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Helping the homeless in Los Angeles

My vision and what I have specifically for law enforcement and specifically within LAPD is what has been tasked by our city government as well as our Chief of

Police and that is to come up with a resolution or at least a direction to impact homelessness.

And so for us in law enforcement, again, a lot of the things that we can do, service providers can’t do.

But then on the same token a lot of the things the service providers can do and human services can do, law enforcement cannot do. And so that’s really the relationship that we are trying to establish and trying to cross pollinate and trying to make a lot stronger in the Los Angeles Police Department is that relationship and that connectivity between human services and law enforcement.
Breaking down barriers

The data sharing part was actually a very unique thing to get involved in because a lot of times when you have different entities involved, especially human services and law enforcement, there’s a lot of barriers where that information won’t be shared and that data won’t be shared. That’s one thing that we really wanted to break down. And so again for us in Los Angeles we have the Los Angeles Housing Authority and a lot of the information, a lot of the details they gather is based on the clients that they deal with. And so there’s always little issues as far as who is the case manager, who’s working on a particular individual. But a lot of that information that can be shared, they have been more than kind in sharing it and vice versa we have done the same thing too, where their case workers go, where their clinicians go, we’re able to show them where the encampments are that we have found. So we’ve actually discovered new places and new opportunities to have an impact.

Holding each other accountable

And then for us, again, I think that the really important thing has been doing what’s called a Homeless CompStat where we’re all in the room together. And the information that we both collect, that we both develop, is up on a screen where everybody is looking at it at the same time and we’re seeing how much of it is connected and how much of it do we want to work on together. So, again, the data sharing has been absolutely huge. The relationship building that goes into that before you get to the point where you’re sharing data, that’s really been the foundation of what we wanted to build out.