Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

As you may be aware, a special meeting of the Park Board has been called for 6:30 this evening to address the encampment in Oppenheimer Park. Park Board has also requested that City, VFRS and VPD staff attend to speak to the topic. I will be attending, along with Deputy Chief Renning from VFRS and Deputy Chief Chow from VPD.

Please find attached the material that Deputy Chief Renning and I will be presenting to Park Board this evening. Park Board will be receiving this information in public session, although I would request that you refrain from disclosing the content of the slides prior to the meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Paul

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.
Tents/Structures Heat Map Jan-Aug 2019
CoV Tent/Structure Response

- The City’s Outreach team conducts early morning/late evening rounds to areas where people are sleeping outside to offer income, housing, health supports.
  - Note: Provincial Homeless Outreach Program funds 7 additional teams in neighbourhoods across the city.

- Outreach works in coordination with Engineering, Parks, VPD, VFRS to identify people sleeping outdoors who may be willing to be connected with necessary services.

- In accordance with BC jurisprudence, Engineering and Park Rangers engage with campers (from 8/9am onwards) asking that tents/structures be taken down during the day. VPD assists to keep the peace and protect staff safety as required.

- Crews clean up abandoned items as well as articles people voluntarily leave behind when asked by staff to take down their tent.

- Engineering authorized to manage structures in 6 DTES parks: Strathcona; Victory Square; Pioneer Place (Pigeon Park); Wendy Poole; CRAB; Oppenheimer
Encampments – Recent History

- Oppenheimer Park – 2014
  - Encampment established as a protest
  - Injunction granted
  - Occupants who were homeless were supported to transition to shelter. Most subsequently moved to the Quality Inn which was leased on a short term by CoV.

- 58 West Hastings – 2016
  - Encampment established as a protest in July
  - Injunction granted in November
  - Occupants who were homeless were supported to transition to shelter

- 950 Main Street – 2017
  - Encampment established as a protest in April; City property leased to Lu’Ma Native Housing for affordable housing development
  - Injunction granted to Lu’Ma in June
  - Occupants who were homeless were offered option to transition to shelter

- 1100 Franklin Street - 2017
  - Encampment established in June as a protest following order to vacate 950 Main
  - Occupants voluntarily relocated to shelter in December; no injunction sought
  - Site subsequently deployed for temporary modular housing
Oppenheimer Park 2019

- Began in October 2018 with a small number of people experiencing homelessness and sleeping in park
- Tent count steadily increased ~20 (Feb) to ~200 (Aug)
- Individuals sleeping in the park also increased ~25 (Feb) to ~137 (Aug)
- Outreach staff attended the park daily; additional evening visits to provide information on shelter and nearby warming centre options over the winter months
- ~45 people sleeping in park were housed, many more provided with income and other support (eg., ID).
- February: Fire Chief’s Order issued to address safety risks in encampment
- March: Council and Park Board motions re camping in Oppenheimer
- Steady deterioration in safety conditions and increasing risk for campers and neighbourhood; field house closed due to staff safety issues
- Engineering removed equivalent to 807 cubic yards of material (approx. 135 dumpsters) between January and July
Order to Remove Structures

• August 19, 9:00am - Park Board GM issued Order that all tents/structures must be removed from the park by 6:00pm on August 21, 2019.

• At the time the order was issued, BC Housing confirmed the following options available for people camping in the park and who required housing:
  – BC Housing - 123 units
  – COV - 11 units
  – 60 shelter spaces also made available

• At that time, the available housing and shelter capacity was sufficient to accommodate everyone who was staying in the park

• BC Housing, VCH and CoV Outreach staff established a process of assessment; housing offers were prioritized for people who had been sleeping in the park for the longest period of time.

• August 19-23 - concerted effort by Parks, City VFRS, VPD, BC Housing, VCH and housing providers to transition individuals to available housing/shelter, including moving assistance and storage of belongings
• **130 people accepted housing offers in August**
  - 44 (34%) women
  - 66 (51%) who identify as Indigenous

• Approximately 120 tents remain on site; many unoccupied or used for storage

• Outreach is working with 55 people experiencing homelessness who are staying in the park
  - 40 identify as male; 14 identify as female; 1 identifies as trans

• A small number of people have declined to identify themselves or are not interested in Outreach’s assistance.

• Outreach staff continue working with people in the park but have scaled back 7am visits to 2 days per week
  - Encampments elsewhere in city need support
  - Challenges working with people in the current environment

• Staff continue to invite park sleepers to seek further assistance by visiting the Outreach office (390 Powell).
Life Safety Risks

- Fire Chief’s order issued in February 2019
- Sets out a number of conditions to reduce the fire hazard for people living in the park
- Continued non-compliance with the order
- Regular inspections indicate an elevated risk to life, injury and fire, due to the constant use of restricted fuels, propane appliances, BBQ’s, heating devices, and candles used in tents.
- Anticipate fire/life safety risks to accelerate as weather gets colder
- Since Jan 2019, VFRS has responded to:
  - 20 tent fires
  - 62 medical calls
  - 93 other miscellaneous responses
Financial Implications (estimated)

January 1 – July 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering (Street Ops and Sanitation)</td>
<td>Varied service levels including daily weekday cleanups (Jan-Apr), expanded 7 day clean up (May) and current service of Wed, Thurs and Sat</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Board</td>
<td>Ranger visits, janitorial costs for cleaning of Fieldhouse and port-a-potties as well as regular park maintenance</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCS</td>
<td>Additional staff for Fieldhouse (6 days to 7 days a week) and additional staffing costs for Outreach</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>VF&amp;RS</td>
<td>Fire Prevention staff enforcing Fire Chief's Order</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>VPD</td>
<td>On-duty resources and call-out incremental resources</td>
<td>$222,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$817,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Excludes VPD/VFRS patrol and emergency response

August 19-23, 2019

- Total City/Park Board cost = $117,500
- Includes wages, supplies and other incidentals for Outreach, Engineering, VFRS, VPD, and Parks staff
- Excludes costs incurred by BCH and VCH
City staff do not support sanctioned or managed encampments as a response to the homelessness crisis:

- Significant health and life safety risks to individuals sleeping outside; sub-optimal setting to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness
- Not possible to manage an uncontrolled outdoor site safely and effectively; controls necessary to provide a safe and secure site would exclude many campers
- Very limited site options in Vancouver’s dense urban core
- Significant operational challenges; costs $1M - 2M per year
- No provincial funding or support to operate sanctioned encampments
- Experience in other cities has not demonstrated effectiveness in supporting transition to housing or mitigating growth of street homelessness

City staff are focused on supporting people to transition to indoor spaces, including shelters and other longer term housing options as they become available.
Homelessness Crisis – Short-term response

- Ongoing engagement with Province/BCH re: shelter capacity
  - Temporary Winter Shelters (operated November-April)
    • CoV provides space or pays lease costs and all tenant improvements; BCH contributes operating funding; non-profits operate
    • Approx. 200 of 300 temporary winter shelter beds funded to operate through March 2020
    • Working with BCH to secure 100 beds for this winter
  - Extreme Weather Shelters (activated when temp “feels like 0°C”)
    • Evelyn Saller Centre - 40 beds; BCH contributes operating funding.

- CoV Warming Centres (activated when “feels like -5°C”)
  - Entirely CoV funded – approx. 200 spaces in 2018/19
  - Working to secure sites for upcoming winter

- Temporary Modular Housing program
  - CoV provides land or lease costs and regulatory process/approvals; BCH provides capital and operating; non-profits operate and provide services
  - 600 homes on 10 sites now tenanted, 58 units on Vanness Ave pending approval
  - All units targeted to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness
  - Identification of potential sites and funding opportunities for additional projects in process
Questions