

Dill, Rowena

From: Blackburn, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:21 AM
To: DeagleGammon, Cathy
Subject: Update.....

I very much appreciate you reaching out to express your concerns about yesterday. Hoping to fill in some of the details. 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.

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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.

o 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.

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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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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.

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.

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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 3-1-1.

Lisa Blackburn (she/her)

Councillor District 14

Upper/Middle Sackville, Lucasville and Beaver Bank

Cell: 902 579-7164

For all things HRM check out www.halifax.ca

For routine municipal issues please call 311

To reach my office, please call Chris at 902 490-1562

Read my latest newsletter here: [D14 August Enews 2021 Final.pdf \(halifax.ca\)](#)

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within Mi'kma'ki,
the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Dill, Rowena

From: Kent, Becky
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Blackburn, Lisa; Purdy, Trish; Lovelace, Pam; Morse, Kathryn
Subject: Re: My response.....

Thank you Lisa.

B

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:10:55 AM
To: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
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Morning folks!

Here's what I've been sending folks today:

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Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Blackburn, Lisa; Purdy, Trish; Lovelace, Pam; Kent, Becky
Subject: RE: My response.....thanks

Thank you Lisa—this is so helpful.

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
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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: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
Subject: My response.....

Morning folks!

Here's what I've been sending folks today:

I very much appreciate you reaching out to express your concerns about yesterday. Hoping to fill in some of the details.

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. These are now before the courts.

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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.

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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.

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 3-1-1.

Lisa Blackburn (she/her)
Councillor District 14
Upper/Middle Sackville, Lucasville and Beaver Bank
Cell: 902 579-7164

For all things HRM check out www.halifax.ca
For routine municipal issues please call 311
To reach my office, please call Chris at 902 490-1562

Read my latest newsletter here: [D14 August Enews 2021 Final.pdf \(halifax.ca\)](#)

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within Mi'kma'ki,
the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Dill, Rowena

From: Purdy, Trish
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Blackburn, Lisa
Subject: RE: My response.....

Thank you so much Lisa!

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

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

HALIFAX



From: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: My response.....

Thank you!
If it helps at all, by all means use it!

L

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To: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Morse, Kathryn <morsek@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: My response.....

Thank you Lisa. This is really good.
Would you allow me to use your explanation to respond to folks on my end as long as I let them know this is from you and I have permission to use it?
If not, that is totally ok! Just wanted to ask..
Thank you again for sharing. This is very helpful.

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

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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 3-1-1.

Councillor District 14
Upper/Middle Sackville, Lucasville and Beaver Bank
Cell: 902 579-7164

For all things HRM check out www.halifax.ca
For routine municipal issues please call 311
To reach my office, please call Chris at 902 490-1562

Read my latest newsletter here: [D14 August Enews 2021 Final.pdf \(halifax.ca\)](#)

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within Mi'kma'ki,
the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Williams, Angie

From: Cuttell, Patty
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Dube, Jacques; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO; Kinsella, Daniel; Johnston, Paul; Mike Savage; MacKinlay, Shaune; Christie, Sally; Schofield, Denise; Denty, Kelly
Subject: Re: Encampment Removal Operational Briefing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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](#)

Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda

From: Mancini, Tony
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:10 PM
To: @DL-Elected-Officials
Cc: Dube, Jacques; Yuriev, Nadine
Subject: My Statement

Hello everyone,

Here is the statement I will be sending out this afternoon:

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.

Tony Mancini (*he/him*)
COUNCILLOR / LE CONSEILLER / NIKANUS WUNQAPEMK
DISTRICT 6 Harbourview – Burnside – Dartmouth East
C. 902.292-4823

Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

Williams, Angie

From: Outhit, Tim
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Dube, Jacques; 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

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

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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Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda

From: Purdy, Trish
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 7:30 PM
To: 480(1) Mayor
Subject: RE: [External Email] Stop evicting homeless people from parks

Good evening 480(1)

Thank you for your email. I share with you the shock and sadness of what happened yesterday.

There seems to have been some miscommunication regarding the events of yesterday. For about 5 months now, HRM staff have been working alongside the provincial government and Navigators to offer temporary housing to every occupant until permanent housing solutions are found in the fall. I am not sure if you have ever had a loved one living on the streets, but I have, and even though it does not make sense to me or you, some people will prefer the street to a bed for a whole host of reasons. It is very sad.

Police were not the instigators of the riot yesterday. They had peacefully removed temporary shelters from three different locations prior to the location where the protestors showed up at the Old Library. The protestors came ready to incite violence.

There have been many complaints made concerning these shelter communities as they have become a cause of concern to public safety. Not only to 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.

Lisa Blackburn has given a very comprehensive account of the events of yesterday and has given permission for me to share:

There were four areas where tents were set up (the old Library, Horseshoe Park, the Common and Peace & Friendship Park). 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. These are now before the courts.

I hope this helps clarify even if it does not solve the problems at hand. Also, Provincial law prohibits politicians from directing the police in any way.

I am hopeful the newly elected PC government will take the housing crisis seriously and will work with Council and HRM to get the much needed supply of affordable housing and supports ready to go asap.

Please reach out if you have further questions or concerns.

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: [REDACTED] 480(1)
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 3:35 PM
To: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>
Subject: [External Email] Stop evicting homeless people from parks

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

Good afternoon Trish,

I am writing to you as a constituent of District 4.

I am writing to tell you that homelessness is not a crime! The actions taken today by city council and the HRP is abhorrent, and I do not support them whatsoever. Two parks on the peninsula is not a high price to pay for the city to allow folks who are unable to find housing to have some microgram of safety and shelter.

First, and emergently, police needs to be called off of the parks where protesters are trying to protect the unhoused folks who have been evicted from the only shelter they had. A child has been pepper sprayed by police. People are being assaulted.

Housing First needs to be the rule of law. Not what "looks bad" for tourism. Find a better solution.

I would be absolutely horrified to see this happen in District 4, which is not in the distant future if current housing predictions come true. How would you boot your constituents out of a park in Cole Harbour, and do nothing instead to support them?

I expect to see change. I don't want to hear your rationale or your hopes. Tangible, visible, and openly apologetic change.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
480(1)

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)

HALIFAX



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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: Mancini, Tony
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Dube, Jacques; Mike Savage; @DL-CityHall-Council-CAO
Cc: MacKinlay, Shaune; Johnston, Paul; Christie, Sally
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 <christisa@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)

HALIFAX



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Dill, Rowena

From: Smith, Lindell
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Kent, Becky; Blackburn, Lisa; Carole McDougall ; Thomas, Anthony
Subject: Shelter Removals and Police response

Hello Commissioners,

I have spoken or been in meetings with all of you (except Tony) to discuss the situation that unfolded this week. I just want to communicate that I have spoken to the Chief on multiple occasions and information about the protest and the response from police have been addressed by the Chief (I will post some links below)

If there are any Board level concerns that you would like to raise please let me know. The chief has already committed to addressing the name tag and thin blue line issue.

- [Press Conference](#)
- [Halifax Regional Police Chief Dan Kinsella's statement regarding yesterday's enforcement at homeless encampments on municipal property](#)
- [Halifax Regional Police update on actions related to homeless encampments on municipal property \(August 18\)](#)

Regards,

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: Smith, Lindell
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:25 AM
To: Lovelace, Pam; Kirby, Heidi; @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

<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>

My email to residents:

Hello,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your prospective and concern. Council is receiving a lot of correspondence on this issue so please excuse the copy and paste reply.

The situation that unfolded between protestors and police was awful and frustrating, and as we move forward, we cannot have a repeat of Tuesday response. [HRM's decision to provide notice](#) to residents living in temporary shelters in HRM parks wasn't a decision that the municipality came to lightly. The recent increase of shelters and tents in our parks, has resulted in an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and had to be addressed, but what took place this week has made it more clear than ever that we have an urgent problem to solve. It is also important to note that none of the encampment occupants were forcefully removed from the sites, all that were asked to leave left without incident, and were provided with information for supports.

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. The Provincial government is legally responsible for housing, shelter, rents, and tenancy. Municipalities are responsible for where buildings can be built, the policy's, and by-laws related to this. We do not have the legal power to require affordability and cannot use land-use bylaws to require affordability. HRM's decision to do this was built on the provinces commitment to provide both immediate, temporary accommodations (hotel) and long-term stable housing. 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 Street Outreach Navigators and Provincial staff will continue to work with all homeless individuals to provide them with housing alternatives. Understanding that support may not have been made available to all of the people involved yesterday, and I will work with our partners to ensure they are connected with these housing options as was intended. More information on our approach to homelessness and municipal initiatives to support affordable housing can be found [here](#).

As the Chair of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners I do have concerns with the reports of officer's lack of identification name tags and wearing thin blue line badges. The Commission or Councillors have no authority to direct police officers or operations, but this is an issue that I will speak to our Police Chief about and take the appropriate actions needed within the power of the Commission.

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 and rapid action is needed.

Regards,

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: Lovelace, Pam <lovelap@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:01 AM
To: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

The only statement I made was verbal to CBC. I do not have a website, yet.

Pam

PAM LOVELACE (she/her/elle)
Councillor | La conseillère
District 13 Halifax
Hammonds Plains - St. Margarets
Cell: [902-225-4624](tel:902-225-4624)

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For routine municipal matters, please dial [311](tel:311).
To reach my Council Coordinator, Quentin Hill, call [902-490-1463](tel:902-490-1463).
For information on HRM related items, please visit www.halifax.ca

It is a privilege to live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

From: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:58:59 AM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

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

HALIFAX



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Dill, Rowena

From: Kent, Becky
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Kirby, Heidi; @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
Subject: Re: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

Hi Kirby

I spoke with Pam on the phone. Much the same as those in the article. Sad at turn of events. I supported the plan in place (alternate shelter/services available to support etc) spoke to Provincial responsibility. Spoke to my experience working with community based service providers and shelters and the importance of supporting the work they are doing. Complexity of the situation.

Becky

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From: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:26:02 AM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments
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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Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda

From: Smith, Lindell
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:13 AM
To: 480(1) Mayor
Subject: RE: Disappointed with the approach taken to deal with shelter communities

Hello,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your prospective and concern. Council is receiving a lot of correspondence on this issue so please excuse the copy and paste reply.

The situation that unfolded between protestors and police was awful and frustrating, and as we move forward, we cannot have a repeat of Wednesday's response. HRM's decision to provide notice to residents living in temporary shelters in HRM parks wasn't a decision that the municipality came to lightly. The recent increase of shelters and tents in our parks, has resulted in an increased risk to the health and safety of both the tent occupants and the public, and had to be addressed, but what took place this week has made it more clear than ever that we have an urgent problem to solve. It is also important to note that none of the encampment occupants were forcefully removed from the sites, all that were asked to leave left without incident, and were provided with information for supports. Yes, a few were issued summary offence tickets which I am not happy about, but this is something I have no control over.

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. The Provincial government is legally responsible for housing, shelter, rents, and tenancy. Municipalities are responsible for where buildings can be built, the policy's, and by-laws related to this. We do not have the legal power to require affordability and cannot use land-use bylaws to require affordability. HRM's decision to do this was built on the provinces commitment to provide both immediate, temporary accommodations (hotel) and long-term stable housing. Wednesday, five occupants accepted emergency shelter beds and five accepted to be placed in hotels. All others chose not to accept those housing options, but Street Outreach Navigators and Provincial staff will continue to work with all homeless individuals to provide them with housing alternatives. Understanding that support may not have been made available to all of the people involved yesterday, and I will work with our partners to ensure they are connected with these housing options as was intended. More information on our approach to homelessness and municipal initiatives to support affordable housing can be found [here](#).

As the Chair of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners I do have concerns with the reports of officer's lack of identification name tags and wearing thin blue line badges. The Commission or Councillors have no authority to direct police officers or operations, but this is an issue that I will speak to our Police Chief about and take the appropriate actions needed within the power of the Commission.

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 and rapid action is needed.

Regards,

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>

From: [REDACTED] 480(1)

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:46 AM

To: Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>; Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>

Subject: [External Email] Disappointed with the approach taken to deal with shelter communities

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

This is not how to handle an affordable housing crisis.

As a city, we can and should do better.

[REDACTED] 480(1)

Williams, Angie

From: Kent, Becky
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Blackburn, Lisa; Mike Savage
Subject: Re: Request

Me too. With compassion and a look to the future.

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From: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:02:56 AM
To: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>; Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request

My plan is to stick to the written points that I have sent to residents and the updated Q and A document. Fingers crossed!

L

Lisa Blackburn (she/her)
Councillor District 14
Upper/Middle Sackville, Lucasville and Beaver Bank
Cell: 902 579-7164

For all things HRM check out www.halifax.ca
For routine municipal issues please call 311
To reach my office, please call Chris at 902 490-1562

Read my latest newsletter here: [D14 August Enews 2021 Final.pdf \(halifax.ca\)](#)

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within Mi'kma'ki,
the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

From: Mike Savage <Mike.Savage@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>
Subject: Re: Request

Lisa and Becky.

Two of the best on Monday on open line show. !!

MIKE SAVAGE
MAYOR | LE MAIRE | MÉAR
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY | KJIPUKTUK

HALIFAX

PO BOX 1749, HALIFAX NS B3J 3A5 CANADA
P. 902.490.4010

From: Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:51:16 AM
To: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>; @DL-Mayor-Councillor <MayorCouncillor@Halifax.CA>
Subject: Re: Request

I have just said yes as well. Lisa, you and I can handle this. 😊
Becky

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From: Purdy, Trish <purdyt@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:41:55 AM
To: Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; @DL-Mayor-Councillor <MayorCouncillor@Halifax.CA>
Subject: RE: Request

Oh my goodness, he asked me yesterday. I haven't responded yet

480(1)

480(1)

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: Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:40 AM
To: @DL-Mayor-Councillor <MayorCouncillor@Halifax.CA>
Subject: Fwd: Request

Hey folks. Anyone else get this. I am open to going on. Haven't responded yet but we need two strong voices here.

Becky

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From: Todd Veinotte - EXT <Todd.Veinotte@rci.rogers.com>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:10:40 AM
To: Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>
Subject: [External Email] Request

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

Becky

Might you be available for our weekly councillors on the hot seat segment Monday from noon until 1 pm?

Todd

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Ce message est confidentiel. Notre transmission et réception de courriels se fait strictement suivant les modalités énoncées dans l'avis publié à www.rogers.com/aviscourriel

Dill, Rowena

From: Kent, Becky
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Smith, Lindell; Blackburn, Lisa; Carole McDougall ; Thomas, Anthony
Subject: Re: Shelter Removals and Police response

Hi Lindell.

I don't think you and I have talked. I would like that opportunity.
Becky

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From: Smith, Lindell <smithli@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:50:53 AM
To: Kent, Becky <kentb@halifax.ca>; Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>; Carole McDougall <carollmcdougall@gmail.com>; Thomas, Anthony <Anthony.Thomas@CSC-SCC.GC.CA>
Subject: Shelter Removals and Police response

Hello Commissioners,

I have spoken or been in meetings with all of you (except Tony) to discuss the situation that unfolded this week. I just want to communicate that I have spoken to the Chief on multiple occasions and information about the protest and the response from police have been addressed by the Chief (I will post some links below)

If there are any Board level concerns that you would like to raise please let me know. The chief has already committed to addressing the name tag and thin blue line issue.

- [Press Conference](#)
- [Halifax Regional Police Chief Dan Kinsella's statement regarding yesterday's enforcement at homeless encampments on municipal property](#)
- [Halifax Regional Police update on actions related to homeless encampments on municipal property \(August 18\)](#)

Regards,
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

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

Dill, Rowena

From: Blackburn, Lisa
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Austin, Sam
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

Happy Friday Sam!

Thank you for sending this along...can I use some paragraphs from this in my own response? I especially like the point about Mutual Aid.

Hope you're able to enjoy what's left of vacation.....

Lisa

Lisa Blackburn (she/her)
Councillor District 14
Upper/Middle Sackville, Lucasville and Beaver Bank
Cell: 902 579-7164

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To reach my office, please call Chris at 902 490-1562

Read my latest newsletter here: [D14 August Enews 2021 Final.pdf \(halifax.ca\)](#)

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within Mi'kma'ki,
the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

From: Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
<Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

This is still draft, but this is or is close to what I will post on my website, will send out to my email list, and will share on social media tonight:

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.

From: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>
Sent: August 20, 2021 9:26 AM
To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

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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Murphy-Jollymore, Brenda

From: Mancini, Tony
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:48 PM
To: 480(1) Mayor; timhalmanmla@gmail.com; darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca
Subject: RE: Homelessness in Halifax

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello 480(1)

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.

I will confirm this homeless crisis is a number one priority for the municipality. The lack of homes for vulnerable residents is the result of years of neglect from previous Provincial Governments. We now have a new provincial government I truly hope this issue is a priority for them. I know it is a priority for MLA Tim Halman. I also know that MP Darren Fisher is always advocating for more federal funding to be made available such as the federal rapid housing initiative.

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.

HRM's decision to remove the temporary shelters and tents was built on the Province's commitment to provide both immediate, temporary accommodations (hotel) and long-term stable housing. 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. HRM will work to connect them with provincial housing support workers to ensure they can access housing options as was intended.

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.

Here are just a few things that HRM has recently done to address affordable housing in our city:

-added a new category in our surplus land policy to set municipal land aside specifically for affordable housing that would be sold below market value i.e. True North in Dartmouth North lots sold for \$1 per lot; -waiving of development fees for affordable housing projects; -delay the payment of Halifax Water fees for up to 10 years for non-profit affordable housing; -requested city staff look at HRM setting up its own housing authority; -the density bonuses we are collecting will be given out as grants to build affordable units; -granted funds (with federal rapid housing initiative) to Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, Adsum House, etc. to build affordable housing, shelters, supportive services; - allowing 2nd suites/in-law suites

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.

Tony

Tony Mancini (he/him)

COUNCILLOR/ LE CONSEILLER / NIKANUS WUNAQAPEMK DISTRICT 6 Harbourview – Burnside – Dartmouth East C.
902.292-4823 Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] 480(1)

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:16 PM

To: Mayor <mayor@halifax.ca>; Mancini, Tony <mancint@halifax.ca>; timhalmanmla@gmail.com; darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca

Subject: [External Email] Homelessness in Halifax

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

Good afternoon,

I don't often feel compelled to contact my representatives in government but the horrific situation in Halifax when police/city employees dismantled the tents and temporary shelters of our rapidly expanding homeless population made me ill.

I feel helpless to do anything to rectify the problem except to contact you and beg, demand that you make this your #1 priority. I cannot think of another issue more important than getting people off the street and into proper homes. Food and shelter, along with clean air/water, are the absolute basic necessities of life. If you are hungry and on the street NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

In the global crisis of police brutality against unarmed citizenry, it is appalling that Halifax now adds its name to the list.

In disgust,

[REDACTED] 480(1)

Dartmouth

Sent from my iPad

Dill, Rowena

From: Cuttell, Patty
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Austin, Sam; Kirby, Heidi; @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

My first draft.

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.

From: Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>; @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

This is still draft, but this is or is close to what I will post on my website, will send out to my email list, and will share on social media tonight:

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.

From: Kirby, Heidi <Heidi.Kirby@halifax.ca>

Sent: August 20, 2021 9:26 AM

To: @DL-CityHall-Councillors&Coordinators <Councillors&Coordinators@halifax.ca>

Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

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
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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

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Dill, Rowena

From: Austin, Sam
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Blackburn, Lisa
Subject: Re: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

By all means

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Blackburn, Lisa <blackbl@halifax.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 3:00:55 PM
To: Austin, Sam <austins@halifax.ca>
Subject: RE: Request from Mayor's Office - Statements on Homeless Encampments

Happy Friday Sam!

Thank you for sending this along...can I use some paragraphs from this in my own response? I especially like the point about Mutual Aid.

Hope you're able to enjoy what's left of vacation.....

Lisa

Lisa Blackburn (she/her)

Councillor District 14

Upper/Middle Sackville, Lucasville and Beaver Bank

Cell: 902 579-7164

For all things HRM check out www.halifax.ca

For routine municipal issues please call 311

To reach my office, please call Chris at 902 490-1562

Read my latest newsletter here: [D14 August Enews 2021 Final.pdf \(halifax.ca\)](#)

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work within Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

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