

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

Date: 8/21/2019 3:13:18 PM

Subject: RE: Oppenheimer Park Update

Attachments: Oppenheimer-Park-Letter.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attachment mentioned in the email below.

Best,

Paul Mochrie | Deputy City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
604.873.7666



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

From: Mochrie, Paul
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL
Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL
Subject: Oppenheimer Park Update

Dear Mayor and Council,

City and Park Board staff continue to work in Oppenheimer Park to support people experiencing homelessness into housing and shelter. Approximately 75 people have accepted offers to move into safe and stable housing since Monday.

As you are aware, the Park Board General Manager's order, which was posted in response to ongoing health and safety risks in the park, expires today at 6 p.m. Following the expiry of the order, the Park Board will be assessing the situation in the park and considering whether further legal action may be required to enforce the GM order.

The City's Carnegie Outreach team remains committed to supporting people as they move out of park into housing and shelter options, and will continue this work throughout the week.

The City continues to work with VPD to ensure the 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 remove campers from the park on the basis of the GM order.

The City and Park Board will only dispose of belongings campers confirm they no longer want or that have clearly been abandoned in the park. Any belongings that individuals might wish to retain will be labelled and securely stored for up to 60 days. Given ongoing concerns about the serious health and life safety risks present in the park, Vancouver Fire Rescue Service will continue removing items presenting hazards to health and safety, in compliance with the Fire Chief's order which has been in place in the park since February.

We have shared this updated information with campers today, a copy of what was shared is attached here. We will also be sharing an update with media this afternoon.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Paul

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INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN OPPENHEIMER PARK

We wanted to provide you with an update on the next steps related to the Park Board General Manager's order that structures and tents must be removed from Oppenheimer Park by August 21 at 6pm.

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. Once the order expires at 6 pm today, the Park Board will be assessing the situation in the park and considering whether further legal action may be required to enforce the order.

The Carnegie Outreach Team will continue to be in the park daily, supporting and assisting people wanting to move into housing or shelter. Please connect with them if you need assistance.

VPD officers will be in the park to keep the peace, ensure public safety, and respond to incidents as needed, but will not remove people living in the park without further legal authorization and notice.

Moving into housing and/or shelter

- Staff in the park are available to find alternative housing or shelter, pack your belongings and transport them to your accommodation
- Safe, long-term storage (for up to 60 days) is available for any additional belongings

Tents and items left in the park

- Staff will not take tents or other items that have been identified as belonging to you unless you instruct otherwise. We will dispose of belongings you no longer want, and remove abandoned tents
- Vancouver Fire Rescue Services will continue to enforce the Fire Chief's Order in the park

Do you need additional help?

- Speak to Park Board staff, Fire or VPD if you have other questions or need assistance

