



February 9, 2018

On your next visit to Andre House, you will notice the encampments on Jackson Street have been moved. We were told no encampments would be closed without outreach first. Unfortunately for our guests, especially those with complex medical and mental health issues, the city missed the opportunity to coordinate this effort with outreach and real solutions. Moving encampments provides no net benefit to the community and generally serves to further dehumanize vulnerable people already on the margins.

The complex issues we face require leadership and a significant coordination of stakeholders. To that end, we have hired Kim Osborne of Osborne and Team. Kim has extensive experience with political campaigns and working in and with governments. She is aggressively navigating the landscape and bringing the Andre House point of view to conversations in the city, county and state. She will be working with us, at least, through July 1.

The three issues that we are working towards are trash receptacles and removal, permanent 24-hour access to restrooms and contained covered areas as an alternative to sleeping on the streets.

- During the period between Thanksgiving and the New Year, 27.5 tons of debris was removed from our neighborhood. The Human Services Campus has taken the lead in contracting for dumpsters and regular pickup. We will also be pressuring the county to begin enforcement of existing street feeding prohibitions.
- Within the week, Andre House will hire private security to allow guests to use our restrooms between 8pm and 6am. While this isn't a permanent solution, we hope to gather enough data to compel our community to permanently provide this service.
- The establishment of contained and shaded areas as alternatives to camping is a more complicated and costly endeavor. Andre House runs a small transitional home for men, but we are not experts in lodging. The capital and operating costs for creating shaded sleeping area are not unsubstantial. However, the outright resistance and foot-dragging from the city and county is the most formidable obstacle.

The stories of Andre House founders are replete with extraordinary community needs and a decade of political resistance. In continuity with the spirit of Andre House and the inspiration of St. Andre, we (along with you) will continue to advocate and act to ensure that the most vulnerable lives will be served and protected.

In peace,

Fr. Tom Doyle, CSC  
Executive Director, Andre House of Arizona