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Date: 8/20/2019 3:10:53 PM
Subject: Oppenheimer Park - update

Dear Mayor and Council,

As you know, City staff, Park Board staff and BC Housing continue working to move people experiencing homelessness in Oppenheimer Park into housing and shelter. At this point, approximately 50 people have accepted offers to move into safe and stable accommodation since yesterday's order was posted.

We're encouraged by the response from people sleeping in the camp so far, with many people working with the City's Homeless Outreach team (Carnegie Outreach) to be matched to one of the approximately 140 units of housing which are immediately available and have been secured by BC Housing.

We continue to have concerns about the serious health and life safety risks present in the park. Today, as efforts are focused on moving people into their new homes, items presenting hazards to health and safety will be removed by Vancouver Fire Rescue Service.

We're expecting people sleeping in the park to continue to comply with the order and work with us to accept suitable housing and/or shelter immediately while good quality options are currently available. The city continues to work with VPD to ensure safety of all campers in the park, as well as residents in the surrounding neighbourhood. VPD officers will maintain a presence at the park to keep the peace, ensure public safety, and respond to incidents as needed, but will not immediately remove campers once the GM order expires.

Carnegie Outreach will continue to work in the park to support individuals to access housing and shelter, income and other support services. Parks staff and BC Housing are also working in the park to help move campers and support the direction in the GM order.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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.

