



July 8, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **CRAB Park Temporary Shelter Restrictions – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to update you on the current situation in CRAB Park at Portside with respect to the growing number of temporary shelters in the park, and to inform you that due to continued non-compliance with the Parks Control By-laws, I will be issuing a General Manager's Order to restrict all temporary shelters from CRAB Park until further notice (see attached).

Park Board Rangers have been closely monitoring activities in several parks to ensure people seeking overnight shelter are adhering to park by-laws. Since early May, rangers have been visiting CRAB Park each morning to remind people who have set up temporary shelters that they need to be taken down by 8:00am every day. The number of shelters varied day-to-day, but remained manageable with the majority of individuals complying with the by-laws.

During last week's heatwave, the rangers temporarily prioritized their focus to performing wellness checks to ensure people were safe and not in distress from the heat. Within those few days, the number of temporary shelters in CRAB Park increased substantially (currently around 40 tents) and rangers are reporting that it is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve by-law compliance. Some individuals will pack-up when rangers arrive onsite, but then set-up again once rangers leave the area. Others are simply refusing to pack-up at all. Furthermore, two individuals who were obstructing the rangers in their work were served letters restricting their access to CRAB Park, but both continue to violate those restrictions. Another individual brings people to the park to challenge the rangers on a regular basis.

Over the past couple of days, rangers have been advising people sheltering in the park that everyone would need to pack-up and leave the area by 8:00am on Thursday, July 8, to allow for scheduled park maintenance work. This work includes removing sharps and debris, along with regular turf maintenance. This morning, City staff from Engineering, Parking Enforcement, and Carnegie Outreach joined Park Board staff onsite to assist with by-law compliance and clearing the area of temporary shelters. The Vancouver Police were also onsite to keep the peace. While staff were able to remove several unoccupied tents and some individuals packed-up as requested, many people are still refusing to comply with park by-laws and clear the area as requested.

Through the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) signed on March 31, 2021, with the City of Vancouver and Province of BC, the Park Board has committed to preventing encampments in Vancouver parks and enforcing the Parks Control By-laws when there are suitable spaces available for unsheltered people to move indoors. As current efforts to achieve by-law compliance have not been effective, and I have been assured that there is currently sufficient indoor space available for all those sheltering in CRAB Park, I am issuing a GM Order that, effective immediately, no temporary shelters will be permitted in CRAB Park until further notice. The intent



of this order is to prevent additional shelters from being set-up while staff work to clear the park of existing shelters. Outreach staff will also continue to be onsite to help connect people with the appropriate support services.

Moving forward, in order to support those seeking places to shelter overnight while also ensuring large encampments do not establish, staff will be developing and posting information to clarify where in the park temporary overnight shelters would be permitted per the by-law. We will keep you updated as this work unfolds.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donnie Rosa". The signature is somewhat scribbled and loops around.

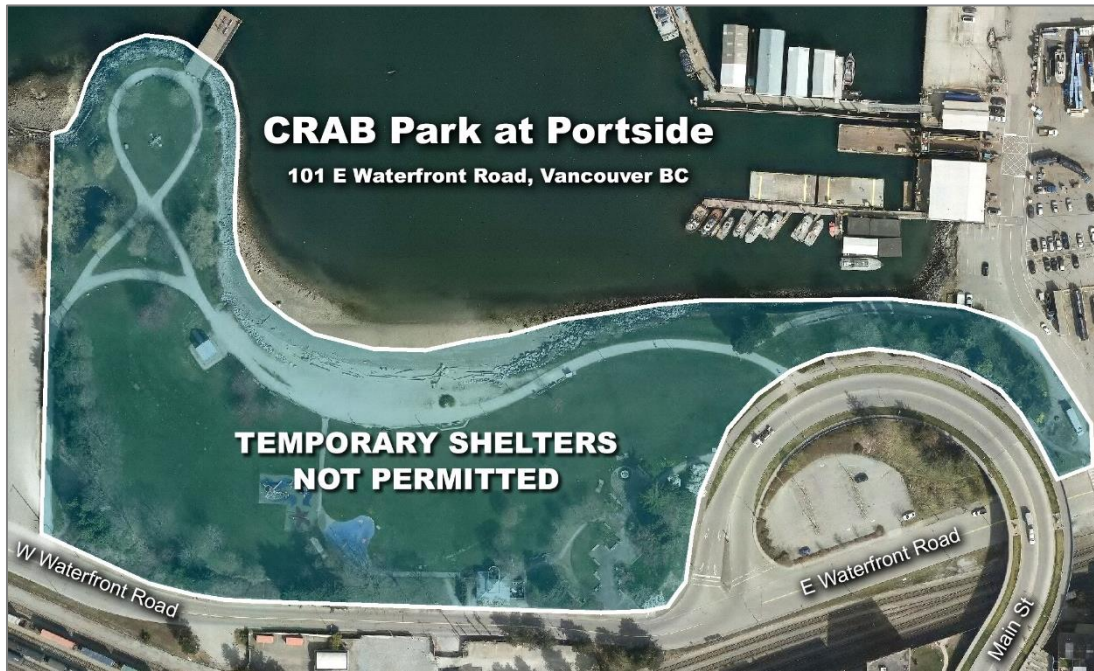
Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications  
City Manager's Office

## Order from the General Manager of the Park Board

Pursuant to Section 24 of the Parks Control By-law, the General Manager of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation orders that temporary shelters and structures will not be permitted anywhere in CRAB Park at Portside, as shown in the below map, to ensure the park remains available to all park users.



The Park Board's mission is to *"provide, preserve and advocate for parks and recreation to benefit all people, communities and the environment"*. Ensuring equitable access to public parks is a high priority, especially in communities such as the Downtown Eastside where there is a shortage of parks and green space. Additionally, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Vancouver and Province of BC, the Park Board has committed to preventing encampments in Vancouver parks and enforcing the Parks Control By-laws when there are suitable spaces available for unsheltered people to move indoors.

For more information call:  
211 - Shelter and Street Help Line | 311 - City Services

**Until further notice, temporary shelters will not be permitted in CRAB Park at Portside at any time. Effective immediately, all existing tents, temporary shelters, and temporary structures must be dismantled and removed from the park.**

**Address:** CRAB Park at Portside, 101 E Waterfront Road, Vancouver, BC



General Manager  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

July 8, 2021  
Date