

From: **"Singh, Sandra"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 3/25/2024 9:30:29 PM

Subject: Update: CRAB Park Clean-up and Compliance Confirmed Plan Implementation

Hello Mayor and Council,

As per the CRAB Park Designated Area Clean-up and Compliance Confirmed Plan, Park Board and City staff, supported by VPD, were on site at the CRAB Park Daytime Area to commence the planned cleanup and compliance work. The work started early this morning with the installation of work zone fencing. The creation of a restricted work zone will enable the safe use of mobile equipment and increase our ability to move swiftly to clean-up and repair the area and ready it for people's return.

As you may have seen or heard, the start of cleanup was paused today due to the presence of five to six people in the Designated Area who had not yet left. Atira and Lu'ma along with two community volunteers successfully supported these individuals to pack up their belongings and relocate by mid-afternoon. The fencing has now been secured to prevent people accessing the site overnight, and the cleanup work is anticipated to commence in the morning following a final walk through of the area by Rangers and members of the VPD.

As of tomorrow, the Designated Area will become an active work zone for one week as staff use mobile equipment to remove large structures and debris and to repair the area. After the Designated Area has been cleaned-up, repaired and leveled with new gravel laid down, staff will support people sheltering in the park to return to the Area beginning in early April according to established By-law requirements, GM Notice requirements, and operational and safety guidelines. Only those that have been sheltering in the CRAB Park Designated Area will be supported to move back in to ensure they are prioritized for the limited space. To confirm, today's delay will result in at least a one-day delay in our overall timeline, meaning it may not be until April 2 that we are able to relocate people back into the Designated Area. Fencing will remain up in some areas longer term to allow for repair of the site.

Our Homelessness Services Outreach team continues to connect with people sheltering outdoors and supporting them to access income, support services and housing and shelter spaces as they become available. We can confirm that nine people who were sheltering in the Designated Area have now received housing allocations: two people have already moved into housing and seven people are in the allocation process.

We want to acknowledge that Atira and Lu'ma staff and peers have been working hard to support people in the Designated Area, and we credit the positive tone and successful relocations to their work with people sheltering in the Designated Area. There are also a couple of community leaders who have also been volunteering to support people to relocate and to support this work and we want to extend our appreciation to them as well.

As well, we do want to highlight that over the last week, there were a number of untruths posted online from some protestors about Rangers confiscating or seizing items. While we have high confidence in the team, Park Board management did follow-up on all assertions to confirm the assertions were not accurate as a matter of due diligence. In all but one case in which we admitted a mistake in procedure, the accusations were unfounded. There continue to be concerning and untruthful social media posts about City and Park Board staff and we appreciate the confidence you have in staff's integrity and authenticity in this difficult work.

There continues to be a high degree of media interest in the cleanup process and communications staff facilitated several interviews today for major outlets with General Manager Steve Jackson. Should you receive media inquiries, please don't hesitate to refer those to media@vancouver.ca.

Thank you,

Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel̓ilwílh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.