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**Date:** 7/25/2019 6:14:53 PM  
**Subject:** Oppenheimer Park - social media commentary

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to recent Twitter posts by Pivot Legal Society regarding a clean-up effort that our staff conducted in Oppenheimer Park earlier today. As background, these clean-ups occur on a weekly basis and typically involve the removal of significant volumes of debris and abandoned tents by Engineering and Parks staff. VFRS staff also attend the Park on a regular basis to monitor compliance with the Chief's Order that has been in effect since February.

To confirm, the work that our staff are doing in Oppenheimer Park is intended to protect the health and safety of everyone in the park. Staff do not remove tents that people are using to sleep in. Absent these efforts, the Park would be utterly unsafe and unusable by anyone, including the campers.

Pivot has characterized this activity on social media as a "raid". It was not a raid. The campers are very familiar with these weekly clean-up efforts and they do not come as any surprise. VPD members attend only to keep the peace and protect the other City staff as they go about their work. While VFRS Fire Prevention staff do check tents for combustible materials, members are acting under lawful authority under the Fire Bylaw. VFRS staff routinely find and confiscate flammable materials, the risk of which is underscored by the significant number of fires that have occurred in the Park this year.

I am happy to provide additional background regarding this matter as may be helpful.

Best,  
Paul

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*