

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 6/18/2017 11:59:35 PM
Subject: Andy Livingstone Park and Crosstown Elementary School Issues with Needles

Greetings Mayor and Council,

I would like to provide you with an update on efforts being taken to address some of the concerns being raised by neighbours and parents about Andy Livingstone Park and Crosstown Elementary School.

The concerns of residents and local families have increased since the opening of Crosstown Elementary School in March. The school makes use of Andy Livingstone as its play area. Currently there are 84 children at the school. In the fall there will be 250 in Kindergarten through grade 7.

In order to address these concerns, the Park Board established a permanent ranger station in the park in January 2017 for 'eyes on the park'. This is the only permanent Ranger station outside of Stanley Park, and demonstrates our commitment to the area. In addition, Park Board will be taking immediate steps to enhance safety and security in and around the park and adjacent playground to support conversations being had with the Vancouver School Board and the Crosstown Elementary principal.

As of June 15, Park Board staff (most with training in mental health illness, violence in the workplace and homelessness) will be at the park 7 days a week:

- o Two park operations staff and two rangers will be in the park between 7 am and 11 pm
- o Staff will also be working actively with VPD, who will be increasing patrols in Andy Livingstone park and the surrounding area.

In addition to work carried out by Vancouver Park Board to clean the park, staff at Crosstown Elementary conduct four safety sweeps each day in areas where students play at recess and lunch to remove hazards like needles. Staff at the school also educate students on how to identify hazards and play safely. Park Board staff are meeting with Crosstown elementary staff and are actively working on strategies to address safety concerns in and around the school.

Park Board staff installed four needle receptacles throughout the park last spring where drug use is most prevalent but few addicts use the receptacles. Rangers and park operations staff pick up the needles along with other micro cleaning agencies such as PHS's Spikes on Bikes and Street Youth Job Action.

Early each morning CoV Sanitation staff are also attending the area to pick up garbage and needles around the perimeter of the park as well as the school ground, the two playgrounds and the Carrall street overpass.

A meeting will be organized this week with front line staff, including Park Board, VPD, Outreach, Sanitation and our partners at VCH and VSB as well as the micro cleaning organizations in order to coordinate our efforts and develop metrics that we can track over time in order to assess the effectiveness of our collective efforts.

Following that meeting we will also meet with concerned residents and parents to provide them with an update on our efforts and solicit them for any additional things we could be doing in order to protect the safety for all who use the park and playground.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Paul or Malcolm.

Best
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7627 | Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Twitter: sadhuajohnston

