



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310

October 30, 1984

Lieutenant Wes Trueblood
Salvation Army
P. O. Box 380
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Dear Lieutenant Trueblood:

I have had my staff fully review your "Evaluation of October 20-21 Operation Homeless" paper. Following the format you presented us, our comments are incorporated.

I. PROBLEM AREAS

- A. "Short notice, fragmented drop-offs - "Logistics Nightmare"
If we know where they're being dropped, we (city police) can respond. Key people need to know when buses/vans etc. are departing and the destination."

Comment: Discussed under Item II, A.

- B. Potential drop-off of hard core criminal types, Viet vets, etc. Possible anger, agitation and hostilities.

Comment: So far there has been only a couple of minor incidents (the breaking of a window and the failure to pay for a meal) in the Madras area. Local and state law enforcement agencies are best equipped to handle any possible dangers presented by those being evicted from Rajneeshpuram. In the event there is a large group congregated in any one community, Oregon State Police are prepared to be on site to assist with control to prevent any unfortunate happenings.

- C. Interagency communication - "City police must be considered a FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE due to impact on The Dalles. OSP intelligence reports should go to city police."

Comment: Please see the attached revised flow chart. For many reasons, the Oregon State Police must be the lead law enforcement agency. This is not just a city problem. The problem crosses various city lines as well as various county lines. Furthermore, the Rajneesh usually communicate well with OSP and the OSP have greater ability of monitoring, assisting and coordinating with other involved state officials. City police and county sheriffs will be kept informed, including

- I. C. appropriate intelligence reports, when activities impact a city or county.
- D. "Overcrowding and congestion at Salvation Army building. Much confusion caused by persons dropping off items of food and clothing, media representatives, politicians, etc. and other non-essential individuals who were curious and wishing to be helpful."

Comment: This problem is handled very well in the discussion under category II.

II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- A. Better communication - "Notification from OSP and/or State of Oregon when arrivals are due and approximate numbers."

Comment: The October 20-21 event had no forewarning for anyone. The communications link at the ranch did not inform the Oregon State Police about the transporting of some 140 individuals. Therefore, the OSP immediately put into effect a check of all buses and vans leaving the ranch to determine numbers and destinations.

Since then, the ranch has cooperated in letting the State know, in advance, of any individuals being transported. All subsequent drops have been in Madras and Portland with advance notification.

- B. Networking - "Salvation Army will staff building with their own people first, then volunteers will be requested to assist where needed. This will eliminate confusion and duplication of efforts. Revised phone network call plan in effect (see attached)."

Comment: Good Plan.

- C. Screening process - "2 volunteers (1 from Salvation Army) to staff table in main entry to screen those who are essential from those who wish to visit or drop items off.

Authorized persons in the building will need I.D. badge. Intake will be done by Salvation Army volunteers and others as designated by Lt. Trueblood. This will maintain lead agency control."

Comment: Good Plan.

- II. D. Media Center - "Needed for organized dissemination of information and press releases.

Jean Murray, public relations person from Judson Baptist College, will handle all media until arrival of Salvation Army spokesperson from Portland. Press interviews will be handled in the Army Chapel. Street people the press wishes to interview shall do so outside the building.

ALL media will be scheduled and handled at OUR convenience, not the media's!!! Filming and recording will NOT be done in essential office or building space."

Comment: Good Plan.

- E. Funding - "Area churches have initiated appeals to their diocesan offices asking for special monies for this situation. Charles Liu, president of Ministerial Association, will contact all member churches and report back. Funding will be held by donors until end use is determined."

Comment: Good Plan. The money raised should be kept in the community in which it has been used.

- F. Emergency no-parking ban - "Official vehicle only parking in front of the Salvation Army building (E. 3rd Street). No parking on east side of building.

This will allow drop off for food and supplies, to kitchen area, as well as disembarkation point for homeless arrivals. This is approved by city and can be activated by one phone call."

Comment: Good Plan.

- G. Food Network - "Prepared and stored solicitations of food and supplies. Kitchens available for staffing and preparation of meals, etc: 1) Salvation Army; 2) Community Meal Program at City Auditorium; 3) Judson Baptist College."

Comment: Good Plan. The only question we might have is how many can be actually fed through the use of each of these facilities.

- H. Overflow locations - "Will be confirmed now and called up as needed on a single notification call: 1) Salvation Army; 2) Civic Auditorium; 3) St. Mary's School gymnasium (private); 4) Beckley building on E. 2nd Street for a daytime facility only."

Comment: Good Plan. As we understand it, the Salvation Army can handle 150 individuals and the Civic Auditorium approximately 100. The other two facilities would be called upon

II. H. for an overflow situation. In an extreme situation, the state can be relied upon for temporary shelter also. Does the Wasco County fairgrounds have any potential use for housing and feeding?

**I. Transportation - "Inner city - church buses from drop-off points to Salvation Army, from Salvation Army to bus depot or other facility.

Out of town - Greyhound and Trailways - will be more closely involved with transportation and ticketing plans - sooner."

Comment: Good Plan.

**J. Emergency telephone - "Unlisted, for crisis situations when all other lines are busy. This is needed until the situation has stabilized."

Comment: Good plan, but from our perspective there was absolutely no problem with telephone communication.

K. Medical Needs - "Several area doctors have volunteered to be of service. The local mental health clinic has also offered assistance when needed."

Comment: Good Plan.

Further Comments:

1. You may want to involve and coordinate with county officials and, in particular, the county emergency response agency. It is our understanding that Jefferson County has developed a good response plan that involves their emergency response people.
2. Your community, with the leadership of the Salvation Army, reacted responsibly and calmly during the last episode.
3. Should there be another situation where the homeless are dropped on a scattered basis throughout the county, it is our recommendation for public safety reasons that pick up should be left to law enforcement officials; not private citizens.
4. Notification procedures by the Oregon State Police for alert of or during a situation will be Oregon State Police headquarters, who will notify the local OSP office. Local OSP office will notify all other agencies in the community. (See attached revised chart.)

During the situation, Oregon State Police officers will be on-site and will coordinate with all agencies involved.

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Thank you again, Lieutenant Trueblood. Your efforts are very much appreciated and I thank you for having responded so quickly and so well. You can be assured of my continuing support for your efforts. Let me know if this communication is fully responsive to your needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Atiyeh', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Victor Atiyeh
Governor

Attachment

VA:ov

cc: Bob Oliver
Superintendent John Williams
Colonel Riley
Dave Fiskum

