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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

Date: 7/13/2016 11:05:22 AM

Subject: 58 W Hastings Encampment Update

Greetings Mayor and Council-

I am writing to update you on the encampment situation in Vancouver, the protest at City Hall yesterday and encampments throughout the region.

58 W Hastings

There are currently over 40 tents on the site. VANDU is currently overseeing the camp. The Fire Chief issued a Chief's order to ensure safety concerns are addressed on site. The order outlines requirements for tent spacing, no open flames or cooking in tents and other safety issues. So far, the organizers and campers have been in compliance and there are no safety issues being reported by VFRS and VPD. Housing outreach staff have been visiting the site on a daily basis. The organizers have requested site servicing support from the city, including restrooms, water, and waste collection. This request has been denied. The site is currently licensed to PHS for their use of the site as a farm. Staff have met PHS to ascertain their plans for the site, which at this point are to allow the campers to remain on site and to support them with site servicing. While PHS has a license, the City cannot pursue an injunction to end the camp.

Protest at City Hall

The protest at City Hall yesterday took considerable effort from staff, councillors and the Mayor to contain and ensure it didn't disrupt council. The Mayor agreed to meet with the group after council concluded. I joined the Mayor and Councillor Reimer at the meeting, along with a number of our staff. At the meeting, we declined their request for site servicing. The Mayor asked for the site to be decamped. The Mayor agreed to meet with the community in the DTES, which I will join. We also agreed to host a housing summit in September in the DTES. At the end of the day, the protesters were satisfied that they got their audience with the Mayor and Staff.

Encampments in Other Cities

There are now encampments in Surrey (27 tents on city land), Abbotsford (on Provincial land) and Burnaby (in a private building). We are engaging with the staff in these cities to coordinate. The scale and multi-city protest may provide an opportunity for the cities to jointly approach the Province and Federal governments in a coordinated request for support.

I'll keep you posted as our efforts to deal with this challenging situation continues. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Best

Sadhu

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