

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

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

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

Date: 8/22/2019 1:34:43 PM

Subject: Oppenheimer Park Update

Attachments: Oppenheimer-Park-Aug22-Letter - final.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

As of this afternoon, approximately 93 people who have been experiencing homelessness and sleeping in Oppenheimer Park have now accepted offers to move into safe and stable accommodation. We estimate this accounts for more than two-thirds of the people who were living in Oppenheimer Park at the time the General Manager's order was issued.

Today, empty and/or abandoned tents will be moved to the edge of the park in order for Park Board staff to begin renovation and maintenance of the field. The following processes are in place for tents and other belongings in the park:

- Any belongings that individuals might wish to retain will be labelled and securely stored for up to 60 days. A card with details on how belongings can be returned is being given to every camper with items in storage.
- The City and Park Board will only dispose the unwanted belongings of people who have accepted housing or that have clearly been abandoned in the park.
- 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.

The Park Board is assessing the situation in the park and considering whether further legal action may be required to enforce the order.

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, and respond to incidents as needed, but will not remove people living in the park without further legal authorization and notice.

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 people into housing and shelter.

Updated information which was shared with people in the park today is attached for reference. 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.

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN OPPENHEIMER PARK THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019

We wanted to provide an update on what is happening in the park today in relation to the Park Board General Manager's order that structures and tents must have been removed from Oppenheimer Park by August 21 at 6pm.

We expect people sleeping in the park to comply with the order and work with us on accepting the remaining housing and shelter options that are still available.

The Carnegie Outreach Team is in the park to support people who have been sleeping in Oppenheimer Park and help you move into housing or shelter. Please connect with them if you need assistance.

If you have not been sleeping in the park and need assistance, visit the Outreach office at 392 Powell St.

Moving into housing and/or shelter

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

Tents and items left in the park

- Once you are packed and being moved, staff will discard any remaining items and tents you no longer want
- Vancouver Fire Rescue Services will continue to enforce the Fire Chief's Order in the park
- Empty and/or abandoned tents will be moved to the edge of the park in order for Park Board staff to begin renovation and maintenance of the field

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.

The Park Board will be assessing the situation in the park and considering whether further legal action may be required to enforce the order.

