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Subject: 420 protest media statement

Greetings Mayor and Council

In response to media inquiries, I have shared the following statement with the media. Please feel free to call if I can provide additional information with you.

Thanks
Sadhu

The 4/20 protest event has outgrown its current location at the VAG, become incredibly disruptive and increasingly unsafe. City staff, including Engineering, VPD, VF&RS and Park Board, worked with organizers to find an alternate location on city property. The City did not tell the organizers to go to Sunset Park.

However, last Fall the organizers informed City staff that they were interested in Sunset Park as a new location. City staff told the protest event organizers that they would not be able to issue an event permit at this location since it was a Park Board property. Since last Fall, City staff, including staff from the Park Board have been working with the organizers on a public safety plan as this remains our number one priority.

It is our expectation that this year's event will require fewer city resources due to its new location which is outside of downtown core and not near any major roads. Nevertheless, we will work with the organizers, the VPD, VF&RS and our colleagues at the Park Board to ensure a safe and orderly event.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.