

Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: Carver, Kim; Johnston, Paul; MacDonald, Karen; Budgell, Mary; DiCarlo, Erin; MacKinlay, Shaune; McCoombs, Reid; Campbell, Melody; MacDonald, Maggie; Lucic, Eric; Koutroulakis, Taso
Subject: Temporary Shelters and Tents update - Private and confidential
Attachments: QA-Tent Encampments (August 3)PDF.pdf

Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

This is an update on the temporary shelters and tents that have been installed on our property and the plan to remove them. **Please keep this information confidential.**

Temporary Shelters

With the removal of some of the temporary shelters by HRM and others by Halifax Mutual Aid, the remaining shelters are located at:

1. Spring Garden Road Memorial Library Shelter A
2. Spring Garden Road Memorial Library Shelter B
3. Dartmouth Shelter A (near Alderney)
4. Dartmouth Shelter B (near Alderney)
5. Dartmouth Shelter C (near Alderney)
6. Chebucto Road (Halifax)

As previously updated, attempts to contact and work with the Halifax Mutual Aid Society on solutions to this issue, options for occupants of the temporary shelters, or removal of all shelters were not successful. HRM continues to engage with the Province on options for these individuals and with the Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers in an attempt to get these individuals to accept housing options. HRM's previous notice that the shelters will be removed is still in effect. As noted in recent communication, we continue to work toward the individuals accepting another housing option prior to removing the remaining shelters.

472(1)(a)(ii)

However, we expect that not all individuals living in shelters and tents will accept that solution, given those currently in structures have refused alternative options to date.

Parks are really for the enjoyment of all and not any single group of people and as the number of encampments on our property has increased, so have related health and safety concerns.

Our [approach to homeless encampments](#) continues to be centred on treating people experiencing homelessness with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality. We have taken an approach of not evicting people from homeless encampments (usually tents) **until other housing solutions have been offered and/or the health and safety of the residents or public are at risk.**

Those other housing solutions have been offered to most residents in tents and all those in shelters. To mitigate public health and safety risks, as well as liability concerns for the municipality, we need act soon to remove those structures, prioritizing the encampments at the Peace and Friendship Park and the Memorial Library site.

Tents

While the number of shelters on municipal lands have decreased, the number of tents has increased on both HRM parkland and street right of way. Due to the mobile nature of tents, the number and location of the tents has been changing daily. To our knowledge, there are 27 tents in 8 locations:

1. Peace & Friendship Park (Halifax) – 15 tents
2. Memorial Library/Spring Garden Road (Halifax) – 4 tents
3. Victoria Park (Halifax) – 1 tent
4. Young & Kaye St/Hydrostone right of way (Halifax) – 2 tents
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6. Saunders Park (Halifax) – 1 tent
7. Flinn Park (Halifax) – 1 tent
8. Geary Street (Dartmouth) – 1 tent

Provincial staff, Street Outreach Navigators, and Housing Support Workers contracted by the province who have been supporting the individuals in the shelters also engage with those in tents where possible

472(1)(a)(ii)

HRM Compliance

and Parks staff have also been engaging with some of the individuals in tents to ask them to leave municipal parks. That engagement has not been successful to date as most of the individuals have either refused to leave, or leave but return to the same park or another location.

Of the sites with tents, there are safety concerns related to Peace and Friendship Park in particular. With the increased number of tents as well as family amenities in the park, such as the playground, risks of interaction among the people in the tents or with other park users are increasing. To that end, HRM will be initiating increased enforcement of the tents in parks, with the priority being the Peace and Friendship Park. The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff are speaking to all tent occupants on municipal property this week to advise that they must remove their tents from the premises. HRM will remove tents from that park next week, if they are not removed voluntarily.

In the next couple weeks, the following will be occurring:

- Week of August 2: As part of their ongoing efforts, Provincial staff, Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers will continue to work with individuals to identify alternate housing options where possible and confirm any tents that are empty and can be removed.
- Week of August 2: Compliance and Parks staff will continue regular visits to those parks with tents and continue to encourage individuals to leave.
- Week of August 2: Additional "no camping" signage will be installed in parks with tent encampments.
- Week of August 9: Parks staff will return to any problem sites with HRP Community Response Officers (and any compliance staff if required), to reinforce the need for individuals to move and begin clearing the Peace and Friendship Park of tents. That same week an equivalent operation will be applied to the Memorial Library site.
- Week of August 9: A municipal statement will be posted on Halifax.ca and shared on our social media accounts. Corporate Communications staff will answer questions from the media. We expect that the Mayor and some Councillors will be engaged by media. All members of Regional Council should also anticipate being contacted by residents.

For other sites that include shelters and tents, enforcement will be managed concurrently. As a result, the process to remove these tents may be initiated at a later date to allow the discussions, with the Province, on housing options for those residing in the shelters to continue. At this point we plan to clear the Peace and Friendship Park of tents during the week of August 9 using all the resources at our disposal including police services as directed by the Chief of Police. That site is a serious public safety and health risk exacerbated by the presence of a very popular playground many families have enjoyed in the past; not so much now given the growing encampment. Further, many businesses in the neighborhood of affected parks have expressed serious concerns regarding the health and safety of their patrons; shelter and tent occupants; and, the public.

The Memorial Library site will be addressed the same week and remaining tents and shelters elsewhere will be removed once those individuals are offered a supportive housing bed in September, whether they accept the bed or not.

Based on recent experience, it will be challenging to get all of the people living in tents to leave the parks. Many are individuals who have not had positive or successful experiences in emergency shelters and, as a result, "live rough" rather than enter an emergency shelter or similar housing. Therefore, it is very likely that HRM will continue to see tents showing up on municipal lands. Our intention is to immediately remove any tents that are re-installed once removed but further decisions on enforcement may be required at locations where tents continue to return or individuals refuse to leave.

We will respond with appropriate enforcement if we receive reports that potential criminal behavior is occurring at any of these sites or the safety of any individual is at risk. **If your residents have**

complaints related to safety or potential criminal activity they should be directed to the non-emergency HRP line (902-490-5020).

To reiterate, we have taken an approach of not evicting people from homeless encampments **until other housing solutions have been offered and/or the health and safety of the residents or public are at risk**. Those solutions have been offered to residents sleeping rough in our parks and the public is at risk. We will phase in the removal those structures, as described herein, prioritizing the removal of the encampment at the Peace and Friendship Park.

This operational plan will be supported by robust communications measures throughout the next two months starting next week. To assist you respond to inquiries from the media and residents next week, attached is our current Q&A document. Any changes to it will be shared with you.

This situation continues to be extremely fluid and changes daily, so I will try to keep you as up-to-date as possible.

Kind regards,
JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)

HALIFAX



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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Confidential

Q&A: Tent Encampments – August 3, 2021

1. Q: Is the municipality removing tents from municipal property?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The public has a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents. Therefore, similar to temporary shelters, tents cannot remain on-site indefinitely.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

The Province, through Housing Support Workers, and the Municipality, through Business Improvement Districts' Street Outreach Navigators, have offered individuals living in tents, and all those living in temporary shelters, housing options. These options include hotel rooms, until more supportive housing options are available this Fall through the Province.

The approach to homeless encampments is the same for both tents and temporary shelters, in that it centres on treating people experiencing homelessness in our public spaces with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments.

2. Q. Why is the municipality taking this action now?

A. Similar to the situation with temporary shelters, efforts by the municipality to remove tents from municipal property was postponed until COVID-related public health restrictions were eased.

The recent increase in the number of tents in municipal parks and property has accelerated the need to enforce the Municipal Parks By-Law, which does not permit placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation.

As the number of tents increase on municipal property, there is an increased risk to public health and safety.

Currently, the situation at Peace and Friendship Park is of particular concern as the recent proliferation of tents has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public.

3. Q. What locations are being targeted by the municipality? Are some areas being prioritized above others – and, if so, why?

A. Due to the significant number of tents located at Peace and Friendship Park, as well as the Memorial Library site, the priority is to address these locations. The municipality continues to monitor several locations and will determine appropriate next steps on a case-by-case basis.

4. Q: The municipality has repeatedly stated "From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been

Q&A: Tent Encampments – August 3, 2021

identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.” Have all the tent occupants been offered adequate housing options?

A. Over the past several months, the municipality worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/ or temporary accommodation.

The municipality can confirm that most tent occupants have been offered housing options. Although some occupants have not yet been offered housing options, it has been determined that the health and safety of the occupants and public are at risk so some action must be taken.

Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers continue to engage individuals experiencing homelessness to offer support and services. It is important to remember that these individuals can choose to accept or decline housing options and offers of support.

5. Q. How have you determined that the tent encampments have increased the risk to the health and safety of the occupants/ public?

A. At Peace and Friendship Park there have been upwards of 15 tents placed in a relatively small area. This volume of tents creates issues regarding the safety of occupants and the public who use the family amenities in this park. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, encroachment should be acted upon by appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

6. Q. Has the municipality's approach changed, yet again? [reference to the [updated statement](#)]

A. The municipality's approach to homeless encampments remains unchanged. From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

7. Q: What happens if people refuse to leave? Will they be ticketed or forcibly removed?

A: The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff are speaking to all tent occupants on municipal property to advise that they must remove their tents from the premises. While fines are a component of enforcement, the municipality would prefer not to issue summary offence tickets to those in homeless encampments.

Tent occupants have been advised that they must remove their tents immediately. HRM will take steps to remove tents if they are not removed voluntarily. Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Again, the focus is to ensure those experiencing homelessness are provided services and support.

8. Q: If you aren't going to enforce the by-law, why do you expect people to leave voluntarily?

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Q&A: Tent Encampments – August 3, 2021

A. The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce by-laws with its commitment to an empathy-based human rights approach to homeless encampments.

We are hopeful that through work with the province and community-based partners, including Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers, occupants will accept the supports offered to them. It would be an absolute last resort that tents would be removed from the premises.

9. Q: Is there a *deadline* to remove the tents, if so, when? Or, is this another *timeline*, with *no forced deadline* similar to the shelters?

A: Residents have been asked to remove their tents immediately.

10. Q: Where are people supposed to go?

A. The Province, through Housing Support Workers, and the Municipality, through Business Improvement Districts' Street Outreach Navigators, have offered individuals living in tents, and all those living in temporary shelters, housing options. These options include hotel rooms, until more supportive housing options are available this Fall through the Province.

It is important to remember that those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and/or offers of support.

Any further questions regarding details of what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments, in terms of housing, should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities.

Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

11. Q: What services and supports are being offered by the province to the individuals in tent encampments?

A: The province has been working to ensure that options are available for those experiencing homelessness, including options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments, in terms of housing, should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities.

Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

12. Q: How is the municipality supporting people living in tents?

A: The municipality is continuing to work with community-based partners and the provincial government on housing and homelessness in our region to support individuals experiencing homelessness. This past winter, the municipality provided \$60,000 through the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) to help outreach navigators provide short term stays to the most vulnerable individuals – those sleeping outside (including those in temporary structures), without shelter, and/or facing immediate danger of homelessness.

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Q&A: Tent Encampments – August 3, 2021

This support also includes increased access to services and supports with the goal of finding more permanent housing. The municipality is the primary funding partner for the Street Outreach Navigators through the downtown business improvement districts for Halifax and Dartmouth. The annual contribution for this year is \$140,000.

13. Q: Why is the municipality trying to tackle the tent problem while there are still shelters standing?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The public has a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks – not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents.

Similar to temporary shelters, tents cannot remain on-site indefinitely. From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

Municipal resources are required to remove vacant temporary shelters, whereas tents are the possession of the individual and can be easily relocated by the individual.

The approach to homeless encampments is the same for both tents and temporary shelters, in that it centres on treating people experiencing homelessness in our public spaces with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments.

14. Q: Is this a violation of the tent occupants' Section 7 Charter rights?

A: The municipality has reviewed the cases involving encampments in both British Columbia and more recently in Toronto where, unlike in Halifax, housing is a municipal responsibility.

Given the support and options being made available to occupants of homeless encampments by the province, the actions taken by the Municipality are legally defensible and will not serve to deprive these individuals of their Section 7 Charter rights.

15. Q: What will you do when new tents pop up?

A: Residents can report tents on municipal property through 311.

Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted (By-Law P-600 Section 8(2)). If the municipality receives a report that a temporary shelter or tent is being placed on municipal property, municipal staff will follow up on its removal. Where possible, a Street Outreach Navigator and/or a Housing Support Worker will visit the site to discuss supports available to them.

Williams, Angie

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 7:34 AM
To: Morse, Kathryn
Subject: Re: Temporary Shelters and Tents update - Private and confidential

Thanks Councillor. Proud of the team working on this despite the challenges. A multi-business unit effort.
Kind regards,
JD

JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

I would like to acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. HRM acknowledges the Peace & Friendship treaties have been signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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e. dubej@halifax.ca
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From: Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 3:12:09 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Temporary Shelters and Tents update - Private and confidential

Thanks Jacques—really appreciate the “heads up” as well as all the work you are doing to try to resolve this very difficult situation.

COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE
DISTRICT 10
HALIFAX – BEDFORD BASIN WEST
(FAIRVIEW, CLAYTON PARK AND ROCKINGHAM)
KATHRYN.MORSE@HALIFAX.CA
COUNCIL COORDINATOR:
KEN BENOIT
BENOITK@HALIFAX.CA
902-490-7184
TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT 10 E-NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL BENOITK@HALIFAX.CA

HALIFAX

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Please call 311 for immediate assistance.

www.halifax.ca



From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>

Cc: Carver, Kim <carverk@Halifax.CA>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; MacDonald, Karen <macdonka@halifax.ca>; Budgell, Mary <budgelm@halifax.ca>; DiCarlo, Erin <dicarle@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; McCoombs, Reid <Mccoor@halifax.ca>; Campbell, Melody <campbem@halifax.ca>; MacDonald, Maggie <macdonmagg@halifax.ca>; Lucic, Eric <lucice@halifax.ca>; Koutroulakis, Taso <koutrot@halifax.ca>
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To reiterate, we have taken an approach of not evicting people from homeless encampments **until other housing solutions have been offered and/or the health and safety of the residents or public are at risk.** Those solutions have been offered to residents sleeping rough in our parks and the public is at risk. We will phase in the removal those structures, as described herein, prioritizing the removal of the encampment at the Peace and Friendship Park.

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Williams, Angie

From: Johnston, Paul
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:51 PM
To: Dube, Jacques
Subject: RE: Removal of Tents From Municipal Parks

Hi Jacques,

Sounds good. I'll probably reach out to Kim Dossett as I think she tracks the agreements that DHBC has with specific hotels (although Eric is the main liaison between the hotels and clients). I'll circle back to you if I need you to follow-up with Paul or Sue.

The Province usually keeps a running tally of shelter beds that are available on given nights as well (but usually not on weekends) so I can reach out to DCS.

PJ

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Removal of Tents From Municipal Parks

On the hotel rooms I simply want the BIDs to confirm they have made arrangements for them and we will have to have a HRM staffer and/or HRP member available/provided with the information to share.

JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

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From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:05:49 PM
To: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Removal of Tents From Municipal Parks

Hi Paul,

1. In terms of the note / Q&A's to Mayor and Council, the one sent on August 3 stands. However, around 6am Sunday, a brief notice to Council from me is required stating we are executing on the plan to remove the tents is happening.
2. There have to be hotel rooms available Sunday for the occupants and taxi chits to get there. My direction has not changed assuming Dan et al are ready to deploy. If the Province cannot provide someone on site to facilitate same then we must. That means we need to confirm access to hotel rooms tomorrow via the BIDS. Someone needs to call Downtown Paul and Sue Uteck tomorrow in confidence to make that arrangement. Let me know if you need assistance in doing so.

Thanks.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
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www.halifax.ca

From: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:37:08 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Removal of Tents From Municipal Parks

Hi Jacques,

Looks like the notice will be ready to go tomorrow but just thought I should flag a few things based on our experience with the Shelter notices / removal, as well as a conversation with Breton late this afternoon:

- In terms of notices for the shelters, we issued a public statement as soon as staff started the process of issuing notices to the shelter residents and concurrent note / Q&A's were sent to Mayor and Council. I believe Comms has a draft statement, but it is based on our overall plans to remove tents. Last time, the statement was reviewed / approved by all of the relevant ED's before going to you for approval and release so not sure if you want the same process to happen this time. In terms of the note / Q&A's to Mayor and Council, do you want to let the one you sent on August 3 stand, or follow it up with another one tomorrow and revised Q&A's? If so, this will have to be prepared.
- From a Comms / public perception standpoint, there may be a bit of an issue with the Friday timing, especially if we aren't issuing notices until later in the day.

- In terms of removal, (i.e. if HRP does go out on Sunday to begin enforcement) one of the problems we encountered with the shelter process is that some of the removals happened on a Friday and social supports (i.e. Housing Support Workers, Income Assistance staff, Navigators, etc.) normally do not work on weekends. Some of the individuals found themselves without anyone to contact until the following Monday. We may run into this issue with weekend enforcement – i.e. your concern about not having someone available to help direct tent residents to other available options like hotels, as the only resource / contacts we have to provide this service are the provincial support staff and Navigators.
- Finally - in terms of the timing of any enforcement activity, aside from the election Tuesday, there is a Pride March that is supposed to end at Peace and Friendship Park on Monday evening.

Just some food for thought,

PJ

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Williams, Angie

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Christie, Sally; Johnston, Paul; Kinsella, Daniel; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly; Yuriev, Nadine
Subject: Encampments
Attachments: NOTICE_final.docx; QA - homeless encampments - August 15 2021.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

Attached is a Notice we will be serving on all occupants of tents/temporary shelters today as part of our efforts to have them vacate our parks voluntarily. You will likely receive feedback through various channels as a result. We have seen a reduction in tents at the Peace & Friendship Park from 15 to 8 but significant increases in other locations like the Halifax Common and Horseshoe Island Park. We intend to remove all tents and temporary shelters at some future date and will advise when that operation begins.

I have also attached our latest QAs that will be used by Corp Comms and 311 that you may also use to respond to residents should you feel compelled to do so.

Kind regards,

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

HALIFAX



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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**NOTICE TO VACATE/LEAVE
AND TO REMOVE PERSONAL PROPERTY
AND TEMPORARY SHELTER
UNDER THE MUNICIPAL PARKS BY-LAW AND PROTECTION
OF PROPERTY ACT**

This Notice is to advise that the erection or placing in a park of anything for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is prohibited under Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law P-600, the *Municipal Parks By-Law* unless otherwise posted or permitted.

Also be advised that in accordance with the *Protection of Property Act* the owner of any premises can direct any person entering or present on premises, which includes Municipal Parks, to vacate those premises.

Halifax Regional Municipality as the owner of Municipal Parks, and in accordance with the *Municipal Parks By-Law* and the *Protection of Property Act*, hereby directs any person having erected or placed anything in a Municipal Park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation, to remove that temporary shelter, including tents, and all personal belongings from any Municipal Park.

This Notice serves as official notification to those persons having a temporary or permanent accommodation in a Municipal Park and any other person hereby having notice of this direction, that they must vacate any temporary shelters, including tents, and remove the same together with all personal belongings.

Failure to act in accordance with this Notice is an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars and not exceeding ten thousand dollars under the *Municipal Parks By-Law* and/or a fine of not more than five hundred dollars under the provisions of the *Protection of Property Act*. R.S.N.S., c. 363, s. 1.

Failure to remove any temporary or permanent accommodation from any Municipal Park following this direction from the Halifax Regional Municipality as owner, is an offence under the *Protection of Property Act* for which any person can be arrested by a peace officer and removed from the property.

Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers will continue to directly engage with occupants of temporary or permanent shelters to offer resources and support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation.

By authority of the Halifax Regional Municipality

Q&A: Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.15, 2021

Q: Why did the municipality issue notices to tent occupants today?

A: Over several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness. This has included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Currently, the situation at a number of parks is of particular concern as the recent proliferation of tents has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public. In light of this, we are taking the next step of providing written notices.

Specifically, the potential for conflict between tent occupants and park users has increased the risk to public health and safety. The municipality has received numerous complaints and reports from residents indicating their concerns with public safety.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce its by-laws with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments.

Q: Specifically, what are the public health and safety concerns that led to this decision?

A: Reports received from residents include public nuisance complaints and concerns for health and safety.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, encroachment should be acted upon by appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

Q: Will tents and temporary shelters be removed if they have not yet been vacated?

A: Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. We are hopeful that occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. The municipality will take steps to remove tents and temporary shelters if they are not removed voluntarily. Non-compliance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Will occupants of the tent encampments be provided housing options and/or temporary accommodation – including the offer of short-term hotel rooms?

A: Over the past several months, the municipality worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/ or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of tent encampments located on municipal property. All the sites of homeless

Q&A: Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.15, 2021

encampments on municipal property have been visited by municipal staff and community outreach workers; however, due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.

Any further questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities. Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

Q: Are the tent occupants not permitted to use municipal parks?

A: All individuals are free to use municipal parks in keeping with the Municipal Parks By-Law.

Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The municipality has notified those persons having a temporary or permanent accommodation in a municipal park that they must vacate any temporary shelters, including tents, and remove the same together with all personal belongings.

Q: How will the municipality remove the tents?

A: We are hopeful that tent occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. If tents are not voluntarily removed by the occupants, they will be removed by the municipality and/or contractors as necessary. Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: When will the municipality be removing the tents from municipal property?

A: Further to engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have advised tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately.

Sites are prioritized for removal on a case-by-case assessment.

Q: When will the remaining temporary shelters be removed by the municipality?

A: Sites are prioritized for removal on a case-by-case assessment.

Q: What will happen to occupants' belongings?

A: Occupants will not lose their belongings. Personal belongings left behind will be collected by municipal staff and can be retrieved by the occupants.

Q: Is the municipality legally allowed to remove personal property (e.g. tents) from municipal parks?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property and may be removed.

Failure to remove any temporary or permanent accommodation from any municipal park following this

Q&A: Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.15, 2021

direction from the Halifax Regional Municipality as owner, is an offence under the *Protection of Property Act* for which any person can be arrested and removed from the property.

Q: What happens if the tent occupants refuse to leave?

A: Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to the ongoing engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have made a concerted effort to advise tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality has other options at its disposal including summary offence tickets and enforcement under the *Protection of Property Act*. It is not preferable to use these options, however, they may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

At this stage we cannot speculate as to whether or not further steps will be necessary, however, we are hopeful that, in collaboration with the province and community-based partners – including Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers – occupants will accept the supports offered to them, voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

Q: Is the municipality evicting tent occupants from municipal property?

A: On Monday, August 16, tent occupants were provided with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property.

The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to the ongoing engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have made a concerted effort to advise tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality has other options at its disposal including summary offence tickets and enforcement under the *Protection of Property Act*. It is not preferable to use these options, however, they may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

At this stage we cannot speculate as to whether or not further steps will be necessary, however, we are hopeful that, in collaboration with the province and community-based partners – including Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers – occupants will accept the supports offered to them, voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

Q: Where are people supposed to go?

A: Supports and services are available for all those experiencing homelessness, including those in tent encampments, through municipally-funded Street Outreach Navigators and the provincially-funded housing support workers. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of tent encampments located on municipal property. All the sites of homeless

Q&A: Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.15, 2021

encampments on municipal property have been visited by municipal staff and community outreach workers; however, due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.

It is important to remember that those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and/or offers of support.

Any further questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities. Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

Q: The municipality has repeatedly stated "From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk." Have all the tent occupants been offered adequate housing options?

A: The recent increase in the number of tents in municipal parks and property has accelerated the need to enforce the Municipal Parks By-Law, which does not permit placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation.

As the number of tents increase on municipal property, there is an increased risk to public health and safety.

Over the past several months, the municipality worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/ or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of tent encampments located on municipal property. All the sites of homeless encampments on municipal property have been visited by municipal staff and community outreach workers; however, due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.

It is important to remember that these individuals can choose to accept or decline housing options and offers of support.

Q: Why is the municipality trying to tackle the tent problem while there are still shelters standing?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The public has a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks – not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents.

Similar to temporary shelters, tents cannot remain on-site indefinitely. From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

Q&A: Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.15, 2021

Currently, the situation at a number of parks is of particular concern as the recent proliferation of tents has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public. In light of this, we are taking the next step of providing written notices.

The approach to homeless encampments is the same for both tents and temporary shelters, in that it centres on treating people experiencing homelessness in our public spaces with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments.

Q: Has the municipality's approach to homeless encampments changed, yet again?

A. The municipality's approach to homeless encampments remains unchanged. From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

Q: Is there a deadline to remove the tents, if so, when? Or, is this another timeline, with no forced deadline similar to the shelters?

A: Occupants have been asked to remove their tents immediately.

Q: How is the municipality supporting people living in tents?

A: The municipality is continuing to work with community-based partners and the province on housing and homelessness in our region to support individuals experiencing homelessness. This past winter, the municipality provided \$60,000 through the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) to help Street Outreach Navigators provide short term stays to the most vulnerable individuals – those sleeping outside (including those in temporary structures), without shelter, and/or facing immediate danger of homelessness.

This support also includes increased access to services and supports with the goal of finding more permanent housing. The municipality is the primary funding partner for the Street Outreach Navigators through the downtown business improvement districts for Halifax and Dartmouth. The annual contribution for this year is \$140,000.

Q: Is this a violation of the tent occupants' Section 7 Charter rights?

A: The municipality has reviewed the cases involving encampments in both British Columbia and more recently in Toronto where, unlike in Halifax, housing is a municipal responsibility.

Given the support and options being made available to occupants of homeless encampments by the province, the actions taken by the municipality are legally defensible and will not serve to deprive these individuals of their Section 7 Charter rights.

Q: Moving forward, what will the municipality do when tents are placed on municipal property?

A: If the municipality receives a report that a temporary shelter or tent is being placed on municipal property, municipal staff will follow up on its removal. Where possible, a Street Outreach Navigator and/or a housing support worker will visit the site to discuss supports available to them. Residents can report tents on municipal property by calling 3-1-1.

From: [MacKinlay, Shaune](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda](#); [Carter, Devyn](#); [MacNamara, Kelly](#); [Berriman-Saulnier, Chelsea](#); [Wedderburn, John](#)
Subject: FW: Encampments
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 1:13:38 PM
Attachments: [NOTICE_final.docx](#)
[QA - homeless encampments - August 15 2021.docx](#)

Hello all,

I want to make sure you are aware that the administration has decided to post notices today for people tenting in parks. Please see the attached notice and the Q and A document. The hope is that people currently in tents will accept offers for alternative accommodations.

Shaune

**** Please note: the attachments to this email are the same as those found on pages 20 to 25 within this set of records.**

Williams, Angie

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Murphy, Breton; Christie, Sally
Cc: Kinsella, Daniel; Ritcey, Neera; DiCarlo, Erin; Wright, Laura; Johnston, Paul; Denty, Kelly; Schofield, Denise; Ward, Martin; Traves, John; Walsh, Ray; Duncan, Peter
Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL: For approval | draft municipal statement
Attachments: Draft statement re tent encampments - Aug 17 2021_HRP_CAOapproved.docx

Thanks Breton et al,

Attached is the CAO-approved version. I re-ordered a couple of paragraphs putting closer to the front the offer of hotel and other alternatives/supports for the occupants.

Also, about 5 minutes prior to the Statement being issued tomorrow morning, please send it and the most recent QAs to Mayor and Council copying me and Shaune so they are not hearing about it on social and other media.

Thanks to all.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)

HALIFAX



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Municipal statement

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, representatives from Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an empathy-based approach to homeless encampments that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

-30-

Media Contacts:

LAURA WRIGHT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
C. 902.943.1208

CST JOHN MACLEOD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIVISION | HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE
T. 902.490.5154
C. 902.456.1688

Dill, Rowena

From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:39 AM
To: Mike Savage; Austin, Sam; Blackburn, Lisa; Cleary, Shawn; Cuttell, Patty; DeagleGammon, Cathy; Dube, Jacques; Hendsbee, David; Kent, Becky; Lovelace, Pam; Mancini, Tony; Mason, Wayne; Morse, Kathryn; Outhit, Tim; Purdy, Trish; Russell, Paul; Smith, Lindell; Stoddard, Iona
Cc: Dube, Jacques; Christie, Sally; MacKinlay, Shaune; Kinsella, Daniel; Ritcey, Neera; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly; Kirby, Heidi; mediarelations
Subject: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property
Attachments: Municipal Statement re homeless encampments - Aug 18 2021.docx

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Please see below municipal statement regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks. This statement is being distributed to media momentarily

Also, attached for your reference, is a Q&A document that will be used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

-30-

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BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
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HALIFAX



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Municipal statement

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

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Further, the municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

-30-

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CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
C. 902.943.1208

CST JOHN MACLEOD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIVISION | HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE
T. 902.490.5154
C. 902.456.1688

From: [MacKinlay, Shaune](#)
To: [Carter, Devyn](#); [Berriman-Saulnier, Chelsea](#); [Wedderburn, John](#); [Mayor](#); [Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda](#); [MacNamara, Kelly](#)
Subject: RE: Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 9:36:08 AM

Hi,

Yes, let's do that. Kelly can you send a Teams for 10:15? Mayor won't be able to be there but our crew can discuss.

S.

From: Carter, Devyn <carterde@halifax.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:46 AM
To: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Berriman-Saulnier, Chelsea <berrimc@halifax.ca>; Wedderburn, John <John.Wedderburn@halifax.ca>; Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>; Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda <jollymb@halifax.ca>; MacNamara, Kelly <macnamk@Halifax.CA>
Subject: RE: Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Thanks, Shaune! A handful of calls have already come in prior to 8:30am. Haven't answered any yet, but a discussion would be helpful. I am trying to piece together some answered for inevitable questions coming in via phone.

From: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:51 AM
To: Carter, Devyn <carterde@halifax.ca>; Berriman-Saulnier, Chelsea <berrimc@halifax.ca>; Wedderburn, John <John.Wedderburn@halifax.ca>; Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>; Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda <jollymb@halifax.ca>; MacNamara, Kelly <macnamk@Halifax.CA>
Subject: Fwd: Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

For your awareness. This will bring public and media questions today and we will discuss approach this morning. Thanks.

S

SHAUNE MACKINLAY
CHIEF OF STAFF
OFFICE OF MAYOR MIKE SAVAGE

HALIFAX

T. 902 490-6531

C. 480(1)

halifax.ca

From: [mediarelations](mailto:mediarelations@halifax.ca) <mediarelations@halifax.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:46:35 AM
Subject: Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the Province of Nova Scotia as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The province continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of

occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

-30-

Media Contacts:

LAURA WRIGHT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR
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C. 902.456.1688

Dill, Rowena

From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Mike Savage; Austin, Sam; Blackburn, Lisa; Cleary, Shawn; Cuttell, Patty; DeagleGammon, Cathy; Dube, Jacques; Hendsbee, David; Kent, Becky; Lovelace, Pam; Mancini, Tony; Mason, Wayne; Morse, Kathryn; Outhit, Tim; Purdy, Trish; Russell, Paul; Smith, Lindell; Stoddard, Iona
Cc: Dube, Jacques; Christie, Sally; MacKinlay, Shaune; Kinsella, Daniel; Ritcey, Neera; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly; Kirby, Heidi; Johnston, Paul; mediarelations
Subject: Q&A document RE: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property
Attachments: QA - homeless encampments - August 18 2021.docx

Apologies, I had intended to attach the Q&A document (not the municipal statement, which is already provided below).

Please see attached Q&A document for your reference.

Regards,
Breton

BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

T. 902.490.6198
C. 902.266.8337

HALIFAX



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

This communication may contain privileged or confidential information and is intended for the addressee(s) only. Any copying, distribution, or other use or disclosure of the information in this communication by person(s) other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and delete or destroy all copies of this communication, including from your deleted items folder.

From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:39 AM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>; Cuttell, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>; Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Hendsbee, David <hendsbd@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; Mason, Wayne <Waye.Mason@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>; Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Russell, Paul <russelp@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Stoddard, Iona <stoddai@halifax.ca>
Cc: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christisa@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>;

Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; mediarelations <mediarelations@halifax.ca>
Subject: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Please see below municipal statement regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks. This statement is being distributed to media momentarily

Also, attached for your reference, is a Q&A document that will be used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

-30-

Media Contacts:

LAURA WRIGHT
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BRETON MURPHY
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MANAGING DIRECTOR
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The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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Key Messaging

- Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces.
 - These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.
- The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.
 - Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.
- Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.
- The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.
- The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.
 - The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.
- Today, August 18, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.
- All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings.
- With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.
- The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an empathy-based approach to homeless encampments that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness.
 - This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q&A

Q: What action in the municipality taking today (Aug.18) with regards to tent encampments?

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

Q: Is the municipality evicting tent occupants from municipal property?

A: The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to the ongoing engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have made a concerted effort to advise tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property.

The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality will have the ability to use enforcement options. The enforcement approach is not preferable; however, it may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

Q: What happens if the tent occupants refuse to leave?

A: The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality will have the ability to use enforcement options. The enforcement approach is not preferable; however, it may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

Q: Have occupants of the tent encampments been provided housing options and/or temporary accommodation – including the offer of short-term hotel rooms?

A: Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces.

These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through community outreach workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation.

The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property. It is important to remember that those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and/or offers of support.

All the sites of homeless encampments on municipal property have been visited by municipal staff and community outreach workers; however, due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.

Any further questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities. Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

Q: What locations have been prioritized for the removal of tents?

A: The significant number of tents at Peace and Friendship Park, the Halifax Common and Horseshoe Park represent a demonstrated risk to the health and safety of tent occupants and the public. As such, these locations have been prioritized for the removal of tents. The municipality continues to monitor several locations and will determine appropriate next steps on a case-by-case basis.

Q: When will the municipality be removing the tents from other municipal property?

A: Further to engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have advised tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately. Sites are prioritized for removal on a case-by-case assessment.

Q: Why did the municipality issue notices to tent occupants?

A: Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q: When were notices delivered to occupants of tent encampments on municipal property? How many were delivered? Where were they delivered?

On Monday, August 16, tent occupants were provided with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. Approximately 40 notices were issued at various sites across the municipality.

Q: Specifically, what are the public health and safety concerns that led to this decision?

A: The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, encroachment should be acted upon by appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

Q: Will tents and temporary shelters be removed if they have not yet been vacated?

A: Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. We are hopeful that occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. The municipality will take steps to remove tents and temporary shelters if they are not removed voluntarily. Non-compliance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Are the tent occupants not permitted to use municipal parks?

A: All individuals are free to use municipal parks in keeping with the Municipal Parks By-Law.

Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The municipality has notified those persons having a temporary or permanent accommodation in a municipal park that they must vacate any temporary shelters, including tents, and remove the same together with all personal belongings.

Q: How will the municipality remove the tents?

A: We are hopeful that tent occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. If tents are not voluntarily removed by the occupants, they will be removed by the municipality and/or contractors as necessary. Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What will happen to occupants' belongings?

A: Occupants may retrieve personal belongings by contacting 311 or by working with the Street Outreach Navigators.

Q: Is the municipality legally allowed to remove personal property (e.g. tents) from municipal parks?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property and may be removed.

Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.18, 2021

Failure to remove any temporary or permanent accommodation from any municipal park following this direction from the Halifax Regional Municipality as owner, is an offence under the *Protection of Property Act* for which any person can be arrested and removed from the property.

Q: Why is the municipality trying to tackle the tent problem while there are still shelters standing?

A: Similar to temporary shelters, tents cannot remain on-site indefinitely. Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q: How many occupants of temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation since July 1?

A: Approximately five former occupants of temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation since July 1.

Q: Has the municipality's approach to homeless encampments changed?

A. The municipality's [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) remains unchanged.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

Q: How is the municipality supporting occupants of homeless encampments?

A: The municipality is continuing to work with community-based partners and the province on housing and homelessness in our region to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

This past winter, the municipality provided \$60,000 through the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) to help Street Outreach Navigators provide short term stays to the most vulnerable individuals – those sleeping outside (including those in temporary structures), without shelter, and/or facing immediate danger of homelessness.

Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.18, 2021

This support also includes increased access to services and supports with the goal of finding more permanent housing. The municipality is the primary funding partner for the Street Outreach Navigators through the downtown business improvement districts for Halifax and Dartmouth. The annual contribution for this year is \$140,000.

Q: Is this a violation of the tent occupants' Section 7 Charter rights?

A: The municipality has reviewed the cases involving encampments in both British Columbia and more recently in Toronto where, unlike in Halifax, housing is a municipal responsibility.

Given the support and options being made available to occupants of homeless encampments by the province, the actions taken by the municipality are legally defensible and will not serve to deprive these individuals of their Section 7 Charter rights.

Q: Moving forward, what will the municipality do when tents are placed on municipal property?

A: If the municipality receives a report that a temporary shelter or tent is being placed on municipal property, municipal staff will follow up on its removal. Where possible, a Street Outreach Navigator and/or a housing support worker will visit the site to discuss supports available to them. Residents can report tents on municipal property by calling 3-1-1.

Williams, Angie

Subject: FW: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Wed 8/18/2021 2:30 PM
End: Wed 8/18/2021 3:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: Dube, Jacques

Importance: High

From: dubej@halifax.ca
When: 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM August 18, 2021
Subject: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good afternoon,

Mr. Mayor and I agreed that we have a 30-minute operational briefing for Regional Council today at 2:30pm. Chief Kinsella will brief Regional Council and we will allow about 15 minutes for questions with a hard stop at 3:00.

Kind regards,
JD

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:17:09 PM (UTC) Coordinated Universal Time
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Murphy, Breton <murphyb@halifax.ca>

Cc: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>

Subject: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing

When: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 5:30 PM-6:00 PM.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good afternoon,

Mr. Mayor and I agreed that we have a 30-minute operational briefing for Regional Council today at 2:30pm. Chief Kinsella will brief Regional Council and we will allow about 15 minutes for questions with a hard stop at 3:00.

Kind regards,

JD

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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From: Kirby, Heidi
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
Subject: August 17 Regional Council Summary
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:24:02 PM
Attachments: image001.png
August 17 2021 RC Summary.docx
QA - homeless encampments - August 18 2021.docx

Good afternoon, Councillors and Coordinators:

Please see attached a summary of **yesterday's Regional Council meeting**.

On another note, it appears that all councillors received the Q&A document on the homeless encampments from Breton Murphy earlier today. I forwarded that to coordinators but am attaching it here if for any reason, someone did not receive it. A page on Halifax.ca contains the today's municipal statement on the matter, in addition to a Q&A section: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/public-safety/common-questions-regarding-homelessness>

Thanks,

Heidi

**** Please note: the first attachment to this email is considered non-responsive. The second attachment to this email can be found within this set of records, specifically pages 43 to 49.**

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

C. 902.943.7332

HALIFAX

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Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Yuriev, Nadine; Christie, Sally; Kinsella, Daniel; Denty, Kelly; Schofield, Denise; Johnston, Paul; Traves, John; Murphy, Breton; Ritcey, Neera
Subject: Email response to residents regarding encampments

Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

Below is the text of the email I will send to the authors of 500+ emails I have received regarding the dismantling of the encampments yesterday.

Further, we are preparing a briefing note that I will send in advance of an operational briefing for which you will receive an invitation as soon as we can determine a precise time. It will be the latter part of this afternoon.

Text of email:

Dear HRM citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with me. People have been commenting, both positively and negatively, on the actions that the Halifax Regional Municipality took yesterday in regards to homeless encampments on municipal property. For that reason, I am replying generally to all.

Early yesterday morning, the Halifax Regional Municipality issued a [statement](#) about homeless encampments and the actions being taken that day by municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks.

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property. Yesterday, five occupants accepted emergency shelter beds and five accepted to be placed in hotels. All others chose not to accept those housing options but the Navigators and Provincial staff continue to work with all homeless individuals to provide them with housing alternatives.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and therefore needs to be addressed. Police have received dozens of complaints associated with these illegal encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately as they were in contravention of the Municipal Parks By-Law. Halifax Regional Police assisted in the removal of tents on August 18. Summary Offense Tickets were issued to those who were non-compliant with the notice and refused to vacate. Over the course of the last two weeks, most encampment occupants were offered safe temporary accommodation options including hotel stays and shelter beds.

I share your deep concern for the people at the heart of this issue. Living in our public parks is not a solution. We will continue to work with our partners to address this ongoing issue of homelessness in our region.

For the latest information on our approach to homelessness and municipal initiatives to support affordable housing, I encourage you to visit [our website](#).

Yours truly,

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

HALIFAX



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Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Outhit, Tim; Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Yuriev, Nadine; Christie, Sally; Kinsella, Daniel; Denty, Kelly; Schofield, Denise; Johnston, Paul; Traves, John; Murphy, Breton; Ritcey, Neera
Subject: RE: Email response to residents regarding encampments

Hi Deputy Mayor,

I will send a note very soon advising that the first email responses have been sent. Once they do you are free to share on social media. Stay tuned.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)

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From: Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Yuriev, Nadine <yuriev@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Traves, John <travesj@halifax.ca>; Murphy, Breton <murphyb@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Email response to residents regarding encampments

JD,

Many thanks.

I would like to share this also on social media. When will this email start going out?

Tim

To receive District 16 Online Updates, email johnsol@halifax.ca and include in the subject line "District 16 Email Updates"

Deputy Mayor / Councillor Tim Outhit
District 16 Bedford-Wentworth
Direct Line [902-229-6385](tel:902-229-6385)
HRM Call Centre 311
Council Office [902-490-4050](tel:902-490-4050)

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:07:07 PM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Yuriev, Nadine <yuriev@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Traves, John <travesj@halifax.ca>; Murphy, Breton <murphyb@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>
Subject: Email response to residents regarding encampments

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Further, we are preparing a briefing note that I will send in advance of an operational briefing for which you will receive an invitation as soon as we can determine a precise time. It will be the latter part of this afternoon.

Text of email:

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Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property. Yesterday, five occupants accepted emergency shelter beds and five accepted to be placed in

hotels. All others chose not to accept those housing options but the Navigators and Provincial staff continue to work with all homeless individuals to provide them with housing alternatives.

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I share your deep concern for the people at the heart of this issue. Living in our public parks is not a solution. We will continue to work with our partners to address this ongoing issue of homelessness in our region.

For the latest information on our approach to homelessness and municipal initiatives to support affordable housing, I encourage you to visit [our website](#).

Yours truly,

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

HALIFAX



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Williams, Angie

From: Johnston, Paul
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:47 PM
To: Smith, Lindell; Dube, Jacques; Mike Savage
Subject: RE: Meeting with Non-Profits/HRM/Province

Thanks Councillor Smith,

Just as an FYI, I have been speaking with Brandon a few times today and he has also put out the offer to a few of the service providers (through Marie-France) to host a staff-level meeting with us at some point to talk about go-forward solutions. He is going to follow-up with me when he knows more.

PJ

PAUL JOHNSTON, MPA
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS | CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

T. 902.240.2759

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From: Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Non-Profits/HRM/Province

Hello All,

Following up on this. I spoke to Marie-France who had a discussion with folks from the Province and Brendan said that he cannot attend a meeting where Politicians are present. So now they are just hoping that me and the Mayor attend to let the service providers that we are willing to work with them to make solutions. I know that this is something that we have and will continue to do, but it seems that there is possibly more of a concern that they were not aware of what was going to take place yesterday. Mayor I will connect with you directly and we can figure something out from there.

Lindell

-

LINDELL SMITH

COUNCILLOR - DISTRICT 8 HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH
CHAIR - HALIFAX AND WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CHAIR - HALIFAX BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
CHAIR - EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE (FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES)
C. 902.579.6975

LIAM MACSWEEN

COUNCIL COORDINATOR
P. 902.490.2012
E. Macswel@halifax.ca

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Cc: Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Non-Profits/HRM/Province

Good morning,

Paul is reaching out to the Province to gauge their interest in such a meeting. Would not likely be today.

I can confirm the 5 occupants accepted emergency shelter beds yesterday and 5 accepted to be placed in hotels. All others refused those supports but the Navigators and Provincial staff continue to try to get them into those alternatives. We can't force them to accept what is being offered and most have not in the many months we have been at this.

Kind regards,
JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)

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From: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>

Cc: Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>

Subject: Re: Meeting with Non-Profits/HRM/Province

Lindell,

I think we should everything in our power to ensure that anyone displaced is housed. That is the commitment we made. We need to be sure it is actually happening,

M

From: Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:17:20 AM

To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>

Cc: Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>

Subject: Meeting with Non-Profits/HRM/Province

Hello Gentlemen,

Hope all is well this morning.

I have a group of service providers who are looking to organize a meeting today to address the 40 people who have been displaced (this is their number). They want us, the Province, and themselves to have a discussion to get on the "same page" and find solutions.

What are your thoughts?

Lindell

-

LINDELL SMITH

COUNCILLOR - DISTRICT 8 HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

CHAIR - HALIFAX AND WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CHAIR - HALIFAX BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

CHAIR - EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE (FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES)

HALIFAX

PO BOX 1749, HALIFAX NS B3J 3A5

C. 902.579.6975

LIAM MACSWEEN

COUNCIL COORDINATOR

P. 902.490.2012

E. Macswel@halifax.ca

For assistance on municipal issues please call the HRM Call Centre at 311 (open 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5:30pm weekends). For information on services 311 covers please go to: <http://www.halifax.ca/311/>

Please sign up for my District 8 email update: <http://www.lindellsmithhfx.ca/subscribe>

Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Cuttell, Patty; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO; Kinsella, Daniel; Johnston, Paul; Mike Savage; MacKinlay, Shaune; Christie, Sally; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly
Subject: RE: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing

Councillor Cuttell,

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property. Yesterday, five occupants accepted emergency shelter beds and five accepted to be placed in hotels. All others chose not to accept those housing options but the Navigators and Provincial staff continue to work with all homeless individuals to provide them with housing alternatives.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and therefore needs to be addressed. Police have received dozens of complaints associated with these illegal encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

I have absolute confidence in Chief Kinsella and, having been briefed by him on yesterday's operations following the Council briefing, know that all measures undertaken by HRP were appropriate and necessary in the circumstances. Chief Kinsella will brief Mayor and Council later today on what took place once the individual sitting on the roof of one of the shelters agreed to come down as a result of a professional negotiator Chief Kinsella brought in.

There is no doubt that we need to accelerate and augment communications and lobbying around housing and homelessness. You can be assured that will happen and Council will be engaged in the process.

Over the past several months we have been looking at our inventory of land for affordable housing projects and do not have many options beyond a portion of the former Red Cross site in downtown Halifax. That said, we will be bringing forward a report and recommendation to Council on that site soon along with other sites that may emerge from the review.

Hope this helps. Looking forward to chatting with Mayor and Council, Dan et al later this afternoon.

Kind regards,

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

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From: Cuttell, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:09 PM

To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>

Subject: Re: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing

Hi Jacques et al,

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the briefing yesterday, but spoke with Pam. She said housing alternatives were provided to those living in the parks. Can you please confirm and let me know who offered these housing options, how many people accepted, for how long these options are available, and who is handling their cases now. As I've said previously, this is about more than the shelters. It is about affordable housing and is a concern to citizens far beyond Mutual Aid and tents.

Also, I was dismayed to see the use of pepper spray and the police lines on our city. This is not the Halifax I know. HRP has cut Community Response Officers and seems to be evolving into a more aggressive type police force. I too am concerned about the health and welfare of our officers, and wonder what our new policing strategy is. Based on yesterday, it is not something I recognize in our city. I also think we need reframe our messaging to make it more clear that we are taking action on housing, including lobbying the federal and provincial govt. This is different than not assuming responsibility or "passing the buck". An ongoing educational strategy about housing and what we doing to the public is important. I know this issue is important to council, but that message does not seem to be communicated well. I applaud efforts like Wayne's in publishing his letter to the leaders, but as a city and council this is going to continue to be one of the biggest challenges we face over the next few years and I think our messaging on the housing issue needs to be stronger, as does our continued action to find solutions.

Do we have an inventory of surplus land that could be used for affordable housing projects?

Apologies if some of this was covered yesterday. I'm guessing all of Council is in the same boat in terms of amount of messaging they are getting from outraged citizens. If we are not reading into the underlying causes of this anger then I think we are missing the boat.

Patty

Councillor Patty Cuttell
District 11 Spryfield-Sambro Loop-Prospect Rd
Halifax Regional Municipality
T. (902) 221-6893
Councillor Office (902) 490-4090

For routine municipal issues please call 311.

For information on HRM related items, please visit www.halifax.ca

I would like to acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. HRM acknowledges the Peace & Friendship treaties have been signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:17:08 PM
To: @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>
Subject: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing
When: August 18, 2021 1:30 PM-2:00 PM.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good afternoon,

Mr. Mayor and I agreed that we have a 30-minute operational briefing for Regional Council today at 2:30pm. Chief Kinsella will brief Regional Council and we will allow about 15 minutes for questions with a hard stop at 3:00.

Kind regards,
JD

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Williams, Angie

From: MacKinlay, Shaune
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Johnston, Paul; Dube, Jacques
Cc: Mike Savage
Subject: RE: Navigators

In speaking with one of the service providers, they were of the view that while hotel rooms may have been offered at some point many of the people in tents and sleeping structures have not been able to be successfully housed, even as a bridging solution, in hotels. So, while we have said they turned down the option the service providers may have been able to come up with other alternatives if they were aware that HRM was going to move on the tents yesterday. Instead Adsum, Out of the Cold, Eric the street navigator (who was on vacation), North End Clinic have taken positions against the municipality.

Shaune

From: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Cc: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Navigators

Hi Jacques,

I wasn't at the sites yesterday but based on information I heard throughout the day and this morning from people who were directly involved here's the situation:

As per the operational plan put in place by Parks and Recreation, people at all of the tent sites had been visited by staff (P&R, Compliance, HRP Community Response Officers) in the past two weeks, advised they needed to move along, and provided information sheets with contacts for housing options and other supports. Navigators and provincial staff were made aware that this was happening so that support workers could follow-up and visit those sites throughout the two week period. This led to the notices being issued at all sites on Monday, when the support information was again provided by staff. Navigators and the province were informed of the day that notices were being issued. As you know, this is a continuation of the work that had been happening for the past few months with folks in the crisis shelters as well as those in tents (where possible). As has been the case all along, some individuals have accepted support and/or options, some have not.

Because yesterday was an HRP operation it had to be kept confidential until the work began early in the morning. Therefore, social response folks were not given advance notice and were not made aware of the operation until around 7:00 am. HRM staff again had the information sheet available for residents at the sites and the intent was, once they were made aware, that outreach workers would work throughout the day (as they always do and will continue) to try to offer housing options. Eric is right in that it was a bit of a scramble yesterday for them to coordinate on short notice, especially since he had been on vacation. Overall, the challenge with the tent encampments, compared to the crisis shelters, is that there is a larger volume of people and the residents are more transitory so numbers / conditions at sites change on a daily basis.

PJ

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:29 AM

To: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>

Cc: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>

Subject: Navigators

Paul,

The Mayor understands that one of our navigators tweeted that they returned from vacation to find people evicted, and he had to scramble to find lodging for them. That would appear, on the face of it, to not jive with our statement that everyone was offered a place to stay. There is no doubt that people had to act quickly with offers of support and coordinate the spaces on short notice. Please advise as to the facts.

Thanks Paul.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

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[PO BOX 1749](#)
[HALIFAX NS B3J 3A5](#)
City Hall/Hôtel de ville
[1841 rue Argyll Street](#)
T. [902.490.4015](#)
C. [480\(1\)](#)
F. [902.490.4044](#)
e. dubej@halifax.ca
www.halifax.ca

Williams, Angie

From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Mike Savage; Austin, Sam; Blackburn, Lisa; Cleary, Shawn; Cuttell, Patty; DeagleGammon, Cathy; Dube, Jacques; Hendsbee, David; Kent, Becky; Lovelace, Pam; Mancini, Tony; Mason, Wayne; Morse, Kathryn; Outhit, Tim; Purdy, Trish; Russell, Paul; Smith, Lindell; Stoddard, Iona
Cc: Dube, Jacques; Christie, Sally; MacKinlay, Shaune; Kinsella, Daniel; Ritcey, Neera; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly; Kirby, Heidi; Johnston, Paul; mediarelations
Subject: UPDATED Q&A document re homeless encampments on municipal property
Attachments: QA - homeless encampments - August 19 2021.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Attached for your reference is the updated Q&A document being used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

T. 902.490.6198
C. 902.266.8337

HALIFAX



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From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>; Cuttell, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>; Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Hendsbee, David <hendsbd@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; Mason, Wayne <Waye.Mason@halifax.ca>; Morse,

Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>; Outhitt, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Russell, Paul <russelp@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Stoddard, Iona <stoddai@halifax.ca>
Cc: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; mediarelations <mediarelations@halifax.ca>
Subject: Q&A document RE: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Apologies, I had intended to attach the Q&A document (not the municipal statement, which is already provided below).

Please see attached Q&A document for your reference.

Regards,
Breton

BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

T. 902.490.6198
C. 902.266.8337

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From: Murphy, Breton

Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:39 AM

To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>; Cutteli, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>; Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Hendsbee, David <hendsbd@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; Mason, Waye <Waye.Mason@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>; Outhitt, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Russell, Paul <russelp@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Stoddard, Iona <stoddai@halifax.ca>
Cc: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; mediarelations <mediarelations@halifax.ca>
Subject: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Please see below municipal statement regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks. This statement is being distributed to media momentarily

Also, attached for your reference, is a Q&A document that will be used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to

address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

-30-

Media Contacts:

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CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
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CST JOHN MACLEOD
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HALIFAX



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Key Messaging

- Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces.
 - These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.
- The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.
 - Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.
- Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.
- The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.
- The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (Aug. 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.
 - The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.
- On Wednesday, Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police were onsite to assist with removal efforts, as required.
 - Summary offence tickets were issued to a number of individuals who were in violation of the Municipal Parks By-Law and refused to vacate municipal property. Each situation was assessed individually to determine if a ticket was required.
- All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings.
- With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.
- The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an empathy-based approach to homeless encampments that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness.
 - This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q&A

Q: Why were summary offence tickets issued to occupants of homeless encampments on Aug. 18?

A: The intent was to issue tickets to those who were non-compliant with the [notice issued on Aug. 16](#) and refused to vacate.

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (Aug. 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

Q: Were summary offence tickets issued to all occupants of the homeless encampments that were visited by staff on Aug. 18? (or only to those who refused to voluntarily vacate the tents/ shelters and remove their belongings?)

A: Summary offence tickets were issued to a number of individuals who were in violation of the Municipal Parks By-Law and refused to vacate municipal property. Each situation was assessed individually to determine if a ticket was required.

Q: How many summary offence tickets were issued to occupants of homeless encampments on Aug. 18?

A: As of 4 p.m. on Aug. 18, nine summary offence tickets were issued to occupants of homeless encampments, under the Municipal Parks By-Law.

Q: What are the next steps with the tickets.

A: It is our expectation that individuals will comply and act in accordance with the law and the [notice that was issued on Aug. 16](#). All those who are issued a summary offence ticket have three options:

1. plead guilty by paying the fine
2. plead guilty and appear at court to provide an explanation (which will inform the decision by the court regarding the fine); or
3. plead not guilty and appear at court.

Q: What action did the municipality take on Aug. 18 with regards to tent encampments?

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (Aug. 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

On the morning of Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police were onsite to assist with removal efforts, as required.

Summary offence tickets were issued to a number of individuals who were in violation of the Municipal Parks By-Law and refused to vacate municipal property.

Q: Is the municipality evicting tent occupants from municipal property?

A: The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to the ongoing engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have made a concerted effort to advise tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (Aug. 16) to provide tent occupants with [written notice](#) to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property.

The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

On the morning of Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police were onsite to assist with removal efforts, as required.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality has the ability to use enforcement options. The enforcement approach is not preferable; however, it may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

Q: What happens if the tent occupants refuse to leave?

A: The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality has the ability to use enforcement options. The enforcement approach is not preferable; however, it may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

Q: Have occupants of the tent encampments been provided housing options and/or temporary accommodation – including the offer of short-term hotel rooms?

A: Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces.

These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through community outreach workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation.

The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property. It is important to remember that those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and/or offers of support.

All the sites of homeless encampments on municipal property have been visited by municipal staff and community outreach workers; however, due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.

Any further questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities. Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

Q: What locations have been prioritized for the removal of tents?

A: The significant number of tents at Peace and Friendship Park, the Halifax Common, Horseshoe Island Park and the site of the former Memorial Library represent a demonstrated risk to the health and safety of tent occupants and the public. As such, these locations were prioritized for the removal of tents. The municipality continues to monitor several locations and will determine appropriate next steps on a case-by-case basis.

Q: When will the municipality be removing the tents from other municipal property?

A: Further to engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have advised tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately. The municipality continues to monitor several locations and will determine appropriate next steps on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Why did the municipality issue notices to tent occupants?

A: Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (Aug. 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q: When were notices delivered to occupants of tent encampments on municipal property? How many were delivered? Where were they delivered?

On Monday, Aug. 16, tent occupants were provided with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. Approximately 40 notices were issued at various sites across the municipality.

Q: Specifically, what are the public health and safety concerns that led to this decision?

A: The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, encroachment should be acted upon by appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

Q: Will tents and temporary shelters be removed if they have not yet been vacated?

A: Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. We are hopeful that occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. The municipality will take steps to remove tents and temporary shelters if they are not removed voluntarily. Non-compliance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Are the tent occupants not permitted to use municipal parks?

A: All individuals are free to use municipal parks in keeping with the Municipal Parks By-Law.

Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The municipality has notified those persons having a temporary or permanent accommodation in a municipal park that they must vacate any temporary shelters, including tents, and remove the same together with all personal belongings.

Q: How will the municipality remove the tents?

A: We are hopeful that tent occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. If tents are not voluntarily removed by the occupants, they will be removed by the municipality and/or contractors as necessary. Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What will happen to occupants' belongings?

A: Occupants may retrieve personal belongings by contacting 311 or by working with the Street Outreach Navigators.

Q: Is the municipality legally allowed to remove personal property (e.g. tents) from municipal parks?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property and may be removed.

Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.19, 2021

Failure to remove any temporary or permanent accommodation from any municipal park following this direction from the Halifax Regional Municipality as owner, is an offence under the *Protection of Property Act* for which any person can be arrested and removed from the property.

Q: Why is the municipality trying to tackle the tent problem while there are still shelters standing?

A: Similar to temporary shelters, tents cannot remain on-site indefinitely. Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q: How many occupants of temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation since July 1?

A: Approximately five former occupants of temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation since July 1.

Q: Has the municipality's approach to homeless encampments changed?

A. The municipality's [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) remains unchanged.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

Q: How is the municipality supporting occupants of homeless encampments?

A: The municipality is continuing to work with community-based partners and the province on housing and homelessness in our region to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

This past winter, the municipality provided \$60,000 through the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) to help Street Outreach Navigators provide short term stays to the most vulnerable individuals – those sleeping outside (including those in temporary structures), without shelter, and/or facing immediate danger of homelessness.

This support also includes increased access to services and supports with the goal of finding more permanent housing. The municipality is the primary funding partner for the Street Outreach Navigators through the downtown business improvement districts for Halifax and Dartmouth. The annual contribution for this year is \$140,000.

Q: Is this a violation of the tent occupants' Section 7 Charter rights?

A: The municipality has reviewed the cases involving encampments in both British Columbia and more recently in Toronto where, unlike in Halifax, housing is a municipal responsibility.

Given the support and options being made available to occupants of homeless encampments by the province, the actions taken by the municipality are legally defensible and will not serve to deprive these individuals of their Section 7 Charter rights.

Q: Moving forward, what will the municipality do when tents are placed on municipal property?

A: If the municipality receives a report that a temporary shelter or tent is being placed on municipal property, municipal staff will follow up on its removal. Where possible, a Street Outreach Navigator and/or a housing support worker will visit the site to discuss supports available to them. Residents can report tents on municipal property by calling 311.

Williams, Angie

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Subject: FW: HRP media availability

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)

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From: Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Subject: HRP media availability

Hi Jacques and Paul,

Breton just forwarded a media advisory to me regarding HRP. Jacques, you are likely aware already that the Chief has media availability together with Superintendent Andrew Matthews today at 3:30 p.m. regarding the encampments.

Thanks,
Sally

SALLY CHRISTIE
SHE/HER

SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE CAO
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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C. 480(1)

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Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Yuriev, Nadine; Christie, Sally; Kinsella, Daniel; Denty, Kelly; Schofield, Denise; Johnston, Paul; Traves, John; Murphy, Breton; Ritcey, Neera
Subject: RE: Email response to residents regarding encampments

My response has started via email to all who wrote me. Feel free to share or use as you see fit.

Thanks.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

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From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Yuriev, Nadine <yuriev@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Traves, John <travesj@halifax.ca>; Murphy, Breton <murphyb@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>
Subject: Email response to residents regarding encampments

Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

Below is the text of the email I will send to the authors of 500+ emails I have received regarding the dismantling of the encampments yesterday.

Further, we are preparing a briefing note that I will send in advance of an operational briefing for which you will receive an invitation as soon as we can determine a precise time. It will be the latter part of this afternoon.

Text of email:

Dear HRM citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with me. People have been commenting, both positively and negatively, on the actions that the Halifax Regional Municipality took yesterday in regards to homeless encampments on municipal property. For that reason, I am replying generally to all.

Early yesterday morning, the Halifax Regional Municipality issued a [statement](#) about homeless encampments and the actions being taken that day by municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks.

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property. Yesterday, five occupants accepted emergency shelter beds and five accepted to be placed in hotels. All others chose not to accept those housing options but the Navigators and Provincial staff continue to work with all homeless individuals to provide them with housing alternatives.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and therefore needs to be addressed. Police have received dozens of complaints associated with these illegal encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately as they were in contravention of the Municipal Parks By-Law. Halifax Regional Police assisted in the removal of tents on August 18. Summary Offense Tickets were issued to those who were non-compliant with the notice and refused to vacate. Over the course of the last two weeks, most encampment occupants were offered safe temporary accommodation options including hotel stays and shelter beds.

I share your deep concern for the people at the heart of this issue. Living in our public parks is not a solution. We will continue to work with our partners to address this ongoing issue of homelessness in our region.

For the latest information on our approach to homelessness and municipal initiatives to support affordable housing, I encourage you to visit [our website](#).

Yours truly,

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)



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Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO; Kinsella, Daniel; Schofield, Denise; Johnston, Paul; Murphy, Breton; MacKinlay, Shaune; Christie, Sally; Ritcey, Neera; Denty, Kelly; Traves, John
Subject: HRP Information Note for Stakeholders - Illegal Encampments on Municipal Properties
Attachments: 20201-08-19 - HRP Infomation Note - Illegal Encampments.pdf

Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

As promised, here is the briefing note associated with the clearing of 4 encampments yesterday. Chief Dan will speak to this in greater detail at the operational briefing for Council at 4:45 via Teams.

Kind regards,

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

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INFORMATION NOTE

FROM: Halifax Regional Police Chief Dan Kinsella
DATE: August 19, 2021
SUBJECT: **Illegal Homeless Encampments on Municipal Property**

Overview:

Over the last several months, there has been an ongoing increase in complaints and calls for police service in the areas of and surrounding a number of illegal encampments on municipal properties and parks across HRM. These complaints relate to assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour. This note provides background on yesterday's enforcement actions related to these encampments, information related to a number of questions that have been raised and the surrounding context.

Following months of unsuccessful attempts at direct education, awareness and engagement efforts with occupants, yesterday, while assisting Compliance staff, HRP officers used enforcement options to respond to the ongoing situation related to these dwellings. These actions came on the heels of verbal warnings to occupants as well as formal written notices provided earlier in the week to vacate these dwellings.

Yesterday, along with compliance officers, HRP members were able to peacefully vacate three of the highest risk encampments in Halifax. While attending the location on Spring Garden Road, protesters' actions and the gathering created unsafe conditions for themselves, the public and our officers. Since then, we have heard many claims, questions and some misinformation on social media and from some members of the public. As these messages are shared, we also encourage people to also take a close look at many videos and visuals that have surfaced to gain a perspective on the complexity of the situation our officers were met with yesterday.

Many members of the public have claimed that the protestors were peaceful. The reality is that many were confrontational, assaultive and caused hazardous situations. The protestors' behavior on site included throwing projectiles at our officers and municipal staff, coming to the protest with chemical irritants and damaging municipal property. As a structure was being removed, they threw themselves in the path of heavy equipment and officers doing their work on scene. This not only hampered the removal efforts but could have led to serious injury for anyone in the vicinity, themselves and the officers.

Additionally, there are some other questions being raised on social media and in email correspondence that are addressed below by topic:

Use of sensory irritant:

As part of attempts to disperse the crowd in a rapidly evolving event with many hazardous conditions – including assaults on officers – a sensory irritant was deployed. There were several people in the area of its deployment. Due to the nature of this equipment, it can carry the chemical broadly in an area and is not designed for targeted attack. In every instance that a use of force option is used, the rationale and details are fully documented. We will be looking at all those details. However, if any members of the public have any direct information or additional details, they can bring it forward to professional standards division.

Officer identification:

Officers are expected to display name tags when in operational duties as part of their uniform. We cannot speak to the specifics of each one of the instances that have been cited related to office identification. However, as always, if anyone has any additional detail, information or concerns that they would like to bring forward, we encourage them to reach out to our professional standards division.

Need for protective gear:

Like every profession, police officers require in certain circumstances specialized gear and equipment to keep the community and themselves safe. Protective and specialized gear is only worn when it is warranted. Yesterday, at the beginning of the day, officers were not in such gear; however, as the protest started and created hazardous conditions for everyone, as described above, it was important and a requirement for officers to be in gear that was required for the situation.

Media's access:

We respect the rights of media, expect their participation in matters of public interest and make every effort to facilitate their access. At this time, we have no specific information in relation to claims that officers asked media for credentials, as has been claimed. However, here is some context. This was a rapidly evolving situation and officers were in the process of containing a volatile situation and establishing an operational perimeter to allow for the safe removal of temporary dwellings. A number of reporters decided to set-up very close to the area where there was active removal work going on and that posed hazardous conditions. Police were responsible for the safety of everyone at the scene. For safety reasons, an officer repeatedly asked a reporter who moved from this area to move back to nearby area above some steps. In this case, when the reporter continued to not comply, they were advised, as any members of the public would have been in that situation, of the possibility of an arrest should they not comply.

Arrests and processing time:

Yesterday HRP made 24 arrests for offences that included obstruction, assault police, resist arrest and mischief. Given the volume of people in the prisoner care facility, it took time to process each of them appropriately. They were all released from custody in the evening on a promise to appear. As always, we encourage anyone with any specific or additional details, information or concerns to bring it forward and to connect with our Professional Standards Division by e-mailing hrpprofstand@halifax.ca or by calling 902 490-4127. That would allow us to look at a matter or complaint in its entirety.

I want to conclude by saying that we have an obligation towards the overall safety of the public, other users of municipal properties and residents of nearby communities. We cannot allow trespass and misuse of municipal property as being a "normal" occurrence in our city as we have seen of late with tents and structures appearing arbitrarily on many sites across the municipality. Our approach has been and will remain focused on engagement and education while offering alternatives to those experiencing homelessness. Enforcement will always be a last resort when it comes to this issue as we have seen over the last six months.

Williams, Angie

Subject: Encampment Operational Briefing
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Thu 8/19/2021 4:45 PM
End: Thu 8/19/2021 6:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Dube, Jacques
Required Attendees: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO; Dan Kinsella; Denise Schofield; Kelly Denty; John Traves; Breton Murphy; Sally Christie; Johnston, Paul; Ritcey, Neera; Shaune MacKinlay

Follow-up from yesterday's briefing

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 902-901-6948,,520210249#](#) Canada, Halifax

[\(833\) 450-3219,,520210249#](#) Canada (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 520 210 249#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Johnston, Paul; Christie, Sally
Subject: Handout and Notice to Vacate
Attachments: Services for You Information Sheet August 5 2021.pdf; NOTICE_tent encampments_final.docx

Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

As promised, attached is the Handout and the Notice to vacate we used recently in terms of the encampments. To reiterate, the Province also applied professional resources employed and contracted by Community Services such as Housing Support and Income Support workers.

Kind regards,

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

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SERVICES FOR YOU

Street Navigators:

Eric Jonsson, Street Navigator 902-209-6517
Shawn Parker, Street Navigator 902-943-0095

LOCAL HOMELESS SHELTERS ADDRESS

Male Identifying:

Metro Turning Point, 2170 Barrington St, 902-420-3282

Salvation Army, 2044 Gottingen St, 902-422-2363

Female Identifying:

Adsum House, 2421 Brunswick St, 902-423-5049

Barry House, 2706 Gottingen St, 902-422-3824

Co-ed

Mi'kmaw Emergency Shelter, 2029 North Park St, 902-429-4038

Meals & Food

Hope Cottage, 2435 Brunswick St
Monday-Friday noon – 1 PM

Soul's Harbour, 5568 Cunard St
Monday-Friday 1PM – 3 PM
Saturday noon- 1PM

Brunswick St. Mission, 2107 Brunswick St.
Monday-Saturday 7:15 -8:30 AM

Margaret's House (F.O.O.D)
43 Wentworth St
Monday- Friday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

St. Mary's Basilica, 5221 Spring Garden Rd
(Sandwich Church, Sister's Jo, Daily Bread)
Tuesday-Friday 1:00 PM – 2:30PM

The North Grove, 6 Primrose St
Tuesday & Friday 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Addictions and Mental Health

Mobile Crisis 1-888-429-8167, Available 24/7

Central Intake 1-855-922-1122, Available Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 4:30 PM



**NOTICE TO VACATE/LEAVE
AND TO REMOVE PERSONAL PROPERTY
AND TEMPORARY SHELTER
UNDER THE MUNICIPAL PARKS BY-LAW AND PROTECTION
OF PROPERTY ACT**

This Notice is to advise that the erection or placing in a park of anything for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is prohibited under Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law P-600, the *Municipal Parks By-Law* unless otherwise posted or permitted.

Also be advised that in accordance with the Protection of Property Act the owner of any premises can direct any person entering or present on premises, which includes Municipal Parks, to vacate those premises.

Halifax Regional Municipality as the owner of Municipal Parks, and in accordance with the Municipal Parks By-Law and the Protection of Property Act, hereby directs any person having erected or placed anything in a Municipal Park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation, to remove that temporary shelter, including tents, and all personal belongings from any Municipal Park.

This Notice serves as official notification to those persons having a temporary or permanent accommodation in a Municipal Park and any other person hereby having notice of this direction, that they must vacate any temporary shelters, including tents, and remove the same together with all personal belongings.

Failure to act in accordance with this Notice is an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars and not exceeding ten thousand dollars under the *Municipal Parks By-Law* and/or a fine of not more than five hundred dollars under the provisions of the *Protection of Property Act*. R.S.N.S., c. 363, s. 1.

Failure to remove any temporary or permanent accommodation from any Municipal Park following this direction from the Halifax Regional Municipality as owner, is an offence under the Protection of Property Act for which any person can be arrested by a peace officer and removed from the property.

Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers will continue to directly engage with occupants of temporary or permanent shelters to offer resources and support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation.

By authority of the Halifax Regional Municipality

Dill, Rowena

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Mancini, Tony; Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Johnston, Paul; Christie, Sally
Subject: RE: Handout and Notice to Vacate

Hi Councillor,

The hotel stays have to be coordinated through the Navigators and Provincial staff who were involved in the operation. The occupants cannot contact the hotel on their own. All occupants were advised of their options by those resources and park staff.

Kind regards,
JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. 480(1)

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From: Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Handout and Notice to Vacate

Am I missing it but I don't see any reference to shelters or hotels?

Tony Mancini
Dartmouth Councillor
District 6
902-292-4823

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:33:00 AM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO <councilcao@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>
Subject: Handout and Notice to Vacate

Mr. Mayor and Members of Regional Council,

As promised, attached is the Handout and the Notice to vacate we used recently in terms of the encampments. To reiterate, the Province also applied professional resources employed and contracted by Community Services such as Housing Support and Income Support workers.

Kind regards,

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015

C. 480(1)

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Williams, Angie

From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Dube, Jacques
Subject: RE: CBC- Comm Services staff not trained

Hi again,

Mainline Needle Exchange was engaged to assist. They cleared needles at the sites before Parks staff started clean up.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

T. 902.490.4015
C. [REDACTED] 480(1)

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From: Dube, Jacques
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: CBC- Comm Services staff not trained

Hi Councillor,

Thanks for the heads-up. The Community Services workers were deployed on short notice so I can understand why they would suggest they were unprepared. On the needles, we have strict protocols in place to deal with those, all of which are familiar to the Union and its members.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ
HE/HIM

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL**

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From: Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:40 AM

To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>

Subject: CBC- Comm Services staff not trained

Hi Jacques- Just a heads up that CBC is running a story about the Community Services workers being unprepared when they went to the tent sites. Union is saying they should have been trained in handling of needles and other biohazards.
KM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Williams, Angie

From: Kirby, Heidi
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:51 AM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
Subject: Aug. 20 Weekly Article Roundup: Info + Photos Attached for Newsletters/Social Media
Attachments: City Hall Summer.jpg; Virtual Public Hearing.jpg; Green Bin.jpg; Special Waste.jpg; Meeting HRM.jpg; Briefing Note Women's Quality of Life in HRM - August 2021 (1).pdf; Women's QoL in HRM - Results from 2019 NS QoL Survey - Final (1).pdf; Aug 20 2021 E-Newsletter Articles For Councillors.docx

Good day, Councillors and Coordinators:

Please see attached newsletter articles/social media suggestions, along with relevant images you may wish to use with them.

Here are the topics I've highlighted this week (see articles, posts, and corresponding photo suggestions within the attached Word file "Aug 20 2021 E-Newsletter Articles For Councillors"). Some are (up to date) repeats of articles on topics or municipal programs that are still relevant:

- [Redacted]
- Non Responsive
- [Redacted]
- Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property
- [Redacted]
- Non Responsive
- [Redacted]

I will also draw your attention to this **CBC** article that you may wish to share on social media to provide context on the housing/homelessness issue:

"No winners' in protest that turned violent, councillors say, and urge province to provide more housing"
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>

[Redacted]

Non Responsive

Enjoy your day!

Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

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ARTICLE & SOCIAL SUGGESTIONS – AUGUST 20, 2021

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Non Responsive

Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property7

Non Responsive

Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

IN SHORT [Also note the content is up to date as of sending, but may be updated as the situation continues to evolve. Also, the CBC link in the e-mail message that may be more appropriate to share on social media]

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, working with the Province and community-based partners, and more.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an empathy-based approach to homeless encampments that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness.

For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/public-safety/common-questions-regarding-homelessness>.

MORE CONTENT

The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and the recent presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

August 18, 2021 - Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the Province of Nova Scotia as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The province continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The

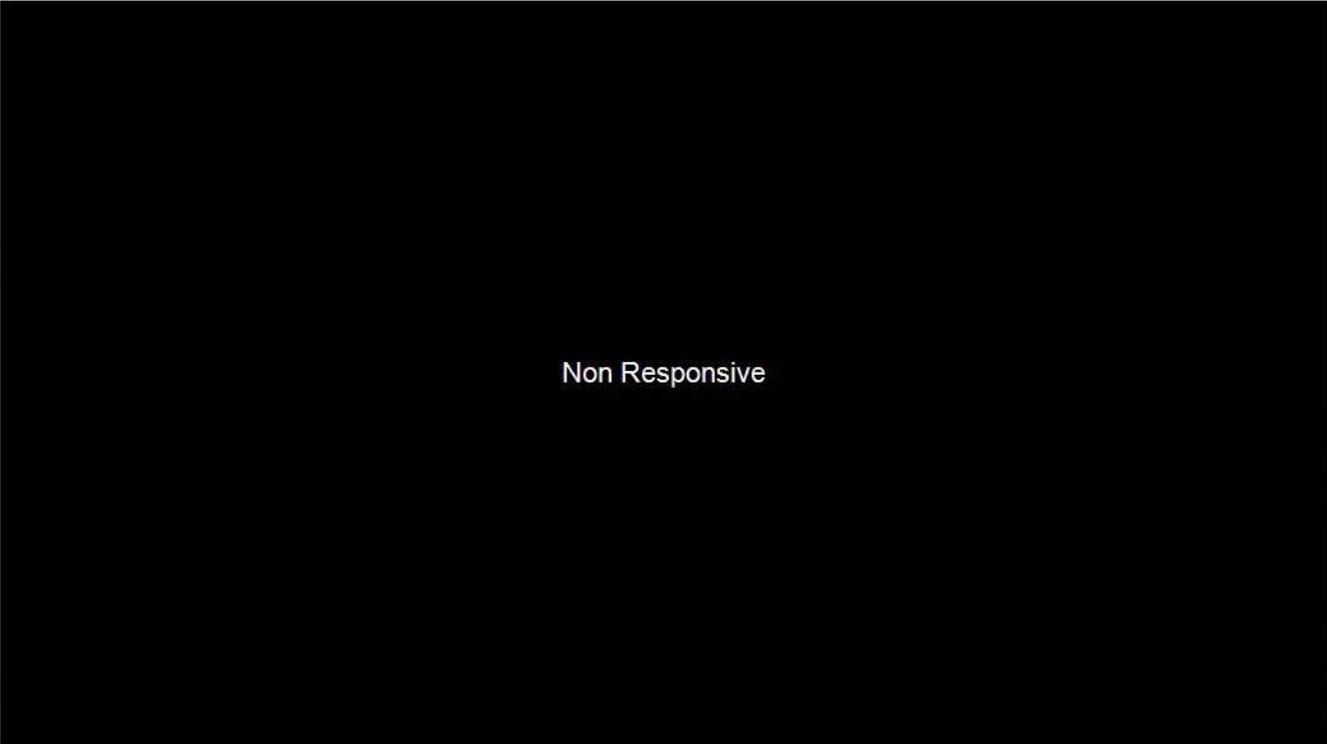
municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an empathy-based approach to homeless encampments that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/public-safety/common-questions-regarding-homelessness>.



Non Responsive

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

Williams, Angie

From: Kirby, Heidi
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Purdy, Trish
Subject: RE: [External Email] Interview request

Thank you kindly, Trish! It appears she only used this part in the article (FYI): "I share many people's feelings of sadness and shock," wrote Coun. Trish Purdy in an email. "There are no winners."

Thanks,
Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

C. 902.943.7332

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From: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>
Subject: FW: [External Email] Interview request

Hi Heidi,

Here is the statement I provided yesterday to Pamela Berman. I do not know if she used any of this but this is my only public statement.
Thank you!

Trish Purdy

Councillor District 4 (Cole Harbour/Westphal/Lake Loon/Cherry Brook)

Cell: 902.240.3067

Coordinator – Emily Smith: 902.490.7177

smithem@halifax.ca

For routine municipal matters, please dial 311

***To sign up for my e-newsletter, please email Emily at smithem@halifax.ca**

HALIFAX



From: Purdy, Trish
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Pamela Berman <pam.berman@cbc.ca>
Subject: RE: [External Email] Interview request

Hi Pamela,

I hope this is not too late for your deadline. The day has literally flown by so far...
Here is my response to your questions.

Yes I do support the removal of the tents and shelters on HRM land, as they have become a cause of many complaints concerning public safety. Not only the public at large, but also the fire last month in one of the temporary shelters where thankfully, no one was hurt. These complaints range from minor to very serious, 6 of which are before the courts. These temporary shelters are not and cannot be a permanent solution to a very real crisis.

I think I share many people's feelings today of sadness and shock concerning the events that took place yesterday. While excessive force by police is never ok, neither is violence incited by a group of protesters. We will never know what would have happened had things been handled differently by police. There are no winners from the events of yesterday.

I am frustrated along with many others not only in HRM but all of Nova Scotia regarding the lack of shelter space and affordable housing options.

As you know, HRM does not have jurisdiction over housing. The province took that responsibility away at amalgamation. However, there have been several things Council passed this past year to help where it can... Allowing Secondary suites to help gently increase rental stock, selling surplus municipal land for \$1 to non-profit, waiving/reducing taxes and fees on affordable housing projects, faster turn arounds for development approvals, and also using funds from the federal rapid housing initiative to help assist various shelter and affordable housing projects in the municipality. None of these helps are fast, nor do they immediately solve the crisis at hand and that is frustrating. I am hopeful the newly elected PC government will take this situation seriously and will work with Council and HRM to get the much needed supply of affordable housing and supports ready to go asap.

I hope this is helpful. Thanks for reaching out.

Sincerely,

Trish Purdy

Councillor District 4 (Cole Harbour/Westphal/Lake Loon/Cherry Brook)

Cell: 902.240.3067

Coordinator – Emily Smith: 902.490.7177

smithem@halifax.ca

For routine municipal matters, please dial 311

***To sign up for my e-newsletter, please email Emily at smithem@halifax.ca**

HALIFAX



From: Pamela Berman <pam.berman@cbc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>
Subject: [External Email] Interview request

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Hello. I'm following up on our brief phone conversation. I've been asked to contact all Regional Councillors to get their reaction to the decision to remove the temporary shelters and what took place between the police and protestors.

First of all, do you support the removal of the tent cities and the temporary shelter?

What do you think of how the police handled the protest?

What are your thoughts on the availability of both temporary shelter spots, the creation of more affordable housing?

And finally, although shelter and affordable housing is mainly a provincial issue, what do you think HRM's role should be when it comes to fixing some of the problems.

Thanks,

--

Pam Berman
Municipal Affairs reporter
CBC Radio Halifax
902-420-4438 (o)
902-420-4137 (fax)
480(1) (cell)

From: [Kirby, Heidi](#)
To: [@DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators](#)
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments
Date: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:26:03 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

I should clarify that the intent of this is primarily to include statements intended for public consumption, i.e.:

- Statements emailed to the media or links to media coverage that a Councillor was quoted in
- Specific posts you may have made on social media to capture your take/summary of the situation

Don't worry about trying to dig up individuals response to residents, but feel free to share what you have been sending as a generic reply. However, the focus here is on public statements.

And, don't worry about sending anything that you may have posted to a personal website because I have checked those (i.e. Councillor Mason has a post from this week on the matter that I have already captured).

Thanks again for your help, I have already heard back from quite a few of you!

Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

C. 902.943.7332

HALIFAX

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From: Kirby, Heidi
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:59 AM
To: [@DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators](#) <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

Importance: High

Hello, again!

The Mayor's Office has requested any statements that you have made publicly this week regarding the housing encampment issue. This would mean statements sent to the media (i.e. the CBC NS story today indicates all councillors were reached out to and about half replied by late Thursday: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>).

If you are able to send any statement that you've made this week on the matter at your earliest convenience today, it would be greatly appreciated. I will also check your websites and have been able to obtain some excerpts of statements from the abovementioned CBC article.

Thanks,

Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

C. 902.943.7332

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From: [Kirby, Heidi](#)
To: [Morse, Kathryn](#)
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements - Morse
Date: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:22:00 AM
Attachments: [August 20 2021 - Homeless Encampments - Statements from Councillors.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Kathryn:

Thanks very much. Of course it is up to you whether to issue a statement or not, or to make a social media post. I have attached the statements that other councillors have provided for you to get some further context around what has been said already. It may be good to submit a statement to the Herald, keeping it brief and empathetic but aligned with the municipality's statement and perhaps what other councillors have said (attached).

If you wish, you may want to post the CBC article that focuses on the need for the province to provide more housing options, but don't feel that you need to make a post especially where the encampment removals were not directly in your district (though I recognize this is a bigger issue than just being "district-specific"):

'No winners' in protest that turned violent, councillors say, and urge province to provide more housing
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>

Personally, I feel Wayne's statement contains some good sentiments (**in the attached document**). And, this excerpt from HRM's public statement on the matter sums up the approach well:

"As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness.

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that all residents deserve a home. The municipality issued a statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property on August 18. You can review this, and learn more about HRM's approach to homelessness and homeless encampments here: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/public-safety/common-questions-regarding-homelessness>"

Hope this helps.

Thanks,

Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO**

C. 902.943.7332

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From: Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements - Morse

Hi Heidi—I haven't made any statements to media so far. I was thinking of doing a Facebook post later today but I haven't written it yet. The Herald contacted me this morning looking for a statement and I haven't responded. If you have any recommendations please let me know. Thank you.

K

COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE
DISTRICT 10
HALIFAX – BEDFORD BASIN WEST
(FAIRVIEW, CLAYTON PARK AND ROCKINGHAM)
KATHRYN.MORSE@HALIFAX.CA

COUNCIL COORDINATOR:
KEN BENOIT
BENOITK@HALIFAX.CA
902-490-7184

TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT 10 E-NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL BENOITK@HALIFAX.CA

HALIFAX

HALIFAX CITY HALL
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HALIFAX, NS B3J 3A5

T. 902 497-7278
F. 902 490 4122

Please call 311 for immediate assistance

www.halifax.ca



From: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:59 AM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments
Importance: High

Hello, again!

The Mayor's Office has requested any statements that you have made publicly this week regarding the housing encampment issue. This would mean statements sent to the media (i.e. the CBC NS story today indicates all councillors were reached out to and about half replied by late Thursday: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>).

If you are able to send any statement that you've made this week on the matter at your earliest convenience today, it would be greatly appreciated. I will also check your websites and have been able to obtain some excerpts of statements from the abovementioned CBC article.

Thanks,

Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

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DISTRICT 1 – Cathy Deagle-Gammon

[RESPONSE TO RESIDENTS – *No public statements or media interviews to-date*]

Yesterday was a terrible day for everyone. I was not there and I am learning more about it from many perspectives.

Here is what I know so far and forgive me as I wrote this to assist me answering the very many emails. I have been trying to provide more details to people so here is my fuller response.

It has been disheartening to watch the situation between protestors and police unfold in our municipality. I acknowledge that the way the events unfolded is not what we want to see in HRM.

HRM's decision to provide notice to residents living in temporary structures and tents in HRM parks and then removing those shelters and tents wasn't a decision that the municipality came to lightly. This has been sad and heartbreaking.

The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial Governments. The solution to homelessness is complex. The Province of Nova Scotia has offered every person in a tent or temporary shelter accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Municipal efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators as well as from housing support workers.

There were four areas where tents were set up (the old Library, Horseshoe Park, the Common and Peace & Friendship Park). For the past five months our Street Navigators, provincial mental health supports, and social services have been working to relocate these residents to hotels or shelters until they could secure permanent housing. Yesterday a total of ten people found supports to relocate to safer housing and are now working with the province to get a permanent solution. Even those who chose not to explore those alternatives, left, and took down their tents without incident in all areas except the old Library. It wasn't until protestors descended on the site that issues arose. No person experiencing homelessness was arrested. Any arrests were of protestors who obstructed police and heavy equipment. Several police officers were injured by protestors, including one who has a possible broken nose after being head-butted by a protestor. Several police vehicles were also damaged.

I think we can all agree that the tents and wooden structures are not dignified housing. It also became apparent in recent weeks that they are not safe. Emergency calls have come in to deal with fires, sexual assault, and even human trafficking complaints in the past few weeks.

The following does come from the HRM website and there is a Q and A there as well. : Please see below with more information on what actions have been taken by HRM and give you a better timeline of where we are and how we got here:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to

sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.

HRM contributes funding to the Street Navigators program, gave land for \$1 for affordable housing, partnered with non-profits and the federal government for three Affordable Housing projects in HRM, eliminated permitting fees for developments, provides a tax break for affordable housing for non-profits to name just a few. The mandate for housing resides with the province and we will do as much as our authority allows.

In terms of housing more broadly, there has been some good work done with the Provincial Housing Commission. There are lots of good recommendations in the Commission's report, including measures that HRM has long been asking for such as the power to require a set number of affordable units in new development (inclusionary zoning). Hopefully the Province will action the Commission's recommendations and commit the money needed!

The Commission's report does speak to working with non-profits and others to create new units, but the one big omission is there is no commitment by the Province to build new government owned units. Some good news was the announcement by the (previous government) that the Province would fund and act on the Affordable Housing Commission report. Councillor Mason wrote a letter to the Premier and expanded on other needed next steps: <https://wavemason.ca/2021/07/07/letter-to-the-premier-affordable-housing-in-halifax-and-nova-scotia/>.

Many email and calls asked HRM to do better and I shall certainly aspire to that.

DISTRICT 2 - Councillor David Hendsbee:

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

Seize the Future Inns hotel in Dartmouth and convert that into an immediate shelter. It's been sitting vacant for three or four years now. It has the capacity for over 200 people, so why wouldn't we? We couldn't build anything that fast. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

DISTRICT 3 – Councillor Becky Kent

Spoke with CBC's Pam Berman on the phone but was not quoted in article.

[FACEBOOK POST]

I would like to offer some perspective on the events of yesterday and ongoing work that HRM Council and staff are doing related to housing and homelessness. I hope this helps.

Know that I care and that my experience working with housing and homelessness organizations and government decision making is all helping in this very difficult situation. If you would like an opportunity to speak further with me on this I would be happy to chat on the phone or perhaps send me an email with your thoughts. Take care and stay safe. [THIS IS FOLLOWED BY THE REMOVAL TIMELINE AND MUCH OF THE Q&A ISSUED BY CORP COMMS]

DISTRICT 4 - Councillor Trish Purdy

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

I share many people's feelings of sadness and shock. There are no winners. *[Quoted here:*

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[FULL STATEMENT EMAILED TO CBC]

Yes I do support the removal of the tents and shelters on HRM land, as they have become a cause of many complaints concerning public safety. Not only the public at large, but also the fire last month in one of the temporary shelters where thankfully, no one was hurt. These complaints range from minor to very serious, 6 of which are before the courts. These temporary shelters are not and cannot be a permanent solution to a very real crisis.

I think I share many people's feelings today of sadness and shock concerning the events that took place yesterday. While excessive force by police is never ok, neither is violence incited by a group of protesters. We will never know what would have happened had things been handled differently by police. There are no winners from the events of yesterday.

I am frustrated along with many others not only in HRM but all of Nova Scotia regarding the lack of shelter space and affordable housing options.

As you know, HRM does not have jurisdiction over housing. The province took that responsibility away at amalgamation. However, there have been several things Council passed this past year to help where it can... Allowing Secondary suites to help gently increase rental stock, selling surplus municipal land for \$1 to non-profit, waiving/reducing taxes and fees on affordable housing projects, faster turn arounds for development approvals, and also using funds from the federal rapid housing initiative to help assist various shelter and affordable housing projects in the municipality. None of these helps are fast, nor do they immediately solve the crisis at hand and that is frustrating. I am hopeful the newly elected PC government will take this situation seriously and will work with Council and HRM to get the much needed supply of affordable housing and supports ready to go asap. *[Full statement sent to CBC but not all quoted].*

DISTRICT 5 – Councillor Sam Austin

No public statements issued.

DISTRICT 6 - Councillor Tony Mancini

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

The city didn't come to the decision to remove the tents and shelters lightly. This has been sad and heartbreaking. The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is "the result of years of neglect" from previous provincial governments.

The Nova Scotia Police Act prevents elected officials from directing police action. That is the law. The way the events unfolded is not what we want to see in HRM. [Mancini] looks forward to seeing a staff report stemming from Coun. Wayne Mason's motion to have the province [return housing responsibility](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763) to the municipality. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[FACEBOOK POST – August 19]

HRM's decision to provide notice to residents living in temporary structures and tents in HRM parks and then removing those shelters and tents wasn't a decision that the municipality came to lightly. This has been sad and heartbreaking. Housing and the provision of adequate shelter are provincial responsibilities here in Nova Scotia and the municipality is trying to address these issues within the bounds of our legislative mandate. For the last several months, HRM has been working with the Province to ensure that provincial services will be in place to support encampment residents. HRM's approach has been to avoid forced evictions as much as possible and to work with encampment residents to try and connect them with housing and services.

The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial Governments. The solution to homelessness is complex. The Province of Nova Scotia has offered every person in a tent or temporary shelter accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Municipal efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators as well as from housing support workers.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent increase of shelters and tents, has resulted in an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and had to be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents regarding health and safety concerns. There have been 6 charges filed related to some of these complaints. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.

Do I agree with taking down shelters and tents? Yes, for the reasons mentioned.

Do I like seeing citizens of HRM being peppered sprayed by police? No. The Nova Scotia Police Act prevents elected officials from directing police action. That is the law.

Councillor Mason put forward a motion to have the Province return the responsibility of housing to the municipality. I look forward to reading that report. It may be the time for the municipality to seriously

consider taking on housing.

It has been disheartening to watch the situation between protestors and police unfold in our municipality. I acknowledge that the way the events unfolded is not what we want to see in HRM.

DISTRICT 7 - Councillor Waye Mason

[PUBLIC STATEMENT POSTED AUGUST 20]

Statement on Housing Crisis and Police Response to the Removal of Shelters

What took place this week in Halifax has made it more clear than ever that we have an urgent housing problem to solve. What happened this week made me sick to my stomach.

The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial governments. For the last nine years, I've been working on this and lobbying the Province to do more. I continue to believe that the municipality should take back housing from the Province, assuming the funding comes with it. It has been depressing and frustrating to watch the situation between protestors and police. None of us wanted to see events unfold the way they did this week. I don't want anyone to be hurt or suffer and I appeal for calm.

I have heard the concerns about the policing approach and some officer's lack of name tags and wearing thin blue line badges. This is unacceptable and this will be reviewed by the appropriate bodies, the Board of Police Commissioners and SIRT.

I do however feel that tents and temporary shelters in parks are not the answer and better options are now available from the Province.

HRM's decision to do this was built on the Province's commitment to providing both immediate, temporary accommodations (hotel) and long-term stable housing. I understand that this may not have been made available to all of the people involved yesterday, and I will work to connect them with provincial housing support workers to ensure they can access housing options as was intended. *[From www.wayemason.ca]*

DISTRICT 8 - Councillor Lindell Smith

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

Coun. Lindell Smith, who represents Halifax Peninsula North and is chair of the board of police commissioners, said he would raise those issues [regarding reports of no police nametags, etc.] at the next board meeting.

[Smith said] he and the rest of council knew people might have to be removed from parks, but he was confident in assurances that everyone would at least be offered a place to stay.

...he's since learned that some people were not approached, and he hopes to help organizations who work with homeless people to find anyone slipping between the cracks. Smith said the actions of police Wednesday were in response to concerns over the safety of protestors and officers, and suggested the

protest detracted attention from the real issue of homelessness.

"What happened yesterday wasn't really about folks who would have been in that shelter"

"It was hard to see so much anger with the police having to be forceful on individuals and spray irritants ... really forgetting there was individuals who are on the street right now without a place to be." [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-police-chief-says-force-s-actions-appropriate-in-face-of-aggressive-and-armed-crowd-1.6146714>]

DISTRICT 9 - Councillor Shawn Cleary

[RADIO INTERVIEW]

Interviewed with Rick Howe Show, August 19 (10am slot): <https://www.news957.com/audio/the-rick-howe-show/>

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

There were also complaints from businesses near the Peace and Friendship Park in south-end Halifax because their employees were afraid to walk in the area. The province does plan to have 20 new housing units in the next few weeks and up to a 100 more available in the next couple of months, but until permanent housing is available, unlimited hotel stays are being offered. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[SAMPLE OF REPLY TO RESIDENTS]

Let me start by saying nobody wants to see violence on the streets of Halifax.

It is very unfortunate that some protesters chose to punch, push, pull, kick, and headbutt police officers. It is unacceptable that some protesters threw things at police and smashed in windows and damaged city and police vehicles. It is unbelievable that some protesters tried to harm unionized outside city workers. There have been allegations made about police conduct and the Chief is investigating those. There is also a process for formal complaints against police and I encourage anyone who feels they were treated badly or witnessed unacceptable behaviour from police to lodge a complaint so it can be addressed. Under provincial legislation, Council does not have authority over police operations or discipline. I know the Board of Police Commissioners will be looking at these issues.

The violent protest on August 18th does highlight how our provincial government has failed to invest in affordable housing, shelter space, mental health care, and addictions services. These are exclusive mandates of the provincial government, and the city has been lobbying for them to invest more and provide more powers to the municipality so we can do more as well.

Even without the resources and mandate, the city has been trying to address affordable housing. Over my five years on Council, we have:

- created a category for surplus municipal land specifically for affordable housing and we've already sold a number of properties for \$1 for affordable housing;
- created a fund to give money for affordable housing that is developed by non-profit housing organizations;
- worked with the other levels of government to provide funds to non-profit housing projects as part of the Rapid Housing Initiative and those projects are underway right now and will house vulnerable people in the coming months;

-we changed the land use bylaws across the entire municipality so that any home can now legally have a secondary and backyard suite (i.e., an extra apartment in the basement, attic, main floor, garage, carriagehouse, etc.) to increase the stock of affordable housing throughout HRM;
-we re-zoned the urban core to allow for higher densities so more houses, townhouse, small apartment buildings, and high-rises can be built to add to the supply of housing that is so critically needed as record numbers of people move the Halifax from other parts of Nova Scotia, Canada, and from around the world.

Many people have asked why aren't we implementing rent control and forcing developers to add affordable units in these new buildings. The short answer is that municipalities in Nova Scotia are not allowed to. In Canada, cities are created by the provincial legislature and the powers they have come from the province. The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (and other related legislation) does not give us these powers. In Nova Scotia, only the province can do rent control. Last year, they did cap rent increases at 2% during the COVID emergency. Halifax Council has actually passed a motion and formally requested the province give us the power of Inclusionary Zoning (i.e., the ability to require new large developments to contain a percentage of affordable units) and the province has so far refused to grant us that authority.

Residents have asked me why these particular encampments had to be vacated. The answer is simple: public safety. There has been an increasing amount of disturbance and criminal behaviour occurring at these sites and 6 charges have been laid against tent occupants, including harassment, assault, sexual assault, and human trafficking. In my own district at Horseshoe Island Park, police have been called to the area several times in past couple of weeks and residents have informed me of break and enters, trespassing and vandalism, harassment, and open drinking and drug use. I've heard from families that can no longer go to park as they used to because they fear for their safety.

In the last year, the city adopted an empathy-based, human rights approach to these encampments. We are not moving anyone out if alternative safe housing options can't be offered and if safety is not an issue. Several other encampments were not vacated the other day because they have not been as dangerous and problematic as the four that were vacated.

The city has been working with the province for many months now to provide services and offer housing alternatives to the occupants of the sheds and tents. All of the encampments have been visited regularly by the street navigators and provincial housing workers. There were also mental health workers who visited the sites. At all the encampments, the occupants have been offered permanent or temporary housing to bridge to permanent housing. In the past weeks, several residents have taken up those offers and moved to shelters and hotels. On August 18th, ten of the occupants from the encampments took up that offer as well.

The city will continue to work with other levels of government to address the serious issues of homelessness in Halifax. We will continue doing everything within our mandate and with the resources we have to address affordable housing. We will continue doing everything we can to keep all of our residents safe.

DISTRICT 10 – Councillor Kathryn Morse

DISTRICT 11 – Councillor Patty Cuttell

DISTRICT 12 – Councillor Iona Stoddard

DISTRICT 13 - Councillor Pam Lovelace:

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

I did not expect that" [in reference to the protest that turned violent]. It happened peacefully at the other locations. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

DISTRICT 14 - Councillor Lisa Blackburn

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

Emergency calls have come in to deal with fire, sexual assault and even human trafficking, and all of that is now before the courts. 10 people did accept alternative options for accommodations. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

DISTRICT 16 – Councillor Paul Russell

DISTRICT 17 – Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit

Williams, Angie

From: Aldridge, Grace
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Murphy, Breton; Christie, Sally
Subject: FW: CUPE 108 Follow-Up

FYI- this is what I sent earlier to Jacques.
Grace

GRACE ALDRIDGE BA, ADpHRM
SHE/HER
MANAGER, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND IT
C. 902.221-3621
HALIFAX



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From: Aldridge, Grace
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacDonald, Stewart <macdonste@halifax.ca>
Subject: CUPE 108 Follow-Up

Good Morning Jacques-

Some additional follow-up for your review.

Stewart met with CUPE as part of a regularly scheduled LMC meeting yesterday. Management and the Union agreed to meet on Aug 24 to specifically address CUPE staff's role the shelter event.

In the meantime, we did receive a copy of an article online being circulated by CUPE citing safety concerns, indicating that they've engaged you, other city staff. I sent an update to Breton this morning and can support further on this if needed.

LR and HRBP's will continue to monitor things in the background with ED's and their teams. We have a good sense of which HRM staff were involved on Wed., and will continue to keep track of any issues or concerns that may arise.

Thank you,
Grace

GRACE ALDRIDGE BA, ADpHRM
SHE/HER
MANAGER, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND IT
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From: Aldridge, Grace
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:15 AM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Cc: MacDonald, Stewart <macdonste@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: [External Email] CUPE 108 Unsafe Working Conditions!!!

Good Morning Jacques-

A quick follow-up.

There was a small number of CUPE staff on site yesterday to support the clean-up efforts. There are no plans that we are aware of to have additional staff on site today, outside of their regular duties downtown.

Stewart will be meeting with Scott /CUPE today at the Labour Management meeting and he will identify any specific safety-related or other concerns and discuss an approach moving forward if additional staff may be required. I will also keep track of any other non-HRP staff who may have been on site and we will work in the background to manage any concerns that arise.

If I can assist in any other way, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Thanks,

Grace
GRACE ALDRIDGE BA, ADpHRM
SHE/HER
MANAGER, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND IT
C. 902.221-3621
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From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:41 PM
To: Aldridge, Grace <jefferg@halifax.ca>
Subject: Fwd: [External Email] CUPE 108 Unsafe Working Conditions!!!

FYI

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

I would like to acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. HRM acknowledges the Peace & Friendship treaties have been signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

[PO BOX 1749](#)
[HALIFAX NS B3J 3A5](#)
City Hall/Hôtel de ville
[1841 rue Argyle Street](#)
T. [902.490.4015](#)
C. [480\(1\)](#)
F. [902.490.4044](#)
e. dubej@halifax.ca
www.halifax.ca

From: CUPE Local 108 <108.cupe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:16:53 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Anguish, Brad <anguisb@halifax.ca>; Todd MacPherson <tmacpherson@cupe.ca>; MacDonald, Stewart <macdonste@halifax.ca>
Subject: [External Email] CUPE 108 Unsafe Working Conditions!!!

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Good evening Jacques,

I am writing to you to express my concerns over the unsafe working conditions that our CUPE Local 108 members have been inserted into and I am requesting that they immediately be escorted to their depot where they are safe and I would like to meet with you about what has transpired in the near future. This is a situation that our members should have never been put in and is frustrating to say the least but my immediate concern is their safety. We will have much to discuss in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Scott Chetwynd
President
Halifax Civic Workers' Union
CUPE Local 108
108.cupe@gmail.com
[480\(1\)](#)

Williams, Angie

From: Aldridge, Grace
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Dube, Jacques
Cc: Christie, Sally; Murphy, Breton
Subject: RE: CUPE 108 Follow-Up

Good Afternoon Jacques-

Now that we have a better sense of next steps, I think a response to Scott/CUPE from you would be fine. There is now a media inquiry related to CUPE, so your response first would be welcomed.

Suggested response below:

We've been gathering information related to the concerns you've raised. My understanding is that a meeting has been confirmed for August 24 at 1 pm, between CUPE and HRM management, to further identify and debrief regarding staff involvement in the events of Aug .18.

I look forward to the feedback and recommendations from staff, following that meeting.

Thank you for your time on this,

Grace

GRACE ALDRIDGE BA, ADpHRM

SHE/HER

MANAGER, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS AND IT

C. 902.221-3621

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From: CUPE Local 108 <108.cupe@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:16:53 PM

To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Anguish, Brad <anguisb@halifax.ca>;

Todd MacPherson <tmacpherson@cupe.ca>; MacDonald, Stewart <macdonste@halifax.ca>

Subject: [External Email] CUPE 108 Unsafe Working Conditions!!!

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Good evening Jacques,

I am writing to you to express my concerns over the unsafe working conditions that our CUPE Local 108 members have been inserted into and I am requesting that they immediately be escorted to their depot where they are safe and I would like to meet with you about what has transpired in the near future. This is a situation that our members should have never been put in and is frustrating to say the least but my immediate concern is their safety. We will have much to discuss in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Scott Chetwynd
President
Halifax Civic Workers' Union
CUPE Local 108
108.cupe@gmail.com

480(1)

****Please note, the attachments to this email are not responsive to this request and so they have not been included.**

Dill, Rowena

From: Office, Clerks
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 3:05 PM
To: DeagleGammon, Cathy; Hendsbee, David; Kent, Becky; Purdy, Trish; Austin, Sam; Mancini, Tony; Mason, Waye; Smith, Lindell; Cleary, Shawn; Morse, Kathryn; Cuttell, Patty; Stoddard, Iona; Lovelace, Pam; Blackburn, Lisa; Russell, Paul; Outhit, Tim; Mike Savage; Dube, Jacques; Christie, Sally; Carver, Kim; Traves, John; Murphy, Breton; DiCarlo, Erin; Johnston, Paul
Cc: Stewart, April; Neate, Leslie
Subject: General Council Correspondence - Aug 14-20, 2021
Attachments: GeneralCorr - August 14-20, 2021.pdf; GeneralCorr - August 14-20, 2021 - Evictions.pdf

Please see the attached two documents - correspondence received by the Municipal Clerks Office during the noted date range, which is being forwarded for your information.

Please note that correspondence will be distributed separately to Business Unit staff indicated within.

Best regards,

AGNES GYURCSANYI
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK

HALIFAX
T. 902.490.6524
halifax.ca

Williams, Angie

From: Kirby, Heidi
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 3:48 PM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
Subject: FW: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments
Attachments: August 20 2021 - Homeless Encampments - Statements from Councillors.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon:

I've attached the most-up-to-date summary of councillor statements that I sent to the Mayor's office (per their request) in the context of what happened this week.

While you all have your own unique views on this matter, of course, I am attaching this simply to share the information in one place for you to reference if you wish.

Thanks and enjoy your weekend,
Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

C. 902.943.7332

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From: Kirby, Heidi
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:59 AM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments
Importance: High

Hello, again!

The Mayor's Office has requested any statements that you have made publicly this week regarding the housing encampment issue. This would mean statements sent to the media (i.e. the CBC NS story today indicates all councillors

were reached out to and about half replied by late Thursday: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>).

If you are able to send any statement that you've made this week on the matter at your earliest convenience today, it would be greatly appreciated. I will also check your websites and have been able to obtain some excerpts of statements from the abovementioned CBC article.

Thanks,

Heidi

Heidi Kirby
SHE/HER

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
COUNCILLORS' SUPPORT OFFICE | CAO

C. 902.943.7332

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DISTRICT 1 – Cathy Deagle-Gammon

[RESPONSE TO RESIDENTS – *No public statements or media interviews to-date*]

Yesterday was a terrible day for everyone. I was not there and I am learning more about it from many perspectives.

Here is what I know so far and forgive me as I wrote this to assist me answering the very many emails. I have been trying to provide more details to people so here is my fuller response.

It has been disheartening to watch the situation between protestors and police unfold in our municipality. I acknowledge that the way the events unfolded is not what we want to see in HRM.

HRM's decision to provide notice to residents living in temporary structures and tents in HRM parks and then removing those shelters and tents wasn't a decision that the municipality came to lightly. This has been sad and heartbreaking.

The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial Governments. The solution to homelessness is complex. The Province of Nova Scotia has offered every person in a tent or temporary shelter accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Municipal efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators as well as from housing support workers.

There were four areas where tents were set up (the old Library, Horseshoe Park, the Common and Peace & Friendship Park). For the past five months our Street Navigators, provincial mental health supports, and social services have been working to relocate these residents to hotels or shelters until they could secure permanent housing. Yesterday a total of ten people found supports to relocate to safer housing and are now working with the province to get a permanent solution. Even those who chose not to explore those alternatives, left, and took down their tents without incident in all areas except the old Library. It wasn't until protestors descended on the site that issues arose. No person experiencing homelessness was arrested. Any arrests were of protestors who obstructed police and heavy equipment. Several police officers were injured by protestors, including one who has a possible broken nose after being head-butted by a protestor. Several police vehicles were also damaged.

I think we can all agree that the tents and wooden structures are not dignified housing. It also became apparent in recent weeks that they are not safe. Emergency calls have come in to deal with fires, sexual assault, and even human trafficking complaints in the past few weeks.

The following does come from the HRM website and there is a Q and A there as well. : Please see below with more information on what actions have been taken by HRM and give you a better timeline of where we are and how we got here:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to

sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.

HRM contributes funding to the Street Navigators program, gave land for \$1 for affordable housing, partnered with non-profits and the federal government for three Affordable Housing projects in HRM, eliminated permitting fees for developments, provides a tax break for affordable housing for non-profits to name just a few. The mandate for housing resides with the province and we will do as much as our authority allows.

In terms of housing more broadly, there has been some good work done with the Provincial Housing Commission. There are lots of good recommendations in the Commission's report, including measures that HRM has long been asking for such as the power to require a set number of affordable units in new development (inclusionary zoning). Hopefully the Province will action the Commission's recommendations and commit the money needed!

The Commission's report does speak to working with non-profits and others to create new units, but the one big omission is there is no commitment by the Province to build new government owned units. Some good news was the announcement by the (previous government) that the Province would fund and act on the Affordable Housing Commission report. Councillor Mason wrote a letter to the Premier and expanded on other needed next steps: <https://wayemason.ca/2021/07/07/letter-to-the-premier-affordable-housing-in-halifax-and-nova-scotia/>.

Many email and calls asked HRM to do better and I shall certainly aspire to that.

DISTRICT 2 - Councillor David Hendsbee:

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

Seize the Future Inns hotel in Dartmouth and convert that into an immediate shelter. It's been sitting vacant for three or four years now. It has the capacity for over 200 people, so why wouldn't we? We couldn't build anything that fast. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

DISTRICT 3 – Councillor Becky Kent

Spoke with CBC's Pam Berman on the phone but was not quoted in article.

[FACEBOOK POST]

I would like to offer some perspective on the events of yesterday and ongoing work that HRM Council and staff are doing related to housing and homelessness. I hope this helps. Know that I care and that my experience working with housing and homelessness organizations and government decision making is all helping in this very difficult situation. If you would like an opportunity to speak further with me on this I would be happy to chat on the phone or perhaps send me an email with your thoughts. Take care and stay safe. [THIS IS FOLLOWED BY THE REMOVAL TIMELINE AND MUCH OF THE Q&A ISSUED BY CORP COMMS]

DISTRICT 4 - Councillor Trish Purdy

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

I share many people's feelings of sadness and shock. There are no winners. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[FULL STATEMENT EMAILED TO CBC]

Yes I do support the removal of the tents and shelters on HRM land, as they have become a cause of many complaints concerning public safety. Not only the public at large, but also the fire last month in one of the temporary shelters where thankfully, no one was hurt. These complaints range from minor to very serious, 6 of which are before the courts. These temporary shelters are not and cannot be a permanent solution to a very real crisis.

I think I share many people's feelings today of sadness and shock concerning the events that took place yesterday. While excessive force by police is never ok, neither is violence incited by a group of protesters. We will never know what would have happened had things been handled differently by police. There are no winners from the events of yesterday.

I am frustrated along with many others not only in HRM but all of Nova Scotia regarding the lack of shelter space and affordable housing options.

As you know, HRM does not have jurisdiction over housing. The province took that responsibility away at amalgamation. However, there have been several things Council passed this past year to help where it can... Allowing Secondary suites to help gently increase rental stock, selling surplus municipal land for \$1 to non-profit, waiving/reducing taxes and fees on affordable housing projects, faster turn arounds for development approvals, and also using funds from the federal rapid housing initiative to help assist various shelter and affordable housing projects in the municipality. None of these helps are fast, nor do they immediately solve the crisis at hand and that is frustrating. I am hopeful the newly elected PC

government will take this situation seriously and will work with Council and HRM to get the much needed supply of affordable housing and supports ready to go asap. *[Full statement sent to CBC but not all quoted]*.

DISTRICT 5 – Councillor Sam Austin

[DRAFT - TO BE POSTED ON WEBSITE, EMAIL LIST AND SOCIAL - FRIDAY, AUG 20]

I'm writing today about the removal of the temporary homeless shelters in Halifax and the confrontation that ensued between police and Mutual Aid protesters. A violent confrontation is not something I saw coming and is a shock. That some bystanders, including a 10 year old kid, got caught up in it is even worse. I have heard from many residents in District 5 and I share the dismay that this is where things ended up.

When the shelters first appeared, HRM took an approach of leaving them in place because we didn't want to evict people who didn't have other options and I fully support that approach. A shed or tent though is very far from ideal. They have no electricity, running water, a toilet, kitchen, they're not built to any building code, and one has already burned. They're better than nothing at all, but they're also not a replacement for safe indoor space with services to support the complex needs that many street involved people have (mental health, trauma, addictions).

Encampments also aren't issue free places and there have been growing problems at all of the larger sites that has been impacting the surrounding communities. The Geary Street site is the one I know best since it's in District 5 and I have heard from many who have expressed that they no longer feel safe walking by this location because of what they've observed and experienced as it has grown in size. Mutual Aid has some good intentions, but having an anonymous third party create permanent encampments that have little supporting services, with no input or planning from anyone else, has been problematic. HRM has tried to engage with Mutual Aid, but they're an anonymous group that will only communicate on twitter.

For the last several months, the municipality has been focused on working with the Province to secure space to house people. What has changed recently is the Province has committed to house anyone who is living rough on HRM properties (shelters and tents). The Province is expecting to be able to bridge people who accept the offer of help into permanent supportive housing in the fall.

Given the Province's commitment, HRM has been notifying people for the last several weeks that the encampment sites won't be permitted to continue. Some encampment residents have accepted offers of housing and left, including five before the evictions and 10 more on Wednesday, but not everyone has. While HRM and the Province have tried to make sure that everyone has had an offer, I'm concerned that some of the reports indicate that a few of the evicted tent residents this week may not have received one.

It is distressing that the situation on Wednesday devolved into a sometimes violent confrontation between police and Mutual Aid protesters. Police were facing some challenging conditions with a hostile crowd that pushed back and at times threw projectiles. Several officers were injured, including one who suffered a broken nose. Mutual Aid didn't call for a protest, they called for a confrontation, and that is what occurred. That said, the police always have the higher duty to defuse and de-escalate. I'm

concerned about reports that police name tags weren't displayed, and that thin blue line pins were observed. The police will undertake an operational review into what happened and that is needed given the use of force that has occurred here. I encourage anyone who was there who feels the police acted inappropriately to make a formal complaint by e-mailing hrpprostand@halifax.ca or by calling 902 490-4127.

Ultimately, the real solution to all of this is better social programs and more supportive housing. These are big issues to fix and HRM only has a share in part of it, but I have hope that with the rapid housing initiative and recent provincial commitments that spaces will soon increase significantly. The housing issue isn't going away and still needs lots of work and attention by all levels of government.

DISTRICT 6 - Councillor Tony Mancini

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

The city didn't come to the decision to remove the tents and shelters lightly. This has been sad and heartbreaking. The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is "the result of years of neglect" from previous provincial governments.

The Nova Scotia Police Act prevents elected officials from directing police action. That is the law. The way the events unfolded is not what we want to see in HRM. [Mancini] looks forward to seeing a staff report stemming from Coun. Wayne Mason's motion to have the province [return housing responsibility](#) to the municipality. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[FACEBOOK POST – August 19]

HRM's decision to provide notice to residents living in temporary structures and tents in HRM parks and then removing those shelters and tents wasn't a decision that the municipality came to lightly. This has been sad and heartbreaking. Housing and the provision of adequate shelter are provincial responsibilities here in Nova Scotia and the municipality is trying to address these issues within the bounds of our legislative mandate. For the last several months, HRM has been working with the Province to ensure that provincial services will be in place to support encampment residents. HRM's approach has been to avoid forced evictions as much as possible and to work with encampment residents to try and connect them with housing and services.

The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial Governments. The solution to homelessness is complex. The Province of Nova Scotia has offered every person in a tent or temporary shelter accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Municipal efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators as well as from housing support workers.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent increase of shelters and tents, has resulted in an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and had to be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents regarding health and safety concerns. There have been 6 charges filed related to some of these complaints. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week (August 16) to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and

remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.

Do I agree with taking down shelters and tents? Yes, for the reasons mentioned.

Do I like seeing citizens of HRM being peppered sprayed by police? No. The Nova Scotia Police Act prevents elected officials from directing police action. That is the law.

Councillor Mason put forward a motion to have the Province return the responsibility of housing to the municipality. I look forward to reading that report. It may be the time for the municipality to seriously consider taking on housing.

It has been disheartening to watch the situation between protestors and police unfold in our municipality. I acknowledge that the way the events unfolded is not what we want to see in HRM.

DISTRICT 7 - Councillor Wayne Mason

[PUBLIC STATEMENT - AUGUST 20]

Statement on Housing Crisis and Police Response to the Removal of Shelters

What took place this week in Halifax has made it more clear than ever that we have an urgent housing problem to solve. What happened this week made me sick to my stomach.

The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial governments. For the last nine years, I've been working on this and lobbying the Province to do more. I continue to believe that the municipality should take back housing from the Province, assuming the funding comes with it. It has been depressing and frustrating to watch the situation between protestors and police. None of us wanted to see events unfold the way they did this week. I don't want anyone to be hurt or suffer and I appeal for calm.

I have heard the concerns about the policing approach and some officer's lack of name tags and wearing thin blue line badges. This is unacceptable and this will be reviewed by the appropriate bodies, the Board of Police Commissioners and SiRT.

I do however feel that tents and temporary shelters in parks are not the answer and better options are now available from the Province.

HRM's decision to do this was built on the Province's commitment to providing both immediate, temporary accommodations (hotel) and long-term stable housing. I understand that this may not have been made available to all of the people involved yesterday, and I will work to connect them with provincial housing support workers to ensure they can access housing options as was intended. *[From www.wayemason.ca]*

DISTRICT 8 - Councillor Lindell Smith

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

Coun. Lindell Smith, who represents Halifax Peninsula North and is chair of the board of police

commissioners, said he would raise those issues [regarding reports of no police nametags, etc.] at the next board meeting.

[Smith said] he and the rest of council knew people might have to be removed from parks, but he was confident in assurances that everyone would at least be offered a place to stay.

...he's since learned that some people were not approached, and he hopes to help organizations who work with homeless people to find anyone slipping between the cracks. Smith said the actions of police Wednesday were in response to concerns over the safety of protesters and officers, and suggested the protest detracted attention from the real issue of homelessness.

"What happened yesterday wasn't really about folks who would have been in that shelter"

"It was hard to see so much anger with the police having to be forceful on individuals and spray irritants ... really forgetting there was individuals who are on the street right now without a place to be." [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-police-chief-says-force-s-actions-appropriate-in-face-of-aggressive-and-armed-crowd-1.6146714>]

DISTRICT 9 - Councillor Shawn Cleary

[RADIO INTERVIEW]

Interviewed with Rick Howe Show, August 19 (10am slot): <https://www.news957.com/audio/the-rick-howe-show/>

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

There were also complaints from businesses near the Peace and Friendship Park in south-end Halifax because their employees were afraid to walk in the area. The province does plan to have 20 new housing units in the next few weeks and up to a 100 more available in the next couple of months, but until permanent housing is available, unlimited hotel stays are being offered. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[SAMPLE OF REPLY TO RESIDENTS]

Let me start by saying nobody wants to see violence on the streets of Halifax.

It is very unfortunate that some protesters chose to punch, push, pull, kick, and headbutt police officers. It is unacceptable that some protesters threw things at police and smashed in windows and damaged city and police vehicles. It is unbelievable that some protesters tried to harm unionized outside city workers. There have been allegations made about police conduct and the Chief is investigating those. There is also a process for formal complaints against police and I encourage anyone who feels they were treated badly or witnessed unacceptable behaviour from police to lodge a complaint so it can be addressed. Under provincial legislation, Council does not have authority over police operations or discipline. I know the Board of Police Commissioners will be looking at these issues.

The violent protest on August 18th does highlight how our provincial government has failed to invest in affordable housing, shelter space, mental health care, and addictions services. These are exclusive

mandates of the provincial government, and the city has been lobbying for them to invest more and provide more powers to the municipality so we can do more as well.

Even without the resources and mandate, the city has been trying to address affordable housing. Over my five years on Council, we have:

- created a category for surplus municipal land specifically for affordable housing and we've already sold a number of properties for \$1 for affordable housing;
- created a fund to give money for affordable housing that is developed by non-profit housing organizations;
- worked with the other levels of government to provide funds to non-profit housing projects as part of the Rapid Housing Initiative and those projects are underway right now and will house vulnerable people in the coming months;
- we changed the land use bylaws across the entire municipality so that any home can now legally have a secondary and backyard suite (i.e., an extra apartment in the basement, attic, main floor, garage, carriagehouse, etc.) to increase the stock of affordable housing throughout HRM;
- we re-zoned the urban core to allow for higher densities so more houses, townhouse, small apartment buildings, and high-rises can be built to add to the supply of housing that is so critically needed as record numbers of people move the Halifax from other parts of Nova Scotia, Canada, and from around the world.

Many people have asked why aren't we implementing rent control and forcing developers to add affordable units in these new buildings. The short answer is that municipalities in Nova Scotia are not allowed to. In Canada, cities are created by the provincial legislature and the powers they have come from the province. The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (and other related legislation) does not give us these powers. In Nova Scotia, only the province can do rent control. Last year, they did cap rent increases at 2% during the COVID emergency. Halifax Council has actually passed a motion and formally requested the province give us the power of Inclusionary Zoning (i.e., the ability to require new large developments to contain a percentage of affordable units) and the province has so far refused to grant us that authority.

Residents have asked me why these particular encampments had to be vacated. The answer is simple: public safety. There has been an increasing amount of disturbance and criminal behaviour occurring at these sites and 6 charges have been laid against tent occupants, including harassment, assault, sexual assault, and human trafficking. In my own district at Horseshoe Island Park, police have been called to the area several times in past couple of weeks and residents have informed me of break and enters, trespassing and vandalism, harassment, and open drinking and drug use. I've heard from families that can no longer go to park as they used to because they fear for their safety.

In the last year, the city adopted an empathy-based, human rights approach to these encampments. We are not moving anyone out if alternative safe housing options can't be offered and if safety is not an issue. Several other encampments were not vacated the other day because they have not been as dangerous and problematic as the four that were vacated.

The city has been working with the province for many months now to provide services and offer housing alternatives to the occupants of the sheds and tents. All of the encampments have been visited regularly by the street navigators and provincial housing workers. There were also mental health workers who visited the sites. At all the encampments, the occupants have been offered permanent or temporary housing to bridge to permanent housing. In the past weeks, several residents have taken up those offers and moved to shelters and hotels. On August 18th, ten of the occupants from the encampments took up that offer as well.

The city will continue to work with other levels of government to address the serious issues of homelessness in Halifax. We will continue doing everything within our mandate and with the resources we have to address affordable housing. We will continue doing everything we can to keep all of our

residents safe.

DISTRICT 10 – Councillor Kathryn Morse

Statement pending

DISTRICT 11 – Councillor Patty Cuttell

[DRAFT STATEMENT – August 20]

Over the past few days I have received hundreds of messages from people concerned and deeply upset by the actions taken by HRM and Halifax Regional Police in removing tents and temporary shelters from our municipal parks. I too was shocked by the use of police lines and pepper spray on our citizens. I continue to question the approach and support an operational review of HRP actions, including the use of pepper spray, lack of name tags and blue-line badges. As Councillor, I have no direct influence over HRP operations, but do intend to use my voice to express concerns and that what happened on Wednesday does not reflect what our city is about. We don't want to see this happen again.

I also share the frustration of many citizens around the lack of access to safe and affordable housing. Halifax is in a crisis where housing costs, availability, suitability and security are a daily concern for many, including people and families in District 11. Housing insecurity is incredibly stressful, and Halifax isn't alone in this situation; issues of housing affordability span across our country and solutions require the cooperation and collaboration between all levels of government. HRM Council has been proactively advocating for more support from other levels of government, as well as working within our means to advance projects that will provide more housing options such as the Rapid Housing Initiative, secondary suites, and the affordable housing density bonusing fund.

Nobody wants to see people living in tents in parks, but I know for some, often our most vulnerable, options are limited right now. Halifax has been working with the Street Outreach Navigators and the Province to find more suitable and safe accommodations for the folks living in our parks. I am concerned that some people may have been missed, but I have been assured that 5 people prior to the eviction notices and 10 people who were issued eviction notices were offered and accepted accommodation in either a hotel or shelter. This is a safer living option, with access to washrooms, electricity, and services. The Province is expected to be able to provide people who accepted the offer of help into permanent supportive housing in the fall.

Keeping the issue of affordable housing in the forefront continues to be important. We need solutions. What we don't need is more violence. While the majority of people, including some of our valued community partners, have expressed concerns about housing and the violent confrontation, we need to be aware that confrontation on either side is not acceptable. The housing issue is not going away anytime soon, and many on council including myself are committed to continuing to work on finding and supporting housing solutions. I look forward to hearing from the newly elected Provincial Government on the issue, and working with them on solving the housing crisis we face in Nova Scotia's largest city. In the meantime I encourage people to seek out the facts, speak your truth, and continue to push for change in a non-confrontational way.

DISTRICT 12 – Councillor Iona Stoddard

[SAMPLE OF REPLY TO RESIDENTS]

Thank you for reaching out. Please excuse this general reply, I have heard from hundreds of concerned residents on this issue over the past few days and want to ensure you that your voice has been heard and acknowledged.

The events that took place this week have served to highlight even more the urgent need for affordable housing that exists in the Halifax Regional Municipality. My heart goes out to those experiencing housing insecurity and those at the heart of this issue. Each is an individual with unique life experiences and challenges and there is no one answer or solution to this problem.

The situation that unfolded between protestors and police was distressing and disheartening to say the least. This is not what we want to see happen in our city. I encourage anyone who was present at Wednesday's confrontation who feel the police acted inappropriately to make a formal complaint by e-mailing hrpprofstand@halifax.ca or by calling 902 490-4127.

We need to continue to push for the Province to uphold their legislative mandate for providing safe and affordable housing, shelter, and tenancy rights. As a Municipal Councillor, I commit to doing all I can to assist in finding solutions so that every citizen of HRM has a place to call home and rest their heads.

DISTRICT 13 - Councillor Pam Lovelace:

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

I did not expect that" [in reference to the protest that turned violent]. It happened peacefully at the other locations. [Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]

[STATEMENT FOR CHRONICLE HERALD]

Do you agree with the removal of the temporary shelters and tents, such as what took place on Wednesday?

In part. Due to the increasing number and severity of complaints and criminal activities by individuals in these shelter parks, the municipality enforced the bylaw to remove illegal structures in public parks. This action only occurred after notice was given to individuals in the encampments and in collaboration with community services who engaged to assist with transitioning 10 people to safer housing.

Public parks belong to all people and when the public is restricted from being in our parks, and members of the public or HRM staff are assaulted or threatened, the municipality has a responsibility to restore safety in our public spaces.

The level of violence on Wednesday was completely unacceptable and unnecessary.

Should the remaining structures also be removed or left alone?

I have reached out again to Mutual Aid Halifax to have a discussion about how the municipality can work together with the group installing these structures and along with all other service providers, as well as the province to address the immediate homelessness crisis in Halifax. Placing these structures randomly in parks without the desperately needed health and wellness supports does not adequately address the homelessness crisis and contributes to health and safety concerns.

What is the next step that Halifax Regional Municipality should take in regards to the temporary shelters and tents? Or are there other systems that also need to be at play?

Housing is only the beginning of the transition towards addressing the needs of an unhoused person. Access to addictions services, mental health and medical support, food security, and overall access to wellness and poverty reduction are the next steps. Simply giving a person a structure without wraparound health and wellness services does not offer them the support and services they need to achieve wellness.

DISTRICT 14 - Councillor Lisa Blackburn

[CBC ARTICLE QUOTE]

Emergency calls have come in to deal with fire, sexual assault and even human trafficking, and all of that is now before the courts. 10 people did accept alternative options for accommodations. *[Quoted here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/councillor-says-people-feared-walking-through-tent-encampments-1.6146763>]*

DISTRICT 16 – Councillor Paul Russell

DISTRICT 17 – Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit

Dill, Rowena

From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 5:44 PM
To: Mike Savage; Austin, Sam; Blackburn, Lisa; Cleary, Shawn; Cuttell, Patty; DeagleGammon, Cathy; Dube, Jacques; Hendsbee, David; Kent, Becky; Lovelace, Pam; Mancini, Tony; Mason, Wayne; Morse, Kathryn; Outhit, Tim; Purdy, Trish; Russell, Paul; Smith, Lindell; Stoddard, Iona
Cc: Dube, Jacques; Christie, Sally; MacKinlay, Shaune; Kinsella, Daniel; Ritcey, Neera; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly; Kirby, Heidi; Johnston, Paul; Chisholm, Mary; mediarelations
Subject: UPDATED Q&A document (as of Aug 20) re homeless encampments on municipal property
Attachments: QA - homeless encampments - August 20 2021.docx

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Attached for your reference is the updated Q&A document, as of Aug. 20, being used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

T. 902.490.6198
C. 902.266.8337

HALIFAX



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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From: Murphy, Breton
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>; Cuttell, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>; Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Hendsbee, David <hendsbd@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; Mason, Wayne <Waye.Mason@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>; Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Russell, Paul

<russelp@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Stoddard, Iona <stoddai@halifax.ca>
Cc: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>;
Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>;
Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>;
mediarelations <mediarelations@halifax.ca>
Subject: UPDATED Q&A document re homeless encampments on municipal property

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Attached for your reference is the updated Q&A document being used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

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From: Murphy, Breton

Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 11:03 AM

To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>;
Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>; Cuttell, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>;
Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Hendsbee, David <hendsbd@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Lovelace,
Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; Mason, Wayne <Waye.Mason@halifax.ca>; Morse,
Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>; Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Russell, Paul
<russelp@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Stoddard, Iona <stoddai@halifax.ca>
Cc: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>;
Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>;
Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>;
mediarelations <mediarelations@halifax.ca>

Subject: Q&A document RE: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Apologies, I had intended to attach the Q&A document (not the municipal statement, which is already provided below).

Please see attached Q&A document for your reference.

Regards,
Breton

BRETON MURPHY
HE/HIM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS | PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS & IT

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From: Murphy, Breton

Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:39 AM

To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Cleary, Shawn <clearys@halifax.ca>; Cuttell, Patty <cuttelp@halifax.ca>; DeagleGammon, Cathy <deaglec@halifax.ca>; Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Hendsbee, David <hendsbd@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; Mason, Waye <Waye.Mason@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>; Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Russell, Paul <russelp@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Stoddard, Iona <stoddai@halifax.ca>

Cc: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>; Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>; Kinsella, Daniel <kinseld@halifax.ca>; Ritcey, Neera <ritceyne@halifax.ca>; Schofield, Denise <schofid@halifax.ca>; Denty, Kelly <dentyk@Halifax.CA>; Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; mediarelations <mediarelations@halifax.ca>

Subject: Municipal statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council,

Please see below municipal statement regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks. This statement is being distributed to media momentarily

Also, attached for your reference, is a Q&A document that will be used by Public Affairs (and 311) when responding to inquiries from media (and residents).

Regards,
Breton

Statement regarding homeless encampments on municipal property

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The following is a statement from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding homeless encampments located on municipal property and this morning's presence of municipal staff and Halifax Regional Police officers in a number of municipal parks:

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

Further, the municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing. Temporary accommodation options – including hotel stays and shelter beds – are being made available to occupants of encampments located on municipal property.

Along with offers of support, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed. The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of this, steps were taken earlier this week to provide tent occupants with written notice to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

This morning, Municipal Compliance officers are following up with tent occupants to aid the safe removal of tents from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police are onsite to assist with removal efforts if required.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both affordable housing and homelessness. For more information on the municipality's approach to homelessness and initiatives to support affordable housing, visit [our website](#).

Media Contacts:

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HALIFAX



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Key Messaging

- Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included:
 - ongoing offers of support and services through Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers
 - posting signage in municipal parks
 - visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised occupants of homeless encampments – both verbally and through written notices – that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted
- The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.
 - Since July, approximately 15 former occupants of tents and temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation.
- Temporary accommodation options are being made available to occupants of homeless encampments located on municipal property. It is important to remember that those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and/or offers of support.
 - Over the course of the last two weeks, most occupants of homeless encampments were offered temporary accommodation options including hotel stays and shelter beds. Due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.
 - Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers continue to offer those experiencing homelessness with housing options and/ or temporary accommodations.
- Along with offers of support by community outreach workers, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.
- The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.
 - 3-1-1 has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety.
 - Police have also received dozens of complaints associated with the illegal homeless encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include reports of assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.
- In light of the demonstrated risks to health and safety, occupants were provided [written notice](#) on Aug. 16 to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.
 - The municipality was, and is, hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.20, 2021

- The significant number of tents at Peace and Friendship Park, the Halifax Common, Horseshoe Island Park and the site of the former Memorial Library represented a demonstrated risk to the health and safety of tent occupants and the public. As such, these four locations were prioritized for the removal of tents.
- On Wednesday, Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with the occupants of homeless encampments at four priority locations to aid the safe removal of tents and temporary shelters from municipal parks.
 - Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police were onsite to assist with removal efforts, as required.
 - Municipal Compliance officers provided occupants present at the sites with contact information for homeless shelters, social service providers, as well as community outreach workers that can facilitate access to services and support (including temporary accommodation options such as shelter beds and hotel stays).
 - Five occupants accepted shelter beds and five accepted hotel stays.
 - Summary offence tickets were issued to a number of individuals who were in violation of the Municipal Parks By-Law and refused to vacate municipal property. Each situation was assessed individually to determine if a ticket was required.
 - All occupants of the homeless encampments at four priority locations vacated the premises. None of the occupants were arrested.
 - At the site of the former Memorial Library, a group of people made repeated attempts to prevent the removal of the temporary shelters. As a result, a number of people were arrested for obstructing police officers in the execution of their duties as well as for assaulting police. We expect these individuals to be released on a Promise to Appear in court at later dates.
- All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary dwellings.
- With the safety of all residents as a top priority, it is the municipality's obligation to address the hazardous conditions posed by this encroachment through appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.
- The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness.
 - This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with homeless encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q&A

Q: Why were summary offence tickets issued to occupants of homeless encampments on Aug. 18?

A: The intent was to issue tickets to those who were non-compliant with the [notice issued on Aug. 16](#) and refused to vacate.

Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality's 3-1-1 has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. Police have also received dozens of complaints associated with the illegal homeless encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include reports of assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

In light of the demonstrated risks to health and safety, occupants were provided [written notice](#) on Aug. 16 to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality was, and is, hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

Along with offers of support by community outreach workers, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

Q: Were summary offence tickets issued to all occupants of the homeless encampments that were visited by staff on Aug. 18? (or only to those who refused to voluntarily vacate the tents/ shelters and remove their belongings?)

A: Summary offence tickets were issued to a number of individuals who were in violation of the Municipal Parks By-Law and refused to vacate municipal property. Each situation was assessed individually to determine if a ticket was required.

Q: How many summary offence tickets were issued to occupants of homeless encampments on Aug. 18?

A: On August 18, nine summary offence tickets were issued to occupants of homeless encampments, under the Municipal Parks By-Law.

Q: What are the next steps with the tickets.

A: It is our expectation that individuals will comply and act in accordance with the law and the [notice that was issued on Aug. 16](#). All those who are issued a summary offence ticket have three options:

1. plead guilty by paying the fine
2. plead guilty and appear at court to provide an explanation (which will inform the decision by the court regarding the fine); or
3. plead not guilty and appear at court.

Q: What action did the municipality take on Aug. 18 with regards to tent encampments?

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality's 3-1-1 has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. Police have also received dozens of complaints associated with the illegal homeless encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include reports of assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

In light of the demonstrated risks to health and safety, occupants were provided [written notice](#) on Aug. 16 to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality was, and is, hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

On Wednesday, Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with the occupants of homeless encampments, at four priority locations, to aid the safe removal of tents and temporary shelters from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police were onsite to assist with removal efforts, as required.

Municipal Compliance officers provided occupants present at the sites with contact information for homeless shelters, social service providers, as well as community outreach workers that can facilitate access to services and support (including temporary accommodation options such as shelter beds and hotel stays). Five occupants accepted shelter beds and five accepted hotel stays.

Summary offence tickets were issued to a number of individuals who were in violation of the Municipal Parks By-Law and refused to vacate municipal property. Each situation was assessed individually to determine if a ticket was required.

All occupants of the homeless encampments at four priority locations vacated the premises. None of the occupants were arrested.

At the site of the former Memorial Library, a group of people made repeated attempts to prevent the removal of the temporary shelters. As a result, a number of people were arrested for obstructing police officers in the execution of their duties as well as for assaulting police. We expect these individuals to be released on a Promise to Appear in court at later dates.

Q: Why wasn't the provincial department of Community Services engaged in advance of the Aug. 18 tent and temporary shelter removal operation?

A: The province was advised of the operation on the morning of Aug. 18 as removal operations were underway. It was determined that due to the sensitive nature of this operation, and for the safety of those involved, that no organizations external to the municipality would be provided advanced notice of the specific timing of the removal operations.

It's important to point out that the municipality has been working very closely with our partners – including the province, Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers – over the past several months regarding collaborative efforts. These partners, as well as occupants of homeless encampments and the public, have previously been advised that the municipality would need to take steps to address the removal of tents and temporary shelters on municipal property.

Q: Were municipal parks staff directed to clean up needles at various homeless encampment sites?

A: The municipality's safe disposal protocols were adhered to during the Aug. 18 homeless encampment cleanup efforts. Mainline Needle Exchange was engaged by the municipality to ensure needles were safely removed by experts, prior to municipal parks staff beginning cleanup efforts.

Q: What is the municipality's response to the [statement issued today \(Aug. 20\) by CUPE 108](#)?

A: A previously scheduled meeting took place yesterday (Aug. 19) between management and CUPE 108. All parties agreed to meet again the week of Aug. 23 for a debrief regarding the homeless encampment removal efforts that took place Aug. 18. The municipality will not be providing further comment as discussions must first take place directly with the Union.

Q: Have occupants of the tent encampments been provided housing options and/or temporary accommodation – including the offer of short-term hotel rooms?

A: Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces.

These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through community outreach workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The municipality has worked with the province, as well as community-based partners including the Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support – including a range of housing options and/or temporary accommodation. It is important to remember that those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and/or offers of support.

The Province of Nova Scotia continues to work to secure temporary accommodation options that can bridge to permanent housing.

Homeless Encampments

updated Aug.20, 2021

Over the course of the last two weeks, most occupants of homeless encampments were offered temporary accommodation options including hotel stays and shelter beds. Due to the transitory nature of the occupants of homeless encampments, it cannot be confirmed that all occupants have been directly engaged.

On Wednesday, Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with the occupants of homeless encampments, at four priority locations, to aid the safe removal of tents and temporary shelters from municipal parks. Municipal Compliance officers provided occupants present at the sites with contact information for homeless shelters, social service providers, as well as community outreach workers that can facilitate access to services and support (including temporary accommodation options such as shelter beds and hotel stays). Five occupants accepted shelter beds and five accepted hotel stays.

Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers continue to offer those experiencing homelessness with housing options and/ or temporary accommodations.

Along with offers of support by community outreach workers, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

Any further questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities. Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

Q: Why did the municipality issue notices to tent occupants?

A: Over the last several months, the municipality has taken a progressive approach to education and awareness related to the installation of tents and temporary shelters in municipal spaces. These efforts have included ongoing offers of support and services through the Street Outreach Navigators and the housing support workers, posting signage in municipal parks and visits to sites by municipal staff, who have advised tent occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. In light of the demonstrated risks to health and safety, occupants were provided [written notice](#) on Aug. 16 to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. The municipality was, and is, hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the

installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q: Specifically, what are the public health and safety concerns that led to this decision?

A: The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality's 3-1-1 has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. Police have also received dozens of complaints associated with the illegal homeless encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include reports of assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

All members of the public have a right to use and enjoy the entirety of municipal parks, not just the portions otherwise occupied by temporary shelters and tents. With the safety of all residents as a top priority, encroachment should be acted upon by appropriate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

Q: When were notices delivered to occupants of tent encampments on municipal property? How many were delivered? Where were they delivered?

On Monday, Aug. 16, tent occupants were provided with [written notice](#) to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately. Approximately 40 notices were issued to tent occupants at various sites across the municipality.

Q: How many temporary shelters were there (across all homeless encampment sites) prior to Aug. 18?

A2: On July 6, written notices were issued to occupants in 11 temporary shelters. Since then, three temporary shelters were removed by others (responsibility for this has been claimed by Halifax Mutual Aid Society), three temporary shelters were removed by the municipality on July 9, and two temporary shelters were removed by the municipality on Aug. 18.

Q: How many tents were there (across all homeless encampment sites) prior Aug. 18?

A: There were approximately 30 tents across 12 locations prior to Aug. 18.

Q: How many people were asked to vacate tents and temporary shelters on municipal property?

A: On Aug. 16 there were six notices issued to temporary shelter occupants and approximately 40 notices issued to tent occupants.

Q: How many tents and shelters were removed from municipal property on Aug. 18?

A: The significant number of tents at Peace and Friendship Park, the Halifax Common, Horseshoe Island Park and the site of the former Memorial Library represented a demonstrated risk to the health and safety of tent occupants and the public. As such, these four locations were prioritized for the removal of tents.

On Aug. 18 all tents and shelters were removed from the four priority locations. A total of 22 tents and two temporary shelters were removed.

Q: How many occupants of tents and temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation?

A: Since July 1, approximately 15 former occupants of tents and temporary shelters have accepted housing options and/or temporary accommodation.

The Street Outreach Navigators and housing support workers will continue to offer those experiencing homelessness with housing options and/ or temporary accommodations.

Q: Is the municipality evicting tent occupants from municipal property?

A: The first step in enforcement is always education. Further to the ongoing engagement with tent occupants by community outreach workers to offer services and support, municipal staff have made a concerted effort to advise tent occupants on municipal property that they must remove their tents immediately.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality's 3-1-1 has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. Police have also received dozens of complaints associated with the illegal homeless encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include reports of assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

In light of the demonstrated risks to health and safety, occupants were provided [written notice](#) on Aug. 16 to vacate and remove all belongings from municipal property immediately.

Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property.

The municipality was, and is, hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks.

On Wednesday, Aug. 18, Municipal Compliance officers followed up with the occupants of homeless encampments at four priority locations to aid the safe removal of tents and temporary shelters from municipal parks. Staff members from Parks and Recreation and Halifax Regional Police were onsite to assist with removal efforts, as required. All occupants of the homeless encampments at four priority locations vacated the premises. None of the occupants were arrested.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality has the ability to use enforcement options. The enforcement approach is not preferable; however, it may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

Q: Is this a violation of the tent occupants' Section 7 Charter rights?

A: The municipality has reviewed the cases involving encampments in both British Columbia and more recently in Toronto where, unlike in Halifax, housing is a municipal responsibility.

Given the support and options being made available to occupants of homeless encampments by the province, the actions taken by the municipality are legally defensible and will not serve to deprive these individuals of their Section 7 Charter rights.

Q: What happens if the tent occupants refuse to leave?

A: The municipality is hopeful that occupants of homeless encampments will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Along with offers of support by community outreach workers, including housing options and/ or temporary accommodation, the first step in our approach continues to be focused on education and we will use our enforcement options only if necessary.

If attempts at education prove to be unsuccessful, the municipality has the ability to use enforcement options. The enforcement approach is not preferable; however, it may be warranted depending upon the associated risks.

Q: What locations have been prioritized for the removal of tents?

A: The significant number of tents at Peace and Friendship Park, the Halifax Common, Horseshoe Island Park and the site of the former Memorial Library represented a demonstrated risk to the health and safety of tent occupants and the public. As such, these four locations were prioritized for the removal of tents.

Q: When will the municipality be removing the tents from other municipal property?

A: The municipality continues to monitor several locations and will determine appropriate next steps on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Will tents and temporary shelters be removed if they have not yet been vacated?

A: Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. We are hopeful that occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. The municipality will take steps to remove tents and temporary shelters if they are not removed voluntarily. Non-compliance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: How will the municipality remove the tents?

A: We are hopeful that tent occupants will voluntarily vacate and remove their belongings from the parks. If tents are not voluntarily removed by the occupants, they will be removed by the municipality and/or contractors as necessary. Non-compliance by tent occupants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What will happen to occupants' belongings?

A: Occupants may retrieve personal belongings by contacting 311 or by working with the Street Outreach Navigators.

Q: Is the municipality legally allowed to remove personal property (e.g. tents) from municipal parks?

A: Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law. The personal property used for accommodation, such as tents, is a trespass on municipal property and may be removed.

Failure to remove any temporary or permanent accommodation from any municipal park following this direction from the Halifax Regional Municipality as owner, is an offence under the *Protection of Property Act* for which any person can be arrested and removed from the property.

Q: Are the tent occupants not permitted to use municipal parks?

A: All individuals are free to use municipal parks in keeping with the Municipal Parks By-Law.

Municipal staff have advised tent and temporary shelter occupants that placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted under By-Law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-Law. The municipality has notified those persons having a temporary or permanent accommodation in a municipal park that they must vacate any temporary shelters, including tents, and remove the same together with all personal belongings.

Q: Why is the municipality trying to tackle the tent problem while there are still shelters standing?

A: Similar to temporary shelters, tents cannot remain on-site indefinitely. Placing anything in a park for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation is not permitted.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

The situation at a number of parks, due to the recent proliferation of tents, has created an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and must be addressed.

The municipality's 3-1-1 has received numerous reports from residents including public nuisance complaints and concerns for public safety. Police have also received dozens of complaints associated with the illegal homeless encampments and surrounding areas. These complaints have continued to increase over the last few months and include reports of assaults, domestic disputes, thefts, indecent acts, liquor offences, break and enters, and allegations of threatening behaviour.

The municipality continues to balance its obligation to enforce the rules and regulations with its commitment to an [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness. This approach does not condone or support the installation of infrastructure associated with encampments and requires that steps be taken to address demonstrated risks to the health and safety of occupants or the public.

Q: Has the municipality's approach to homeless encampments changed?

A. The municipality's [empathy-based approach to homeless encampments](#) remains unchanged.

From the outset, the approach has been to allow occupants of homeless encampments to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk.

Q: How is the municipality supporting occupants of homeless encampments?

A: The municipality is continuing to work with community-based partners and the province on housing and homelessness in our region to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

This past winter, the municipality provided \$60,000 through the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) to help Street Outreach Navigators provide short term stays to the most vulnerable individuals – those sleeping outside (including those in temporary structures), without shelter, and/or facing immediate danger of homelessness.

This support also includes increased access to services and supports with the goal of finding more permanent housing. The municipality is the primary funding partner for the Street Outreach Navigators through the downtown business improvement districts for Halifax and Dartmouth. The annual contribution for this year is \$140,000.

Q: Moving forward, what will the municipality do when tents are placed on municipal property?

A: If the municipality receives a report that a temporary shelter or tent is being placed on municipal property, municipal staff will follow up on its removal. Where possible, a Street Outreach Navigator and/or a housing support worker will visit the site to discuss supports available to them. Residents can report tents on municipal property by calling 311.

Q: What efforts has the municipality taken to engage with the Halifax Mutual Aid Society?

A: Municipal staff have made several attempts to make contact with the Halifax Mutual Aid Society, including working with other third-party groups to discuss options for the temporary shelters. At this time, these attempts have been unsuccessful. Staff will continue to make attempts to engage with the society where possible.

Williams, Angie

From: Mike Savage
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Dube, Jacques; Outhit, Tim; Smith, Lindell; MacKinlay, Shaune
Subject: Re: Mayor's meeting with MF LeBlanc

Thx. Have a peaceful weekend. Onwards.

MIKE SAVAGE
MAYOR | LE MAIRE | MÉAR
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY | KJIPUKTUK

HALIFAX

PO BOX 1749, HALIFAX NS B3J 3A5 CANADA
P. [902.490.4010](tel:902.490.4010)

From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:39:10 PM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Outhit, Tim <outhitt@halifax.ca>; Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; MacKinlay, Shaune <mackins@halifax.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Mayor's meeting with MF LeBlanc
FYI, see email string below.

JD
JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

I would like to acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. HRM acknowledges the Peace & Friendship treaties have been signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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From: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:36:53 PM
To: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Cc: Christie, Sally <christisa@halifax.ca>; Chisholm, Mary <chishoma@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Mayor's meeting with MF LeBlanc
Hi Jacques,

I'll ask Mary to follow-up with Brandon next week. I don't recall her using that number in the two meetings with the other service providers yesterday and today. The only number I have heard is the 5 in hotel rooms that Brandon quoted yesterday. In terms of wrap around services, that may have to do with the issue I discussed with you earlier where there

were staffing issues at the OTC space that the province set up in the hotel and had prioritized spaces for those in the crisis shelters.

Brandon did mention during this afternoon's meeting that he would follow-up regarding the hotel issue next week.

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From: Dube, Jacques <dubej@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 7:55:36 PM
To: Johnston, Paul <johnstp@halifax.ca>
Cc: Christie, Sally <christsa@halifax.ca>
Subject: Mayor's meeting with MF LeBlanc
Good evening,

Sorry to be sending this now but need to get to the truth.

MF alleges that no hotel rooms beyond the five were available and those that were, only for only 1-2 nights. No wrap around services either. This is a big problem if true. Please advise.

Thanks.

JD

JACQUES DUBÉ (HE/HIM/HIS)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

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