

File No.: 04-1000-20-2023-156

May 2, 2023

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")

I am responding to your request of March 21, 2023 under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act)* for:

Park Ranger reports related to the homeless encampment at Vanier Park. Date range: January 1, 2023 to March 20, 2023.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed, (blacked out), under s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download this section here: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2023-156); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

[Signed by Cobi Falconer]

Cobi Falconer, MAS, MLIS, CIPP/C
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If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604-871-6584.

Encl. (Response package)

:pm

2023-01-10 - 1132 hours - At approximately 1030 hours, Park Rangers MAH and KHUU attended Vanier Park to conduct a follow up on an existing encampment in the forest. Upon arrival, Park Rangers observed the large encampment and a smell of smoke in the direction of the encampment. Rangers requested a safety timer and approached the encampment to conduct a wellness check. Rangers spoke with a s.22(1) and s.22(1) occupying the large structure and requested they clean up and clear from the forest. Rangers also observed smoke from one of the tents and requested the s.22(1) occupant to put out the fire. Rangers were unable to gain voluntary compliance from the occupants in regards to packing up and leaving. However, rangers were successful having the s.22(1) extinguish the fire. Photos were taken on iPhone 2. Follow up recommended.

January 23rd, 2023 - 1453hrs - Rangers DON, BIRK and BOURDON attended Vanier Park at 1219hrs to check on the large camp in the forest area. Upon arrival, Rangers located a large plume of black smoke, coming from the group of 4 tents above the pond. There was also a very large warehouse like structure at the bottom of the hill below the 4 tents. There was also lots of propane tanks around the tents, as well as floating in and around the pond. Upon seeing the smoke, Rangers called 911 and requested both Police and Fire assistance. 2 VFRS engines arrived shortly after the call, and Rangers approached the structure with VFRS. VFRS determined it was safe for Rangers to approach and engage with the individuals, as the propane tanks were in no danger of exploding.

As Rangers and VFRS approached the tents, s.22(1) came out of the tents. 1 of the s.22(1) Rangers recognized as s.22(1) - who had previously been at Charleson Park. The other s.22(1) with s.22(1) was named s.22(1) and s.22(1) was s.22(1) from what looked to be a s.22(1) s.22(1) Rangers asked s.22(1) if s.22(1) was ok, and s.22(1) said to Rangers and VFRS that s.22(1), and hadn't taken s.22(1) medicine yet today. As s.22(1) and s.22(1) were leaving the area where the tents were, s.22(1) s.22(1) VFRS and Ranger BOURDON stayed around s.22(1) while VFRS gave s.22(1) medical attention.

RANGER BOURDON remained on stand-by with VFRS while they spoke with s.22(1) repeatedly stated when questioned that s.22(1) was fine and that s.22(1) just needed s.22(1) medication. VFRS asked s.22(1) if s.22(1) would like an ambulance to which s.22(1) said no and that s.22(1) would prefer to speak to VPD to recover s.22(1) VFRS complied with this and began speaking to their dispatcher which prompted s.22(1) to comment "Why are you calling for the police? I need an ambulance." VFRS questioned s.22(1) as to why s.22(1) changed s.22(1) story with s.22(1) insistin s.22(1) did not. Approximately two minutes later amidst further health related questions from VFRS s.22(1) requested to speak with VPD once again. s.22(1) also repeatedly gestured to a clear 2L of liquid stating it was "Pure Alcohol" and that it was not owned by s.22(1) because s.22(1) doesn't drink, further stating it was what caused the fire to flare up when somebody attempted to put it out.

Ranger DON spoke with s.22(1) while Ranger BIRK went back to wait for VPD's arrival to escort them into the forest. s.22(1) informed Ranger DON that s.22(1) but didn't know by whom. s.22(1) also said that there were currently s.22(1) living in the camp, but s.22(1) didn't know

(or didn't want to say) their names. s.22(1) then left the forest, and Ranger DON went to the hill above the pond with the VFRS Captain, who had just arrived on scene. The Captain did a scene analysis of the fuel and propane tanks laying in the pond, the burned tents, the warehouse tent, and he commented on how this size of camp can take off like it has.

Shortly after this, 1 of the engines had to leave to attend to a serious incident involving a death, on the Granville Street bridge. The other engines finished putting out the fire inside of the tent, which turned out to be a Hibachi being used to cook and keep warm, by a s.22(1) and a s.22(1) never came out of the structure, but s.22(1) came out and spoke with VFRS. They had originally tried to put out the fire with a 2 liter bottle of clear liquid, which turned out to be vodka. That was why the large flames got out of hand before, which led to the VFRS call in the first place.

After VFRS had tended to s.22(1) and got s.22(1) safely out of the forest for paramedics to transport s.22(1) to the hospital, Rangers engaged with s.22(1). Rangers informed s.22(1) that they needed to begin packing up their essentials today, and Rangers, Sanitation and VPD would be back at a later date to remove everything that was left on scene. s.22(1) asked about land rights for that location, with Ranger DON educating s.22(1) that they were currently on Parks jurisdiction, which would soon be high rises being built by the Musqueam Nation. s.22(1) understood and said s.22(1) and s.22(1) planned to pack up and be out of the area later in the week. s.22(1) said s.22(1) wasn't sure about the others in the camp, and did not know their names. Ranger DON asked s.22(1) was staying there, as s.22(1) had previously been staying with them. s.22(1) answered that s.22(1) had not seen s.22(1) for a few days, and didn't know if s.22(1) was still living there.

Before disengaging from the park, Rangers took photos of the camp and pond area on Lead DON's phone, and sent the photos to Superintendent DEJONG and the Lead Ranger account. VPD File # VA12573.

January 25th 2023 - 1325hrs. - Rangers MCTAGGART, DON and OTHMAN attended Vanier Park at approximately 0724hrs in regards to a large encampment in the forested area at **W3W Grape.Crowned.Instead**. Rangers called into Dispatch for a safety time the approached the encampment area. Upon approaching Rangers notice smoke coming form inside of a tent with a s.22(1) Rangers called out to see if anyone was inside however their was no answer. Rangers attempted again to call out and this time s.22(1) named s.22(1) who was known to Rangers form previous interactions) came out of a s.22(1) from below the s.22(1). s.22(1) said that the owners of the tent were just here but must have departed recently. Ranger explained to s.22(1) that at no times are fire permitted in any park. s.22(1) then entered the s.22(1) to extinguish the fire. Once the fire was out s.22(1) departed back to s.22(1) structure. Rangers decided to use a fire extinguisher to make sure the fire was completely out and would not re-ignite.

Rangers also attended the s.22(1) structure area and found that inside was a bunch of random items and a sleeping area where s.22(1) must be staying. Ranger found multiple propane tanks and other miscellaneous items are the camp area

Sunday, January 29, 2023 - 13:38 hours - Rangers ANDERSON and BIRK attended Vanier Park in full uniform at 09:25 hours to check on the encampment located by the pond west of the BMX track. Rangers conducted a wellness check with known camper s.22(1) to remind s.22(1) that fires are not allowed at the encampment and provide s.22(1) with warming shelter information. There were two other campers present not in need of any assistance. Rangers departed at 9:40 hours.

2023/02/10 - 1551hrs - Ranger 116 DONG attended Vanier Park at 1651hrs driving marked VPR truck A5881 on proactive patrol. Upon arrival DONG checked Hansen case board, and saw a case for a large camp in the forest off of the Music Academy Parking lot. DONG drove by the area and from the street observed a pile of tarp of clothing, and parked along the sidewalk with amber beacon activated and 4-way flashers. DONG exited the truck and walked up the short hill and saw a small pile of discarded clothing and camp supplies off the side of the gravel path, then spotted the large camp in the gully where the old pond was. There were 3 tents and a large, 2 room wooden house, built in the gully. DONG did not observe any movement, and due to being solo, did not approach. DONG took photos of the camp from a distance, and emailed to the lead account. Coordinated multi-agency follow-up required for this encampment. DONG cleared at approx 1708hrs.

February 21, 2023 – 0930hrs – AM Shift – Sunny/Cloudy

At approx. 0924hrs, Rangers MESSAM (123) and PARK (118) arrived at Vanier Park in city vehicle A7658 and in full uniform for a regular patrol and to follow-up with the occupants inside the forested area next to the BMX bike tracks. At approx. 1000hrs, rangers conducted a foot patrol through the forest and observed the large encampment in the described location – rangers requested a safety-timer from Dispatch 92 and approached, MESSAM acting as Contact and PARK acting as Cover, a verbal greeting as done and a s.22(1) responded from inside with s.22(1) s.22(1) partner. MESSAM gave a friendly reminder of use of fire within the park and that it was not allowed (many tanks of propane was laying outside the structure – appeared to be empty and light when picked up to test). No evidence (sight or smell) of fire was noticed within the area. The s.22(1) acknowledged rangers and said they were not lighting fires in the forest. MESSAM also informed them there would be cold/freezing weather coming this week and to be careful. The s.22(1) was thankful for the information and said there was bags of garbage available for rangers to take from the encampment – there was 4 large bags placed by a bin. Rangers thanked the occupants for the conversation and disengaged from the area. Rangers removed 1 truckload worth of garbage from the park and departed from the forested area at approx. 1015hrs.

2023-03-12 - 1323hrs - At 0812hrs Rangers GUERIN and MESSAM attended Vanier Park and engaged with s.22(1) in the encampment area. s.22(1) stated all individuals seeking shelter within the encampment were well and healthy. s.22(1) stated to Rangers they are aware the situation is temporary and are working closely with Carnegie to move into housing and continue supports with services provided. s.22(1) stated that they are awaiting the drying up of the lake to fully clean the area, and will be piling the items for pick up towards the goat trail at the north end of the Vancouver School of Music parking lot. Rangers noticed approx. 6 propane tanks, and the smell of burning was very obvious in the area. Rangers observed a makeshift chimney out with large burn marks on the surrounding tent of s.22(1) encampment (up the hill). Rangers took photos of the encampment, and leave the area without further issue 0830hrs.