

File No.: 04-1000-20-2024-053

March 12, 2024

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 January 24, 2024 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** for:

Email correspondence in relation to Oppenheimer and/or Crab Park of Park Board Chair Brennan Bastoyovanszky containing the word "encampments." Date Range: January 1, 2024 to January 23, 2024.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.15(1)(l) and s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download these sections 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 (#04-1000-20-2024-053); 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
Director, Access to Information & Privacy
cobi.falconer@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

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

From: "Jensen, Scott" <Scott.Jensen@vancouver.ca>
To: s.22(1)
s.22(1)
CC: "Bastyovanszky, Brennan" <Brennan.Bastyovanszky@vancouver.ca>
s.22(1)
Date: 1/19/2024 3:31:29 PM
Subject: Re: Attempt to build permanent structures in Crab Park

Thank you for your email.

I apologize if it appears as if Commissioner Bastyovanszky and I have disappeared from this significant issue, however, I can assure you that this issue has dominated our agenda for the past six months.

As you can see, Park Rangers are constantly engaging with those seeking shelter outside the designated area and with those that have shelters within the designated area. The goal of their interaction is to connect those in the park(s) with temporary or permanent housing.

When we first met, I was buoyed by the multiple announcements of housing being created through partnerships with the Provincial and City governments. As we can see, more housing is needed immediately, and we are advocating to both levels of government for spaces to be made available. The decampment of Hastings Street has increased the number of individuals seeking shelter in parks, which is evident by the increase in tents and shelters in Oppenheimer Park.

I cannot agree more that we need those living in Crab Park to move to temporary or permanent housing and the park to be remediated for the enjoyment of all. I like your suggestions and will share them with the General Manager.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for Crab Park.

Sincerely,

Scott Jensen

From: s.22(1)
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 12:59 PM
To: s.22(1)
Cc: Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meiszner@vancouver.ca>; Jensen, Scott <Scott.Jensen@vancouver.ca>; Bastyovanszky, Brennan <Brennan.Bastyovanszky@vancouver.ca>; s.22(1)
s.22(1); s.22(1) Sim, Ken <Ken.Sim@vancouver.ca>; CHOW, Howard (VPD) <howard.chow@vpd.ca>; Palmer, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>; s.22(1)
s.22(1)
Subject: Re: Attempt to build permanent structures in Crab Park

City of Vancouver Warning - This message is from an untrusted sender

You have not previously corresponded with this sender. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

Report Suspicious

Big thanks to s.22(1) for voicing the concerns we've been talking about for years and outlining what we're expecting to see from our elected officials. Peter, your continued engagement and swift response on this matter are greatly appreciated.

We were very thankful to see the VPD and Park Rangers on-site to defuse and refuse the intentions of the activists. Thank you! But, yesterday's event s.22(1)

As with many of us, we are ready to support change that demonstrates real leadership. As such, our family s.22(1)

Given that we are taxpayers, it's only logical that our needs and reasonable expectations are acknowledged. Whether it's the density of social services, tent cities, or low-barrier housing, why is it assumed that our community should bear a disproportionate burden? Doesn't that seem a bit unfair and inequitable?

A detailed plan, such as s.22(1) has suggested, complete with a timeline and milestones would be appreciated.

As a diverse community with various needs, it's crucial to maintain safe and clean public spaces for everyone's enjoyment. I eagerly anticipate the dismantling of this tent city by our City, Park Board and Province.

s.22(1)

Gastown Residents' Association (GRA)

On Fri, Jan 19, 2024 at 11:13 AM s.22(1) wrote:

Thank you for the reply Peter. It's good to see the city stepping up with shelter space but we all know that temporary shelter is not what is going to get this encampment cleared. Everyone living there has been offered and has refused shelter space repeatedly. Unfortunately, due to the mismanagement of the issue by the previous Parks Board and staff, what is now required is for all parties (City, Parks Board, BC Housing and the Province) to get together and commit a BLOCK of permanent social housing sufficient to accommodate all of the 20 or so squatters in the Park all at once. Dealing with this one at a time can never work because before you are back with the next offer someone has moved in and filled the spot in the park.

The solution is simple but requires coordination and political will that has been sorely lacking. s.22(1) I cannot overstate my disappointment in the lack of progress I have seen since the election. Many others feel the same way s.22(1) unless we see some action. It's high time that ABC Council and Parks Board get together and accomplish this. It's why you were elected as a slate.

Here's what needs to happen:

1. Working together, Council, PB, BC Housing and the Provincial Govt need to allocate a block of housing sufficient to accommodate current Crab Park squatters. This is possible but will require a singular focus on this issue for a period of time, rather than piecemeal offers going out across the community... That approach has failed for three years and will continue to fail - time for a new strategy.
2. Return to court and iterate that these are the people residing in the park, demonstrate that they have refused prior shelter/housing options and that there's is now a block of permanent social housing for them.
3. Secure an injunction requiring them to leave the park either to accept the housing offered or move elsewhere.
4. Fence off, clear and remediate the park
- 5 Return it to community use and implement a plan to prevent future occupation.

s.22(1)

Gastown Residents' Association

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 18, 2024, at 6:01 PM, Meiszner, Peter <peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca> wrote:

..

Hi s.22(1)

Thank you for the note and I share your concern over this action at CRAB Park today.

Our parks are precious neighbourhood assets for recreation and the enjoyment of all.

I am strongly opposed to encampments in city parks. Council is working hard to support staff in ensuring we fund and onboard additional shelter spaces and warming centres to bring people inside – and connect them to longer-term housing solutions, as well as healthcare outreach.

Here is some recent information from city staff on our growing shelter and warming centre capacity:

Spaces	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 as of Jan 15, 2024	Notes
Year Round Shelter (approx.)	1,100	1,100	1,250	1,250	1,400	
Temp Winter Shelter (TWS)	30	20	34	141	67	One site closed and two sites converted to year-round shelter
Extreme Weather Response (EWR)	145	75	114	88	175	
Warming Centre Spaces	149	103	161	186	186	Two sites convert from WC to EWR
Total Spaces:	1,424	1,298	1,559	1,665	1,828	ACCS staff continue to work with Real Estate Services and BC Housing to identify additional sites.

As we have discussed previously, I share your concerns over this ongoing encampment in CRAB Park, and understand the importance of this particular green space in a neighbourhood that is already greenspace deficient.

I look forward to hearing from our Commissioners and appreciate you keeping me posted.

Thanks,

Peter

Councillor Peter Meiszner (he/him)

City of Vancouver

453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L4Y8

e. peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca

Twitter: [@PeterMeiszner](https://twitter.com/PeterMeiszner) [twitter.com]

Links: [Linktree: Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram](#) [linktr.ee]

Assistant

Davin Fung (he/him) | Assistant to Councillors

Mayor and Council Support | City of Vancouver

453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L4Y8

Tel: 604-871-6713 | davin.fung@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 5:08 PM

To: Jensen, Scott <Scott.Jensen@vancouver.ca>; Bastyovanszky, Brennan <Brennan.Bastyovanszky@vancouver.ca>; s.22(1); s.22(1); s.22(1)

Cc: Sim, Ken <Ken.Sim@vancouver.ca>; CHOW, Howard (VPD) <howard.chow@vpd.ca>; Palmer, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>; Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meiszner@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Attempt to build permanent structures in Crab Park

Scott and Brennan; Today there was an attempt to construct a permanent, insulated structure in the park. Arguably there are several non temporary structures in there already but this is clearly escalating. Your assurances to this group (Gastown Residents) seem to have completely disappeared. We were assured early in your tenure with the Parks Board that steps would be taken to clear this encampment and return the park to community use, we were assured that the area covered by the fencing would be expanded to prevent the expansion of the camp, we were assured that additional trees/hedging would be added to the southern boundary to mitigate the community impact... NONE of this has happened. Given we are three years in and every single person in that encampment has been offered housing on multiple occasions and have refused and are now attempting to build permanent homes.... Surely the time has come to return to the courts and secure an injunction. All of the original judge's requirements seem to have been more than met at this point. Please provide an update of the concrete steps you are taking to clear this encampment and return the park to the community.

s.22(1)

Gastown Residents' Association

s.22(1)

Please provide

Sent from my iPad

From: "Iacoe, Sarah" <Sarah.Iacoe@vancouver.ca>
To: "Bastyovanszky, Brennan" <Brennan.Bastyovanszky@vancouver.ca>
"Park Board GM's Office" <pbgmo@vancouver.ca>
"Irving, Stephen" <Stephen.Irving@vancouver.ca>
Date: 1/15/2024 8:32:38 PM
Subject: Re: Cold Weather Response - January 12, 2024
Attachments: 24-01-10-Shelters-Postcard.pdf

Hi Brennan,

The only update has been a slight change in hours to bridge the gap between centres closing and warming centres opening. The most up to date information continues to be on Vancouver.ca top of page in yellow banner. Poster attached with most relevant info for warming centres and winter shelters. I believe social media channels were updated on Monday with this info as well. I will check in with Stephen tomorrow as to whether any additional comms are planned this week.

Thanks
Sarah

From: Bastyovanszky, Brennan <Brennan.Bastyovanszky@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2024 5:46PM
To: Iacoe, Sarah <Sarah.Iacoe@vancouver.ca>; Park Board GM's Office <pbgmo@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: Cold Weather Response - January 12, 2024

Hello Sarah

Have there been any changes since the public notice about the shelter spaces available at CCs?

I'd like to be able to do my own post about it tomorrow in advance of the forecast of snowy weather.

Does the PB have any comms plan about the dreadful weather ahead?

Thank you,
Brennan

From: Iacoe, Sarah <Sarah.Iacoe@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 12:52PM
To: Park Board Commissioners - DL s.15(1)(l)
Subject: RE: Cold Weather Response - January 12, 2024

Pardon me Commissioners – in my haste to communicate on this timely topic I missed amending the last sentence of the note below (which was also sent to Council) to explicitly thank Commissioners for their support for the staff doing this difficult work.

Amended below, again my apologies for the oversight.
Sarah

From: Iacoe, Sarah

Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 10:48 AM

To: Park Board Commissioners - DL s.15(1)(l)

Cc: PB LT (Leadership Team) - DL s.15(1)(l)

Deo, Jay <Jay.Deo@vancouver.ca>; Singh, Sandra <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Cold Weather Response - January 12, 2024

Good morning, Commissioners.

As we head into the cold weather, I thought we should share a bit more information about how public realm By-law enforcement is handled in relation to people without housing for whom we have heightened concern in relation to health and safety impacts of extreme cold. As well, below provides an update on the ongoing work at Oppenheimer Park.

Cold Weather

- Enforcement of Park Board and City By-laws is a necessary daily activity to ensure safety and access to the public realm, so this operational work continues. The only time we may pause is during an active snowstorm or other weather or public safety event where the work is not possible to do safely.
- In very cold weather, our focus is on urging people to come inside to Warming Centres or shelters. It is dangerous to be out in the extreme cold, both in terms of health risks (e.g., hypothermia) and the increased risk of fires due to heating attempts (candles, propane tanks, etc. have all caused tent fire deaths in the past).
- Engineering crews and Parks Rangers all have the Warming Centre & Winter Shelter information sheet so that we can ensure the most up-to-date information is shared and they share this information with people on the streets.
- In very cold weather like this, impoundment is infrequent but if needed or appropriate, staff would proceed. They exercise discretion at these times.
- Engineering contractor Mission Possible, who supports our public realm cleanliness work along East Hastings St, is handing out emergency blankets to anyone that needs one.
- ACCS has updated the EWR and shelter listings at vancouver.ca with two new EWR sites that they were able to secure, adding an additional 15 spaces in operations.
- ACCS continues to work with colleagues in Real Estate to identify other spaces to activate as shelter and warming centres.
- Carnegie Centre is going to open two hours earlier at 7:00 am on Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th. They are exploring operational feasibility of an early opening on the 14th and 15th as well.

In terms of getting the word out, the Homelessness Services Association of BC issues the notice of EWR activation to government, VPD, TransLink, and community and social service providers (anyone can sign up for the email list: <https://hsa-bc.ca/extreme-weather-notifications.html>). 211 also has a daily list of what's open, and we add a yellow banner/ribbon across the City's website on the home page with a link to information. Communications also pushes out messages on the City's social media. All City-related street-based workers – Sanitation crews, Park Rangers, Outreach staff, VFRS and VPD have this information as well and collectively encourage people to come inside. There indeed may be some people in the community who are not aware of places they can go, but if they approach a City worker, non-profit provider or go to Carnegie Centre, the Evelyn Saller Centre, or any public library, those staff should all have information to share.

Oppenheimer Park

- Historically, encampments at Oppenheimer start fast and grow fast, often fueled by activities of organizers who are not themselves without housing.
- Given the very active organizing currently related to Oppenheimer Park, we remain very concerned about the potential for the growth of an encampment. Daily By-law enforcement each morning will continue as per above.
- Effective Saturday, Engineering Services will deploy a By-law enforcement team to the park in the afternoon on an as needed basis. Of note, this team is a redeployment from E Hastings St. We will monitor the impacts on E Hastings of this redeployment.
- As above, crews and team members will continue to encourage people to come inside from the cold where it is warmer, healthier, and safer.
- As of this morning, there were 15 tents in Oppenheimer Park. All but one resident complied with the By-law. This person's tent was allowed to continue to remain because the s.22(1) IHOT team has been engaged and is monitoring the situation. Staff are very concerned about the s.22(1) s.22(1)

We recognize that seeing coverage of this work in media can often lead to questions and concerns about the City's response. Our Homeless Outreach team is actively engaged with individuals sheltering in parks and Rangers and Engineering staff make every effort to connect individuals with services, where they are interested to do so. We want to acknowledge that Park Rangers and Engineering crews are asked to play a very difficult role in maintaining the accessibility, vibrancy, and safety of our parks and the public realm. Until such time as there is a systemic solution to the homelessness crisis in the region, we will continue to do our best to balance the diverse demands and issues that arise and appreciate both Commissioner's and Council's support for the staff doing this difficult work.

Thank you,

Sarah

Sarah Iacoe | Acting General Manager/Director of Strategic Operations and Board Relations

sarah.iacoe@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: she/her



Sarah Iacoe | Director of Strategic Operations and Board Relations
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver | 604.257.8495
pronouns: she/her

I live and work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples

Winter Shelters & Warming Centres 2023 - 2024



Find a shelter space:

shelters.bc.211.ca

Call: 2-1-1



See if Extreme Weather Response Shelters are open:

[vancouver.ca/files/cov/
vancouver-ewr.pdf](http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-ewr.pdf)

For more information and support accessing shelter, contact:

Carnegie Outreach


- 604-665-3318
- carnegie.outreach@vancouver.ca
- Visit the office:
392 Powell Street
Monday - Friday, 9am-4pm

Visit a Daytime Service Centre:

- Carnegie Centre
- Evelyne Saller Centre
- Gathering Place




**Winter
Temporary Shelter**
(open every night
November 1 - March 31)


**Extreme Weather
Response Shelter**
(extreme rain, wind,
snow or feels like 0°C)


**Warming
Centre**
(feels like -4°C)


**Daytime
Service Centre**

Temporary Shelters

1 Evelyne Saller Centre (COV)

DTES - 404 Alexander St
Open Nightly, 11pm-7:30am
Details: Accessible. Mat Program. No pets. No carts.

2 Tenth Avenue Church (Lookout Society)

Mount Pleasant - 1110th Ave W
Open Nightly, 10:30pm-6:30am
Details: Accessible. Mat Program.
Pets OK. Small carts OK.

Extreme Weather Response Shelters

EWR shelters are opened during extreme rain, wind, snow or feels like 0°C. While sites are accessible, these are generally mat programs.

3 Directions Youth Services Shelter

Downtown - 1138 Burrard St
EWR Alert only: 10pm-7am
Details: Youth 13-24 years. Accessible.
Pets OK. No carts.

4 Covenant House

Downtown - 1280 Seymour St
EWR Alert only: 10:30 pm-9am
Final intake: 12:00am
Details: Youth 13-24 years. Accessible.
No pets. No carts.

5 Belkin House (EWR)

Downtown - 555 Homer St
EWR Alert only: 9pm-7am
Details: Not accessible. No pets.
Breakfast served at 7:30am.

6 Aboriginal Front Door

390 Main St
EWR Alert Only: Open 11pm-7am
Details: Pets OK. No carts. Accessible.

7 Marpole Neighbourhood House

Marpole - 8585 Hudson St
EWR Alert Only: 10pm-8:30am
Details: Accessible, Pets OK. Carts storage available outside.

8 The Nest

320 Alexander Street
EWR Alert Only: 8pm-7:30am
Details: Shelter services are for Transgender, gender diverse, and two-spirit people only. Accessible, Pets OK. Carts storage available outside.

Warming Centres (Feels like -4°C)

Updated Warming Centre list with current activations is available at: twitter.com/EWRMetroVan

9 Powell Street Getaway (Lookout Society)

DTES - 450 E Hastings St
Open under EWR Alert: 9pm-7:30am
Details: Accessible. Pets OK. Carts OK. Includes an Overdose Prevention Site.
Phone: 604-255-7026 ext 1

10 Odd Fellows Hall

Fairview - 1443 W 8th Ave
Warming Centre Alert only: 9:30pm-8:30am
Details: Not accessible. No pets. Carts OK.

11 West End Community Centre

West End - 870 Denman St (enter Haro St)
Warming Centre Alert only: 11pm-6am
Details: Accessible. Pets OK. Carts OK.

12 Creekside Community Centre

Mount Pleasant - 1 Athletes Way
Warming Centre Alert only: 10:30pm-6:30am
Details: Accessible. Pets OK. Carts OK.

13 Chinatown Peace Church

DTES - 375 E Pender St.
Warming Centre Alert only: 9:30pm-7:30am
Details: Bikes and carts OK. Accessible.

14 St. Mary's Church

Kerrisdale - 2490 W 37th Ave
Warming Centre Alert only: 9pm-6:30am
Details: Bikes and carts OK. Accessible.

15 Overdose Prevention Society

DTES - 141 E Hastings
Warming Centre Alert only: 11pm-8:00am
Details: Pets OK, No carts Accessible.

Daytime Service Centres

1 Evelyne Saller Centre (COV)

DTES - 404 Alexander St
Mon-Fri 9am-11pm
Sat-Sun 10am-10pm
Details: Accessible. No pets. Low-cost meals. Free laundry. Warm showers.

16 Gathering Place (COV)

Downtown - 609 Helmcken St
10am-8pm, 7 days/week
Details: Accessible. No pets. Low-cost meals. Free laundry. Warm showers.

17 Carnegie Community Centre (COV)

DTES - 401 Main St
9am-11pm, 7 days/week
Details: Accessible. No pets. Low-cost meals. Place to get warm.

For Year Round Shelters and More Information:

2-1-1
shelters.bc211.ca
[@bc211help](https://twitter.com/bc211help)