

From: Park Board GM's Office
To: PB Commissioners
Cc: PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL; PB Communications
Subject: Strathcona Park Encampment Update - May 20, 2021
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 5:15:37 PM
Attachments: image002.png

Dear Commissioners,

This email is to provide you with an update on the work of the City and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation at Strathcona Park.

In the Park

- This morning, the VPD Indigenous Liaison Officers and Park Board Rangers were successful in escorting the final person living in Strathcona Park out of the park.
- Despite careful negotiation and a voluntary exit of the last individual residing in the park, two protestors attempt to interfere with VPD and VPB Ranger efforts, resulting in their removal from the site by police.
- As of 11am, Strathcona Park is clear of people and the perimeter of the east side of the park has now been secured, and the fencing has been reinforced.
- Additional signage has been added indicating that the park is closed and trespassing is not permitted.

Raymur Avenue

- A small number of protestors remain on Raymur Avenue between William and Parker streets. In this area, there are illegally parked cars/U-Hauls, tents, shopping carts, mattresses, scrap metal and other chattels that continue to block Raymur. This has led to congestion, impacted local businesses and posed a safety risk for other street users.
- City and Park Board staff are continuing to work with the activists along Raymur to encourage them to remove the tents, vehicles and chattel blocking the road and to end the protest.
- On Monday, discussions with an elder to bring the ceremonial fire to a close resulted in a closing ceremony attended by Donnie, Sandra and other staff members, but then the protestors reignited the fire later that night.
- People at this site were advised Tuesday that the large vehicles had to move.
- Two vehicles that were parked on Raymur Avenue have been towed. One of these vehicles, which was again illegally parked in the same location and whose owner was earlier removed from the site by VPD for obstruction, was towed offsite today at VPD's direction. The removal of the vehicle resulted in another protestor being arrested/detained by police for interfering this work.

Next steps

- City intends to issue a by-law violation notification to the group on Raymur and inform them that they must remove their possessions and vehicles from the area within the next 24 hours if we do not continue to see progress.
- Parking Enforcement Officers and Sanitation crews will continue to work with this group to help them pack up their possessions and remove any garbage from the street. As people leave the area, Park Board staff will fence off any cleared space.
- Staff and partners continue to provide referral information to Orange Hall and the

Homelessness Services Office to anyone on site seeking outreach support. Staff will also continue to take an approach to this work based on Reconciliation learnings about intergenerational trauma and historic injustice.

We will continue to keep you updated as the situation unfolds.

Regards,

Donnie

Donnie Rosa | GM

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
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pronouns: she/her they/them

I acknowledge that we are on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nation, the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), s^kwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)