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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 7/19/2016 10:01:11 PM
Subject: 58 W Hastings Encampment Update

Greetings Mayor and Council-

I am writing to update you the current encampment at 58 W Hastings.

There are currently over 80 tents on the site. Many of the individuals on the site are either homeless, or are in SROs that they do not want to live in.

Over the last week of the encampment, the site has not created significant safety concerns from VFRS and VPD, who have had staff on the site on a daily basis. We have engaged with VCH, who have also had staff on site.

On a daily basis, our housing outreach staff offer their support to people on the site. Generally speaking, campers are only interested in non-SRO housing options. We are engaging with BC Housing requesting these types of units.

Despite the considerable time that staff are spending to address the situation on site, it appears that the conditions are degrading. We are seeing an increase in neighborhood complaints about night time fighting and loud noises on the site. We are also seeing increased sanitation issues in and around the site. Over the last several days, the number of tents have exceeded the number that VFRS indicated could be accommodated on the site with the minimum tent spacing. The organizers have been notified of these concerns.

As I had previously indicated to you, the site is currently controlled by PHS through a license agreement with the City for an urban farm. PHS has indicated to us their intention to discontinue this arrangement and abandon their farm on the site. We have instead agreed to amend their license agreement so that they continue to control the half of the site with the farm and return the part of the site with the encampment to the city. There will be a plastic agricultural fence erected between the encampment and the farm to ensure the farm area is not compromised.

With the city in control of the land with the encampment we are in a position to pursue an injunction to remove the encampment if and when the conditions in the encampment degrade to warrant this step.

I will continue to update you on our work to address this situation.

Best

Sadhu

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