

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 11/22/2016 5:33:51 PM
Subject: 58 W Hastings

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to provide an update on our work in relation to the encampment at 58 W Hastings since receiving the Court's issuance of the injunction last Thursday, November 17. As you will recall from our last update, the order prohibiting trespass on the property, including tents or other structures, takes effect at 6pm on Thursday, November 24. The order also obligates the City to provide for portable toilets and garbage bins over the intervening period; those accommodations were put in place shortly after the order was received.

Our hope is that all of the individuals staying on site choose to depart voluntarily at or before the Court-imposed deadline. In that instance, we will take immediate steps to re-secure the property including re-installation of fencing along the south alley and an ongoing security presence. We will also initiate the significant effort required to clean up the site.

The Court order expressly authorizes police to remove anyone who fails to comply; VPD is currently developing an operational plan should such action be necessary. The timing for execution of that plan will be determined by VPD. However, in confidence, I can advise that VPD does not anticipate taking action immediately upon expiry of the deadline.

Outreach is working with the campers to identify permanent housing options and succeeded this week in securing housing for one person who has been living in the encampment since July. Those efforts will continue up to and beyond the deadline. We will also maintain the offer of assistance to individuals to relocate to shelters, including transportation and storage of personal belongings. Of note, additional low-barrier shelter capacity is scheduled to open on December 1 and it is possible that option may be of interest to campers who have elected not to access the shelter spaces to this point.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie | Deputy City Manager
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7666 | paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



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