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Subject: Oppenheimer Park - additional information

Good evening Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to a number of questions we have received from members of Council regarding the situation in Oppenheimer Park. I hope the following information is useful in that regard

- Media and other sources are reporting that there are 200+ people staying in the park who need housing. The number of people in the park fluctuates and is very difficult to determine precisely. However, based on the ongoing work that Outreach staff have been doing in the park since November, they believe there are fewer than 140 people in the park who are in need of housing and prepared to make that transition. At this time, BCH has access to approximately 140 units plus additional shelter capacity. As such, Outreach continues to advise that there are sufficient housing units, in terms of total numbers, for the number of people they are working with.

- the available housing units are being allocated to individuals who have been staying in the park and who are working with Outreach. Outreach staff are liaising with BCH regarding the available stock to identify the units that best fit the individual needs and circumstances in each case.

- Outreach and BCH are tracking the housing offers for campers who are female and those who identify as indigenous. I will follow up with further information in that regard.

- the GM order for removal of structures takes effect **at 6pm tomorrow**. In the event there are campers in the park at that time who are not engaged with Outreach and who refuse to remove their tents, the GM of the Park Board will assess the circumstances and the advisability of further legal action to enforce the order. The GM will then need to brief Park Board and seek their direction.

- there are several tents in the park that have been damaged, abandoned or that campers who have accepted housing have confirmed that they no longer want. In accordance with the GM order, staff will be taking steps to remove those tents, with extreme caution to avoid removing tents or property that the owners may wish to retain.

- Council is free to confirm publicly that VPD members do not have authority under the GM order to forcibly remove people from the park.

Please let me know if you require additional information.

Best,
Paul