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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
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Subject: 58 West Hastings - update

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to update you on the City's ongoing efforts to manage the encampment that has been established at 58 West Hastings. VPD, VFRS and Outreach staff are conducting site visits on a daily basis, including tent-by-tent inspections twice per week. Unfortunately, our staff have observed a continued deterioration in the conditions on site, including the following:

- Significant fire hazard resulting from the unsafe use of electrical cords to draw power from an outlet on the adjacent Portland Hotel Society building;
- An increasing amount of garbage and personal items on the site, including accumulations of combustible materials;
- Decreasing compliance with prior orders from the Fire Chief related to spacing of tents on the site and the use of tarpaulins over top of tents.

Numerous warnings have been issued to the leaders and occupants of the encampment, which have resulted in some short-term improvements. However, we are not seeing sustained compliance with safety requirements. In large part, the deteriorating circumstances reflect the fact that the individuals who had initially provided leadership and structure for the encampment are no longer present on site and there would appear to be limited capacity for the organized effort required to maintain safe conditions.

In view of these serious life safety risks, the Fire Chief issued a second order to the encampment today outlining actions to remediate the foremost concerns. Upon receiving the order, the occupants of the camp took steps to remove an extensive amount of material from the site and to re-establish safe spacing between tents. The Chief also ordered PHS to disconnect power to the external outlet that was being used by the camp.

In conjunction with ongoing management of conditions on the site, we are continuing to pursue housing options for homeless individuals currently residing at 58 West Hastings and will keep you apprised of developments in that regard.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Paul

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