SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

JULY 2025 UPDATE

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INTRODUCTION

Six months have passed since Salt Lake City released its 2025 Public Safety Plan. In mid-December 2024, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, Speaker of the House Mike Schultz, and Senate President Stuart Adams invited Salt Lake City (the City) to quickly provide a strategic plan addressing public safety in the City and identifying gaps and barriers across intersecting systems and services. This Plan was delivered in January 2025 and can be viewed in its entirety at <u>www.slc.gov/publicsafetyplan/</u>.

Keeping the public safe is the most important duty of any city. Salt Lake City is working as quickly as possible to implement the strategies outlined in the Plan to drive progress. Since January, Mayor Mendenhall has proposed her Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget, and the City Council adopted the final budget in June 2025. Mayor Mendenhall also appointed Brian Redd to serve as the Salt Lake City Police Department's new Chief of Police.

The State of Utah also held its 2025 legislative session. The City actively urged the State Legislature to carry out all aspects of this Plan and take decisive action by funding necessary recommendations during the session. The Legislature incorporated many of the City's recommendations into legislation, but ongoing funding for homeless services and affordable housing has not come to fruition. The City is grateful for the leadership of Rep. Tyler Clancy, and also extends a special thanks to Gov. Cox, President Adams, and Speaker Schultz for meeting with Mayor Mendenhall and for their support for the progress the City has made on the Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City released its Public Safety Plan on January 16, 2025, outlining 27 City actions and 23 recommendations for external partners. This section summarizes the Plan.

METHODOLOGY

To gather information, data, and experiences to inform this Plan, the City:

- 1. Collaborated with other government entities, including Salt Lake County, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office (which co-serves as the City Prosecutor's Office), the Salt Lake County Jail, the State Office of Homeless Services, the Utah Department of Corrections, and many service providers.
- 2. Conducted interviews with nearly 50 state legislators, City Council members, residents, individuals with lived experience, providers, employees, and business, philanthropic, and religious leaders.
- 3. Sent out an open-ended survey to frontline staff in the City's Police, Fire, 911 Dispatch, and Public Lands teams, as these teams handle public safety issues and the impacts of drugs and homelessness every day. This survey garnered nearly 150 respondents.

FINDINGS

The City identified the following key barriers through interviews, data collection, and research:

- 4. **Housing Gaps:** Utah lacks sufficient affordable and supportive housing options, leaving many with no choice but to seek refuge in public spaces and shelters.
- 5. **Inadequate Support Services:** Limited availability of mental health care, substance use treatment, and wraparound services prevents individuals from achieving stability.
- 6. **System Fragmentation:** Poor coordination among law enforcement, service providers, judiciary systems, and government agencies creates inefficiencies and allows vulnerable individuals to fall through the cracks.
- 7. **Public Safety Concerns:** Balancing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness with the safety and usability of public spaces remains a significant challenge.

KEY ACTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This Plan focuses most intensely on the two intercepts where the City has the most leverage: Community Prevention and Law Enforcement. It includes 27 actions the City will take, 11 of those being in the immediate- or short-term, and 23 recommendations for system changes over which the City does not have sole jurisdiction. Key moves described in the Plan:

- Improve public safety by getting guns and drugs off the street: The SLCPD will intensify police presence in downtown and in higher-crime areas. The Violent Crime Apprehension Team (VCAT) will deploy to crack down on drugs, particularly fentanyl, and firearm offenses-which are often connected to gang activity.
- 2. Quickly increase emergency shelter options: The City will allow the use of City-owned property for the temporary location of a new year-round homeless services campus.
- 3. Increase consequences for High Utilizers: Prosecution of high utilizers will be more coordinated and prosecutors will seek more stringent penalties. Jail overcrowding and frequent pretrial release must be addressed.
- 4. Expand mental health, behavioral health, and substance use treatment options: Without this, people cannot move through the system.
- 5. Invest in housing: Increase the availability of deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing so that emergency shelter and treatment beds are not dead ends.
- 6. **Commit to a joint plan and execute it:** Nothing in this Plan is effective without coordination and solutions at every point in the system. The State, County, and all cities must commit together to improve the system, hold people accountable and get them needed help, and save taxpayer money.

2025 PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN ACTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



VISION

The City's public spaces will be safe, clean, and welcoming to everyone. People experiencing homelessness will be treated with respect and restored to dignity. The City will be unrelenting in fighting crime and holding people committing crimes accountable.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Everyone in need should be treated with dignity and have access to services, including low-barrier shelter.
- The City's public spaces will be safe, clean, and inviting to all law-abiding people.
- The City will hold people accountable for criminal actions.
- The City will be accountable for what is in our control and be clear and collaborative with partners on what resources are needed for the entire system to be successful.

SCOPE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

This Plan is intended to do the following:

- Identify specific, immediate actions the City will take to address visible public safety and homelessness issues seen in the City's public spaces.
- Make recommendations on improvements and resources needed in parts of the system within and beyond the City's direct control.

ACTIONS UPDATE

Since the release of Salt Lake City's Public Safety Plan in January 2025, the City has moved forward to carry out the 27 actions outlined. For increased transparency, the City has also populated a weekly updated Public Safety Plan Dashboard, as well as current action and recommendation statuses, at www.slc.gov/publicsafetyplan/.

Among the City's actions is one with significant momentum. One of the most ambitious parts of this Plan was the final recommendation of partners committing to a joint plan and executing it. While an external recommendation, city leadership is driving both internal work and external coordination. The City is happy to report that meetings with all key stakeholders are being convened, and stakeholders are coming to the table and actively participating.



SALT LAKE CITY POLICE - PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN DASHBOARD

July 14, 2025



The Public Safety Plan Dashboard is updated weekly with data from the Salt Lake City Police Department, with an emphasis on focus areas outlined in the Plan: North Temple/Jordan River Trail, Downtown, and Ballpark neighborhood.

WWW.SLC.GOV/PUBLICSAFETYPLAN/



ISSUE: Salt Lake City is not doing enough to ensure people feel safe.

ACTION: SLCPD has launched the Community Impact Division

Status: Complete

Salt Lake City's Police Department (SLCPD) has launched the Community Impact Division (CID) to increase officer presence and reduce crime downtown. Since its creation, officers have:

- Made weekly felony arrests ranging from 12-25 and misdemeanor arrests ranging from 16-45;
- Cleared hundreds of warrants through proactive patrol and fugitive arrests;
- Contacted hundreds of unsheltered per month, resulting in referrals to service providers, camp abatements, and coordination for environmental cleanup;
- Identified individuals experiencing acute mental health crisis and facilitated transports to Huntsman Mental Health Institute; and

Over 10 weeks from early May through early July, the SLCPD conducted enhanced enforcement and outreach along the Jordan River Trail. These are the results of those efforts. Salt Lake City will continue efforts with bike officers, camp mitigation teams, and state law enforcement partners.

Issued

3,300	Calls for Service	
3,100	Proactive contacts	
342	Arrests	
301	Misdemeanor Citations Is	
13	Stolen Vehicles Recovere	
6,500	Fentanyl Pills Seized	

• Utilized expanded bike squads and foot patrols along the Jordan River Trail, Liberty Park, Richmond Park, Jefferson Park, and downtown.

ACTION: SLCPD has deployed its Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT)

Status: Complete and Ongoing

The SLCPD has deployed its Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) to aggressively target gang activity and disrupt the spread of narcotics and firearms. Over the past six months, VCAT and Gang Unit detectives have conducted multiple major operations targeting narcotics trafficking, firearms violations, and repeat violent offenders. Their efforts have seized thousands of fentanyl pills and cash, almost 100 illegally possessed firearms, and more than 20 pounds of marijuana and 100 THC cartridges and accessories.





ACTION: Deploy additional safety cameras in high-traffic areas

Status: In Progress

The SLCPD will secure and deploy additional public safety cameras in high-traffic areas. Funding for this action was proposed in the Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget and adopted by the City Council in June. They are in the process of deploying these cameras across the city.

ACTION: Develop a park security camera program

Status: In Progress

The City is developing an integrated park security camera program at high-volume parks and public squares in 2025 to deter crime. Some funding was allocated in the FY26 budget adopted in June 2025. The City is coordinating with the State on placement and between different city departments on integration near the Jordan River.

ACTION: Explore funding additional police officers

Status: In Progress

The City is exploring funding additional police officers to ensure that effective proactive policing strategy continues to decrease crime.



ISSUE: The City is perceived as lenient on enforcing ordinances against camping and other quality of life ordinances.

ACTION: The SLCPD is reaffirming and reinforcing priorities to officers

Status: Complete and Ongoing

Enforcement of public order offenses is a priority for the City. Under Chief Brian Redd's leadership, the SLCPD has already emphasized the importance of addressing these offenses. As new initiatives are rolled out, these priorities will be reaffirmed through the SLCPD's hotspot policing strategy focused on violent crime and the implementation of the new CONNECT List, which identifies individuals with repeated system contact for more coordinated intervention and accountability.

ACTION: Present an updated ordinance to the City Council aimed at addressing the negative impacts of camping

Status: In Progress

The City Council will be presented with an updated ordinance aimed at addressing the negative impacts of camping, including updates to the regulations prohibiting the use of RVs for camping on streets in the City. The City hopes to transmit this in late summer for City Council review in the fall.

ACTION: Seek enhanced penalties for repeat offenders

Status: Complete and Ongoing

Prosecutors are seeking enhanced penalties for repeat offenders. Arresting agencies operating in the City are required to indicate whether an arrestee is a repeat offender in the Downtown Safety Initiative (DSI) area. These designations are communicated to both the City Prosecutor's Office and the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office. The City, City Prosecutor, legal defenders, and courts are continuing to coordinate on and refine this process.

ACTION: Create best practices with the Utah League of Cities and Towns

Status: Complete

The City initiated discussion with the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) on best practices for policies and enforcement actions to be shared with municipal governments.

ISSUE: The City is not responsive enough to residents and businesses negatively impacted by crime and homelessness.

ACTION: Redouble quality of life efforts

Status: Complete and Ongoing

The City has redoubled efforts to enforce quality of life laws to improve responsiveness to residents and businesses negatively impacted by crime and homelessness. Efforts include the creation of the Urban Services Division within City operations, expansion of the Rapid Intervention Team, a camping ordinance that will be presented to City Council, and other policy changes.

ACTION: Establish the Downtown Safety & Activation Partnership

Status: Complete and Ongoing

The City's Department of Economic Development has met with key partners to establish the Downtown Safety & Activation Partnership. Regular meetings will continue and enhance communication.

ACTION: Increase hygiene options for unsheltered individuals

Status: In Progress

Salt Lake City recently awarded a Request for Proposals (RFP) to a local nonprofit provider to operate the Salt Lake City Public Hygiene Pilot Program for 12 months, which will include toilets, showers, and laundry services.

ACTION: Expand the Rapid Intervention Team

Status: In Progress

The City is expanding the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) to respond more quickly to reports of trash, biowaste, camping, and other livability issues, and deep-cleaning sidewalks and other high-traffic spaces more regularly. Funding for three additional full-time employees was proposed in the Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget and subsequently adopted by the City Council.





ISSUE: There is a severe shortage of affordable housing options statewide, with the greatest needs being deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing, along with stabilizing costburdened renters.

ACTION: Assist The Other Side Village in development

Status: In Progress

Salt Lake City is closely coordinating with The Other Side Village to expedite development of their next phase(s) after completing Phase One to add over 200 new deeply affordable tiny homes.

ACTION: Increase deeply affordable housing

Status: In Progress

The Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget proposed \$5 million for deeply affordable housing, which was adopted by the City Council in June.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLETED OR FUNDED BY SALT LAKE CITY SINCE 2020





ISSUE: There is a shortage of 1,000-1,600 year-round emergency shelter beds.

ACTION: Expedite shelter bed creation

Status: In Progress

Today, there are 400 more beds in Salt Lake County than at this time in 2024. Significant efforts are going into getting temporary shelter beds until the State moves forward on its campus.

- The City is hosting 200 beds at Ville 1990 and paying for security.
- The City has allowed current resource centers in the city to continue to operate at expanded capacity.
- The City approved the youth shelter to operate with expanded capacity.
- A county winter services plan is moving forward and will be proposed to the State in August.

Salt Lake City feels great urgency and is doing everything in its power to make the State's campus shelter campus happen as soon as possible. However, until the State moves forward on its campus and we have permanent, ongoing funding at the State level, we will not make meaningful progress.



ISSUE: Outreach efforts should be better coordinated to effectively get more people off the street and connect them with services and treatment.

ACTION: Provide targeted support with the Community Connections Team

Status: In Progress

This SLCPD team plays a critical role in addressing chronic system utilization and supports the implementation of the new CONNECT List. As the CONNECT List identifies individuals with repeated law enforcement contact, the Community Connections Team provides targeted intervention to stabilize these individuals and reduce repeated cycling through the criminal justice, shelter, and healthcare systems. This team will support care coordination and facilitate communication across systems of care.

ACTION: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Diversified Response teams

Status: In Progress

Social workers, park rangers, and community responders often help resolve issues, freeing police and fire department teams to do their jobs. These teams are impactful and can work with the SLCPD and SLCFD more efficiently. Funding to embark on a systemwide efficiency analysis to save taxpayer money and have a more effective impact in the community was included in the Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget, which was adopted by the City Council in June.

ACTION: Coordinate focused engagement with unsheltered individuals

Status: In Progress

The long-term goal of this coordination, as more shelter beds open, is to be more effective with City-funded street outreach, and the Justice Court, SLCPD, and SLCFD social workers to focus intense engagement with those remaining outside to get them into other options.



ISSUE: There is a lack of shared data, information, and clear communication between law enforcement, pretrial services, the jail, and judges regarding high-impact repeat offenders.

ACTION: Improve case documentation and handling

Status: Complete and Ongoing

The SLCPD implemented new requirements to improve the documentation and handling of cases involving individuals who may pose a greater risk to public safety.

ACTION: Convene a data and research working group

Status: Complete

The City has convened a data and research working group with the SLCPD, Salt Lake County, and the Salt Lake City Justice Court. The ongoing focus is to improve data sharing and strengthen the ability to cross-reference agency data.

ACTION: Implement data sharing

Status: In Progress

As the SLCPD continues to develop and implement its CONNECT List program, it will centralize key status and resource information for CONNECT persons, in partnership with other agencies. The SLCPD has also met with Utah's Third District Court administration and the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice team to explore data sharing and/or integration for future implementation.

OTHER CITY ACTIONS:

ACTION: Create the Clean City Team

Status: Complete

Proposed in the Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget and adopted by the City Council, the City brought together resources from several departments and created a citywide Clean City Team. This strategy consolidates resources to address conditions that can lead to crime. More information: www.slc.gov/cleancity

ACTION: Increase safe storage

Status: In Progress

The City is working to expand safe storage options in 2025, understanding that having a secure place to store important possessions is critical for unsheltered people.

ACTION: Add park security to enforce curfew

Status: Complete

The City has added security services at some parks at closing hours to make sure people comply with park curfews. This was proposed in the Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget and adopted by the City Council. Westside locations include Cottonwood Park, Glendale Park, International Peace Gardens, Jordan Park, Jordan River Parkway, and Riverside Park.





ACTION: Enforce ordinances on boarded and abandoned buildings

Status: Complete and Ongoing

The City is more aggressively enforcing ordinances on abandoned properties and boarded buildings, which are linked to crime hotspots.

ACTION: Improve street lighting

Status: In Progress

The City is working to improve lighting in crime hotspots and main thoroughfares where populations experiencing homelessness tend to gather. Funding for this was proposed in the Mayor's FY26 Recommended Budget and adopted by the City Council in June.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

In addition to the 27 City actions, the Public Safety Plan also includes 23 clear recommendations for external partners whose jurisdiction is outside Salt Lake City's municipal control.

During the 2025 Utah legislative session, Salt Lake City advocated for legislation that aligned with the Plan's goals. 42 bills were introduced and 28 bills were passed that impacted the Plan, representing significant progress.

However, the City advocated for several legislative recommendations that would have helped further the goals of the Plan, but ultimately failed to pass, including:

- We asked for the state to dedicate an ongoing funding source for homeless services.
- We asked for the state to increase funding for Assertive Community Treatment teams.
- We asked for an expansion of the civil commitment process to cover those in danger who have substance use problems.
- We asked for the state to require more counties to provide residential behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services for people in their county of origin, and to fund housing pathways for those individuals once they leave treatment.

While the City had hoped to see more progress on these recommendations during the 2025 legislative session, we recognize that big systemic change takes time and work. We are committed to continuing to advocate and work with the State and County to fill the gaps in our system that too many people continue to fall through.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXTERNAL PARTNERS:

1. Increase Assertive Community Treatment teams: From five teams to nine so that 400 more clients can be served anywhere in the community, meeting current Salt Lake County needs. *Status: In Progress*

2. Increase county jail space: Salt Lake County Jail proposed adding 450 additional beds through the recent County bond proposal to meet the current needs. As of June, they have added 200 more beds. *Status: Complete*

3. Consider West Valley City shelter for alternative needs: The West Valley shelter is still in use and needed to ensure emergency shelter for up to 200 people each night. Once more permanent shelter options can be built and funded to replace the need for this temporary location, we hope to continue discussions about its usefulness for services. *Status: In Progress*

4. Identify and allocate funding for services and housing: The State Legislature should identify and allocate a stable, dedicated funding source for homeless services, mental and behavioral health, and affordable housing during the 2025 legislative session. *Status: No Change*

5. Establish shelter/population ratio: The State Legislature should consider requiring all counties to provide some ratio of emergency shelter and housing services in proportion to their population, projected growth, and number of cost-burdened or housing-insecure household units. *Status: No Change*

6. Align enforcement across state, counties, and cities: New laws passed during the 2025 legislative session address continuity of care issues across county mental health authorities and local law enforcement agencies, and standardize definitions of illegal camping. *Status: In Progress*

7. Designate beds for those exiting treatment: To assist movement of people through existing mental health and substance use treatment programs, a portion of new shelter beds should be developed and set aside specifically for those exiting treatment. *Status: No Change*

8. Relocate lower-risk inmates to increase jail space: Much was done during the 2025 legislative session to prevent premature jail releases, including passing laws aimed at holding habitual offenders, the transfer of inmates from crowded jails to less crowded ones, ensuring timely pretrial evaluations and hearings, and transparency in plea bargaining. *Status: In Progress*

9. Enable sheriffs offices to prevent premature release: During the 2025 legislative session, much was done to prevent premature jail releases. *Status: In Progress*

10. Increase County Pretrial Services resources: Needs additional resources to properly supervise people, as well as additional resources to which people can be referred to seek the assistance they need, such as safe living space, to not re-offend. *Status: In Progress*

11. Develop Permanent Supportive Housing projects: Salt Lake County committed to working with cities, the state, and philanthropic partners on funding opportunities and properties to develop housing for those in behavioral health treatment, including group homes and permanent supportive housing projects with appropriate county services included. *Status: In Progress*

12. Request additional operations and capital funds: The State Office of Homeless Services should lead a request for additional FY27 operations and capital funds, and continue to pursue a permanent homeless services campus to open as soon as FY28. *Status: No Change*

13. Implement the Salt Lake County Behavioral Health Strategic Plan: By funding and developing acute mental health group homes, permanent supportive housing, and other deeply affordable housing so that people can be more quickly discharged from acute care, allowing more people to move through the outpatient treatment system. *Status: In Progress*

14. Incentivize increased behavioral health services: While other counties were not directly incentivized to increase their residential behavioral health and substance use treatment options, several new laws passed during the 2025 legislative session did address the challenges that smaller and more rural jurisdictions face in providing these services. Laws passed expand virtual options for telehealth and remote court hearings, strengthening the civil commitment process for those in danger who have intellectual disabilities, requiring data collection and reporting regarding inmates with substance abuse disorders, and creating mobile medication-assisted treatment options. *Status: In Progress*

15. Create the Salt Lake County Justice and Accountability Center: Salt Lake County identified 300 beds as the goal for this facility to avoid discharges without an appropriate referral option. *Status: In Progress*

16. Consider additional statutory provisions: The Legislature should consider additional statutory provisions aimed at admitting individuals into medical facilities for purposes of evaluating and treating substance abuse disorders. *Status: No Change*

17. Support coordinated case management across agencies and jurisdictions: Laws passed during the 2025 legislative session directed state agencies and boards to coordinate with federal entities on the development of best practices and provision of wraparound services for Medicaid recipients. *Status: In Progress*

18. Fund Governor's recommendations for the Division of Services for People with Disabilities: To move people through the waiting list. The waiting list in January 2025 was nearly 7,000 people long, meaning that people wait years. *Status: No Change*

19. Increase post-treatment housing options: For individuals discharged from treatment is important for ongoing stabilization and treatment success. *Status: In Progress*

20. Implement joint plan across state, county, and city entities: Each entity should devote committed resources to implementing a joint plan within and across our organizations. The Office of Homeless Services, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, and the Utah Impact Partners have all identified this as a critical need, but thus far, we have not set out to build the process where the partners work together to achieve this integration. *Status: No Change*

21. Evaluate taxpayer investment in the system: The State should consider evaluating the cost of services and care across sectors for chronically homeless individuals versus the cost of providing permanent supportive housing for that population. The State OHS has been collecting information about investments in homeless services from local governments and providers statewide. We hope this can be used to effectively advocate for services and housing solutions for those experiencing homelessness. *Status: In Progress*

22. Establish reunification fund: HB 329 specifically addressed our request for a funding source homeless people could access to be reunified with their support networks in other states, as well as the need to adjust shelter rules and security to ensure safe environments for people who need help. *Status: In Progress*

23. Adjust shelter rules and security: HB 329 specifically addressed our request for the need to adjust shelter rules and security to ensure safe environments for people who need help. *Status: Complete*