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Date: 1/27/2021 10:43:35 AM
Subject: FW: Strathcona Park update for local residents

Good morning Mayor and Council,

For your information, the following update has been distributed this morning to individuals on our mailing list.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Paul

Begin forwarded message:

From: Homelessness <homelessness@vancouver.ca>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 9:05:30 AM PST
Subject: Strathcona Park update for local residents

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Dear Strathcona residents,

We are providing another update following our last email about Strathcona Park. Regarding timelines, we wanted to confirm with you that it is the City, Park Board and BC Housing's intention to bring the encampment in Strathcona Park to a close with the majority of people from the park to be moved into accommodation by the end of April. We have identified spaces and are waiting to hear about operating funding from the Province. In the meanwhile, we are starting on renovations for one of the spaces as we await Provincial funding approval.

To reiterate, the warming tent, washroom and shower trailers along Raymur Ave are temporary facilities that BC Housing have installed and they will be removed once we have brought the encampment to a close. The facilities are available 24/7 and are being monitored and managed by Atira, an experienced non-profit operator, with the support of peers and security who are always onsite.

Thank you to those of you who submitted questions following our previous update, we have addressed the most common ones below. Moving forward, we will address questions we receive via this bi-weekly update.

- **Garbage:** Staff from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are in the park daily to remove debris and garbage. Staff are working closely with individuals in the park who have been leading a widespread clean-up of refuse. The peer-led work in the park is being supported by Park staff; peers are working with people in the park to clearly demarcate piles of debris and garbage in designated piles. Parks staff are then removing those piles daily to ensure individuals' belongings are not removed or displaced. The City has collected 70 tonnes of material from Strathcona Park since October and continues to pick up garbage from the park every day.
- **Safety:** Staff are also concerned about the safety of everyone in the park, people sleeping overnight there and neighbours. VPD officers attend and investigate crime/violence issues within the park as required, whether the reporter of the incident is someone staying in the encampment or a neighbour to the Park. Should you be concerned for your safety or the safety of others, call 911. It is important that all incidents are reported.
- **Timeline:** Minister Eby recently announced that he is committed to having all of the spaces to end the encampment established by the end of April. Given Provincial funding is critical to this goal, this is now the timeline we are working toward. However, work to offer people indoor spaces will continue as spaces become available.

The City and Board of Parks and Recreation understand how important Strathcona Park is to this neighbourhood and that the encampment is having a significant impact on the use of the park. We know parks play a critical role in the social, physical, and psychological life of a community. The importance of the park to Strathcona cannot be overstated. As noted above, we are actively working with the Province through BC Housing with the shared intention of bringing the encampment to a close.

Staff from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are in the preliminary stages of engaging the Strathcona community to understand the type of programming and structured activations residents would like to see take place in the park moving forward to ensure it returns to a place where all are welcome and where vital green space is enjoyed.

If you have any questions, or have been forwarded this email and would like to be added to our mailing list, please email homelessness@vancouver.ca.

City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and BC Housing