



June 29, 2017

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Octavio Silva, Manager of Business Development
SUBJECT : **Cannabis Day 2017 Protest Event at Thornton Park**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to provide you an update on the Cannabis Day protest event taking place at Thornton Park on July 1, 2017.

Despite requests by Park Board staff to consider a different location, organizers have reaffirmed their intention to conduct their protest at Thornton Park. In response to this situation, the General Manager of the Park Board contacted the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department to discuss potential response options. He was advised against attempting to stop or block the event due to the potential for an unpredictable and negative reaction by protest participants. As a result, this initiative will be moving forward as an unsanctioned and unpermitted event. The role of the Park Board and other supporting agencies will be to protect the park and ensure the safety of participants and the general public. No Park Board resources are being provided to support the initiative.

Unlike the annual 4/20 protest which attracts 30,000 to 40,000 participants, the Cannabis Day event has historically been much smaller in size, normally attracting a few thousand participants at most. The protest is being organized by Cannabis Culture, the same group that organizes the annual 4/20 event. While there has been very little communication with Cannabis Culture, we understand that the event will take the following form:

- When: 12noon - 8pm, July 1, 2017
- Where: South side of Thornton Park (away from the Women's Monument)
- What: 16' x 16' riser/low level stage with sound system for musical entertainment and speeches; 4 to 5 portable washrooms
- Vendors: 50-100 vendor booths are expected to be set-up on the perimeter of the grass area; unlike the 4/20 protest event, organizers will assist in directing vendors to appropriate locations, but are not directly involved in coordinating vendor booth activity.

Set-up for the protest will take place on the morning of July 1 (no times have been specified by the organizers), and tear down will take place immediately after the event concludes that evening. It is anticipated that the park will be available to the general public on July 2.

The Vancouver Police Department has been notified of the protest and will be present at the event. However, due to the many Canada Day events taking place across the city, they will have limited resources available and will likely limit their role to traffic control and major incident response only. Park Rangers are not being assigned to the protest, but will respond to potential 3-1-1 calls as part of their regular roles/responsibilities.



Notification of the protest will be provided to key stakeholders in the area, including the Women's Monument Committee, Translink/Skytrain, Pacific Central Station/Via Rail, and the adjacent residential developments. With respect to the Women's Monument, the Park Board offered to install protective fencing around the memorial, however the Monument Committee declined this proposal. The Park Board will also be issuing a media release advising of the upcoming event, the anticipated impacts, and potential mitigation strategies.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 604-718-5890 or octavio.silva@vancouver.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Octavio Silva".

Octavio Silva
Manager of Business Development

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Copy to: PB Senior Management Team
PB Communications