



## FACT SHEET 2023

[www.mesaaz.gov/offthestreets](http://www.mesaaz.gov/offthestreets)

### Why is the City of Mesa pursuing a hotel purchase and Council Use Permit?

- The City of Mesa is pursuing to purchase and obtain a Council Use Permit for the Grand Hotel at 6733 E Main Street to locate and provide a longer-term solution for the City's successful Off the Streets Program.
- The Off the Street program provides temporary housing with strong support services for people experiencing homelessness.
- The program serves Mesa's most vulnerable seniors, families with young children and domestic violence victims experiencing homelessness.
- Our established program provides the structure and partnerships to support our **Good Neighbor Policy**.

### GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

The City's existing Good Neighbor Policy will be followed at the Grand Hotel location. The City has adjusted the policy based on input from the surrounding community.

Our policy includes the following standards:

- Dedicated police officer presence on-site 24/7 and concerted effort to provide a heightened police presence in the area.
- On-site oversight and case management 24/7.
- Clients served at 6733 E Main Street will be limited to seniors, families and domestic violence victims experiencing homelessness.
- Campus improvements to support a secure environment includes construction of a eight-foot-high masonry wall, installation of new gates at the south and east side of parking lot, upgraded exterior lighting and landscaping.
- The City of Mesa Police Department and City of Mesa Office of Homeless Solutions will collaborate with the surrounding community to address homelessness that currently exists in the area as well as future public safety and health concerns.
- Nearby businesses and residents can connect with the City with questions, concerns or complaints and all related follow-up by calling the Community Services Department Office of Homeless Solutions at 480-644-5030, [offthestreets@mesaaz.gov](mailto:offthestreets@mesaaz.gov).
- There will be limited outdoor areas for participant use that will be visually buffered from the surrounding community by the eight-foot-high masonry wall and landscaping.
- Daily room checks of participant rooms to ensure safety and program compliance.
- Curfew enforced for program participants (10 p.m.).
- No visitors are allowed on campus without permission and monitoring.
- Ongoing facility cleanliness, operations, and maintenance.
- Security cameras on property with monitoring through the real time crime center.

- No walk-up or drop-in services are available or allowed. This is a referral-based program only.
- Participants will be provided transportation to off-campus wrap-around services to avoid duplication of services and eliminate the potential for walk-up traffic at the hotel.
- A detailed good neighbor report including this good neighbor policy and additional information of what you can expect from the City both for the campus and for uplifting the surrounding area is part of our purchase process and will be presented to our City Council and made available to property owners in the surrounding area.

**To ensure ongoing compatibility with the adjacent uses:**

A detailed good neighbor report including this good neighbor policy and additional information of what the surrounding community can expect from the City both for the campus and for uplifting the surrounding area is part of our purchase process and will be presented to our City Council and made available to property owners in the surrounding area.

The City is actively exploring existing City services and resources that could be provided in an enhanced and concentrated way for the area including:

- Discussing how to fund additional street lighting and alley lighting for the neighborhood south of the hotel.
- Pursuing neighborhood block watch and cleanups to heighten neighborhood connections.
- Consulting Mesa Public Schools on location of school bus stops in the area.
- Added police engagement by providing direct access to Mesa Police Department Commander during business hours to report concerns, coordinate communications and to receive timely updates on city/police follow up efforts.
- Regular program communication with the community and more.
- Proactive outreach to address existing homelessness challenges in the area prior to purchasing the hotel. Outreach and problem solving will continue as needed into the future of the program to ensure we are a good neighbor and a valuable resource to the surrounding community.

**What is Off the Streets?**

Mesa launched the Off the Streets program in May 2020 during the pandemic. Its initial purpose was to immediately house and stabilize unsheltered people to ensure the community’s health and safety. Fast forward three years later, and thanks to available federal funding for this purpose, this program has grown and evolved into a much-needed service that has increased the City’s success in getting people off the streets and supported in their next steps to shelter/housing, employment and eventually to live independently.

## How does Off the Streets work?

- Off the Streets is currently located at 5750 E Main Street (Windemere Hotel) 1.5 miles east of The Grand Hotel. Currently the City of Mesa leases hotel rooms for this program at this location.
- Individuals must be referred to the program through Mesa first responders and community partners.
- City of Mesa provides comprehensive stabilization services (mostly offsite), case management and 24/7 police presence.
- Participants can stay up to 90 days.
- Of the 1700+ people who have participated so far, 75% have made positive progress in their housing stability plan, recovery, and/or employment. This has led to them graduating on to more stable traditional shelters/housing.
- This program has become an important 'readiness bridge' to help people be ready for the next step in shelter/housing, employment, and stabilization. Without this bridge and prior to the pandemic, success rates of those graduating from shelters were in the 30-40% range.

A series of community meetings were held in July and August 2023. Additional questions and answers from those meetings are on our website at [www.mesaaz.gov/offthestreets](http://www.mesaaz.gov/offthestreets).