to him, regular patrol in the neighborhood should also strive to create similar relationships with the community. SPD can also build community relationships by providing outreach at pre-existing community meetings and gatherings, such as those routinely held at the Yesler Community Center. The Yesler Terrace Community Council should contact the 9-1-1 Center and request for personnel to conduct seminars that educate residents on what to expect when calling 9-1-1. These types of trainings can help reduce miscommunication, manage community expectations, and increase levels of trust with law enforcement.
The incident response data identifies patterns of reporting public safety related issues within Yesler Terrace. It includes Seattle Police Department responses to 9-1-1 calls within Yesler Terrace between 2011 and 2014. The data can be found at the City of Seattle data website under the Public Safety section (https://data.seattle.gov/).

### Aggregated Incident Responses by Group & Location (2011-2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Type</th>
<th>Yesler Terrace</th>
<th>E3 Beat</th>
<th>East Precinct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>% /Block</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault/Robbery/Homicide</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary/Theft/Fraud</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft/Auto Prowl</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbance/Nuisance/Suspicious/Mental Health</td>
<td>1081</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>5587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Related</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>3035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquor/Narcotics/Vice</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>1469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trespass/Prowler</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>457</td>
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<tr>
<td>Threats/Arrests/Weapons/Lewd Conduct</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2804</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>14251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following rates for specific call types were highest in Yesler Terrace: Auto Theft/Auto Prowl; Disturbance/Nuisance/Suspicious/Mental Health Property; Traffic Related; and Property. Most of these call types can be thought of as quality of life offenses that negatively impact residents' sense of security and safety. It should be noted, however, that Yesler Terrace does have the highest total rate of incident responses per block or intersection when compared to the E3 Beat and the East Precinct. This supports the views of Yesler Terrace residents who would like more frequent police patrols to assist in securing their community.

When surveyed, Yesler Terrace residents were asked to circle areas on a neighborhood map where they felt unsafe. The majority of residents chose not to circle any areas on the map, indicating that most Yesler Terrace residents feel safe in their neighborhood. For those who did circle specific areas, the map of the neighborhood shows which areas were identified more often as unsafe. The red and orange squares indicate areas chosen most frequently as unsafe. The light blue and green colors indicate areas chosen infrequently as unsafe. Areas that are gray or have no color were not identified as unsafe.

The top five street segments or intersections with the highest number of 9-1-1 incident responses were highlighted in red. In the instances of the intersections at South Main St and 12th Avenue South, and Yesler Way and 8th Avenue, there is overlap between the areas that were identified as residents as unsafe and the number of 9-1-1 incident responses connected to those areas.
The overall reported victimization rates indicate that the most common form of crime committed against residents of Yesler Terrace was motor vehicle theft, with a total of 14.7% of respondents or someone in their household reporting having been a victim to motor vehicle theft, followed by damage to property (13.5%), burglary (9.6%), theft (9.0%), physical attack (6.4%), threats (7.6%), and robbery (3.9%). While 44.6% of victimization incidents were not reported, 39.6% were reported to SPD through 9-1-1, and 20.8% incidents were reported to the Community Police Team officer.

When residents were asked why they would not call 9-1-1, the most common answers were they think it is better to report the incident to the Community Police Team officer, followed by language barriers, and then a perception that SPD cannot do anything to help. It is important for community members to call 9-1-1 to report victimizations so that the city can allocate resources to areas where crimes are occurring and help residents reduce levels of victimization.

Calling 9-1-1

Although it is positive that Yesler Terrace residents have such as strong relationship with their Community Police Team officer, they should call 9-1-1 for all emergencies and reporting public safety issues. Calling 9-1-1 provides residents access to interpretation services provided by the city and county. If English is not the primary language of a resident, they still should call 9-1-1 and the dispatcher will connect them to an interpreter. This may take several minutes, so residents should stay on the line and be patient. Responding officers also have access to interpreters if the resident does not speak English.
How Worried Are Residents About Crime in Yesler Terrace?

Perceptions of Seattle Police Department

Overall, a large majority of Yesler Terrace residents have a very positive perception of the Seattle Police Department. There are, however, some categories that deserve further discussion. Nearly 40% of residents believe there is not enough police presence in Yesler Terrace. Although there is a Community Police Team officer assigned to the community during specific daytime hours during the week, results from both this survey and focus groups have shown that residents believe that more regular patrol throughout the neighborhood would be welcome. This is an invitation for SPD to work collaboratively with the community to address some of their concerns, especially related to property crime and the social disorder and crime occurring close to the homeless encampments. Also, more than 45% of Yesler Terrace residents do not agree that SPD takes the time to listen to people. This concern was also echoed in the focus groups, as residents stated they felt responding officers failed to explain SPD procedures, show concern, or provide adequate information to follow-up with the issues at hand.

Social Disorder, Physical Disorder & Social Cohesion

The survey also asked about perceived levels of social and physical disorder. More than 50% of residents identified the following as problems in Yesler Terrace: areas with litter (66.6%), streets or sidewalks in need or repair (64.1%), public alcohol or drug consumption (59.5%), vandalism (56.9%), and people littering or being disorderly (56.9%). Also, the majority of residents had positive perceptions of their neighborhood and reflected strong levels of social cohesion. Almost 83% of residents who responded to the survey for their household agreed that their neighbors are generally friendly, slightly more than 82% were happy to live in Yesler Terrace, and 81% believed residents are willing to help each other. Only 57% believed that the residents of Yesler Terrace had shared values, which is probably a reflection of the multitude of cultures and backgrounds present within the neighborhood.
Emergency Preparedness

It is important for Yesler Terrace residents to plan ahead in case there is ever an emergency or disaster that impacts the community. The best way for residents and their families to be safe during an emergency is preparation. During a local, state or national emergency, public services can become quickly overwhelmed. Residents should plan to be able to rely solely on each other for a minimum of three days after a situation that includes a massive response of emergency services such as the fire department, emergency medical services, and law enforcement.

Although not an exhaustive list, the Yesler Terrace community could potentially be impacted by earthquakes, landslides, pandemics, social unrest, terrorism, transportation incidents, fires, hazardous material incidents, infrastructure failures, power outages, and severe weather. Some of these might be highly localized, only affecting the immediate area, in which case emergency services would be more able to quickly offer assistance. However, events with a regional or national impact would increase the amount of time it could take for emergency services to access the community. Key to being able to provide for yourself and your family during emergency situations is to develop a plan with your family ahead of time and to store some basic provisions within your home. In addition, the Yesler Terrace community can organize itself using resources such as the Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP) program (206-233-5076).

Developing an Emergency Plan

Developing an emergency plan with your family is pivotal to your safety during an emergency. If you wait for an emergency to occur, it will already be too late. You should review the below comments and the questions you have about emergency planning for yourself, your families, or your community. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the below organizations with any questions you have about emergency planning for yourself, your families, or your community.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency, 202-646-2500
- Washington Emergency Management Division, 800-562-6108
- American Red Cross, 206-323-2345
- Seattle Office of Emergency Management, 206-233-5076
- American Red Cross, 206-323-2345
- King County Emergency Management, 206-296-3830
- Washington Emergency Management Division, 800-562-6108
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, 202-646-2500

• Identify where your family should meet if you are in multiple locations during an emergency, such as work, school or home.
• What if public transportation is not running or roads are inaccessible, how will your plan change?
• What if you cannot go home, where will you plan to meet your family members? Select a location close by for localized emergencies, such as a fire, and one out of town if you cannot return home.
• How might your plan change depending on the type of emergency?
• Identify an out of town contact, whether a family member or friend, who everyone should contact if you are separated during the emergency. Make sure everyone knows the phone number of that contact, even your children.
• If you have children in school, do you know what the school’s protocol is if there is an emergency?
• Discuss what to expect if you are evacuated. What are the most important things you would need to take?
• Know how to turn off your electric, water and gas utilities.
• Work with your neighbors to develop a community emergency plan. Make sure to incorporate the needs of children, the elderly, and those who might be disabled in your neighborhood.
• Make sure to teach children how to call for help, when to call each emergency number, to call the family contact if separated, and to keep personal identification information in their possession at all times.
• If you have any additional questions about emergency planning, contact your local emergency management office or the American Red Cross for assistance.

Emergency Supply Kit

You should do your best to set aside the below items into an emergency supply kit somewhere in your house and a similar kit in your vehicle, if you have one. The items could be placed into a plastic storage container.

• Water - one gallon of water per person per day for a minimum of three days. Make sure to empty and refill plastic containers every six months.
• Food – three days of non-perishable food such as canned vegetables and meats, high-energy foods such as peanut butter and granola bars, vitamins, and foods for individuals with special diets if necessary. Can opener for canned food.
• Medications – Always have at least 3 days of personal medications on hand and stored in one place.
• Radio – Battery powered or hand crank radio and weather radio and extra batteries.
• Flashlight and extra batteries.
• A first aid kit with sterile adhesive bandages, gauze pads, medical tape, scissors, tweezers, antiseptic, thermometer, safety pins, petroleum jelly, soap, latex gloves, sunscreen, aspirin or similar pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, syrup of ipecac, and laxatives.
• Matches in a waterproof container.
• Paper and pencil.
• At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.
• A map of Seattle for locating shelters.
• Copies of important family documents in a waterproof container or bag, such as social security cards, immunization records, birth or marriage certificates, and financial account information.

Emergency Management Agencies & Assistance

- Seattle Office of Emergency Management, 206-233-5076
- American Red Cross, 206-323-2345
- King County Emergency Management, 206-296-3830
- Washington Emergency Management Division, 800-562-6108
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, 202-646-2500
EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1. In an emergency, call 911 immediately from any wired or wireless phone. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or an ambulance. If you need an interpreter to communicate with a dispatcher call 9-1-1. It may take time to connect you to an interpreter, so please stay on the line, even if you hear clicking.

East Precinct Front Desk: 206-684-4300
King County Sheriff: 206-296-3311
Non-Emergency Fire: 206-386-1400
Non-Emergency Police: 206-625-5011
Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222.
If someone in your family has ingested a non-food solid or liquid, call the poison control center. These centers are staffed by people trained to handle telephone calls dealing with poisoning emergencies. Keep the number by your phone, especially if you have children at home. If it is an immediate emergency or you need an interpreter, call 9-1-1.

King County WA VINE: 1-877-425-8463.
Victims of crime have a right to know about their offender’s custody status. With this service victims can use the telephone or Internet to search for information regarding the custody status of their offender and to register to receive telephone and e-mail notification when the offender’s custody status changes.

Victim Services, Washington State Department of Corrections: 1-800-322-2201
Victim Support Services, 24-Hour: 1-800-346-7555

Informational & Other Services
211 Community Information Line: 2-1-1 or 1-800-621-4636 or 206-461-3200.
Provides information on health and human service programs that find resources like food banks (food pantries), emergency shelters, transportation, health clinics, rent or utilities assistance, legal help, and much more.

Animal Control: 206-386-7387
City Information & Complaint Line: 206-684-2489
Public Utilities: 206-386-1800 (report problems), 206-684-3000 (customer service)

Yesler Terrace Political Representation
Office of the Mayor: 206-684-4000
City Council Position 2: 206-684-8016
City Council Position 3: 206-684-8804
State Representative: 360-786-7944 and 360-786-7838
State Senator: 360-786-7688
US Representative: 202-225-8901
US Senators: 202-224-3441 and 202-224-2621

Closest Emergency Services
Harborview Emergency & Trauma Center: 9th Avenue & Jefferson Street
Seattle Fire Department Fire Station #6: 23rd Avenue & East Yesler Way
Seattle Police Department East Precinct: 12th Avenue & Pine Street

Victim & Mental Health Services
Crisis Clinic: 1-866-427-4747 or 206-461-3222. For individuals in emotional distress.
Crime Victims Compensation: 1-800-762-3716. Pays medical, counseling, and limited lost wages for innocent victims of crime.
Domestic Violence Hotline, New Beginnings 24-Hour: 206-522-9472
Domestic Violence Hotline, Washington State 24-Hour: 1-800-562-6025
Harborview Medical Center Traumatic Stress Counseling: 206-744-1600. Provide counseling to victims of all types of violence.