

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

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

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

"Bromley, Malcolm" <Malcolm.Bromley@vancouver.ca>

Date: 8/23/2019 1:30:32 PM

Subject: Oppenheimer Park - August 23 update

Attachments: Oppenheimer-Park-Aug23-Letter.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

As of this afternoon, more than 119 people experiencing homelessness living in Oppenheimer Park have accepted housing offers following a Park Board General Manager's order this week which requested that tents and other structures be removed by August 21. Of the people who have accepted offers of housing, 38 per cent identify as Indigenous, and 34 per cent as women.

The City plans to work with approximately 30 additional people in the park to accept offers for the remaining homes today. A number of shelter spaces are also available for anyone else still sleeping in the park.

The City continues to work with VPD to ensure the safety of all people 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.

At this time, the Park Board has not issued direction to staff to seek an injunction to enforce the GM order.

As people move out of the park and into housing and shelter, anyone still sleeping in the park will be directed to move their tents to the perimeter of the park. Today, staff will begin to section off parts of the park in order to start the process of restoring the turf, playground and other park amenities. While grass areas may be closed for repairs, all pathways, walkways and sidewalk areas will remain open.

Updated information that was provided to people in the park today is attached for reference. We will also be sharing this update with media this afternoon.

Thank you,
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 FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 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 were to be 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 to move into the housing they have accepted, or consider a shelter option.

The Carnegie Outreach Team is in the park to support and assist people moving 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.

More than 100 people have moved into housing and we are working to support approximately 30 more people into safe and secure homes. A number of shelter spaces will also be available to anyone still sleeping in the park.

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Moving into housing and/or shelter

- Staff in the park are available to help you 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.

