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September 30, 2021

Mr. John Elvidge
City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
100 Queen's Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding the Clearing of Encampments

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam submitted an Administrative Inquiry seeking information on the encampment removals at Trinity Bellwoods Park, Alexandra Park, and Lamport Stadium Park. This letter provides a response to the items requested by Councillor Wong-Tam. The City of Toronto enforces the clearing of encampments after exhausting all options available to move people in encampments to safe, indoor spaces and when there are serious health and safety risks that require immediate action.

1. *What were the total costs of the Trinity Bellwoods encampment removal, including but not limited to as individual line items:*
- a. *Equipment, Fencing, and Machinery*
 - b. *Police*
 - c. *Private Security*

Table 1 – Trinity Bellwoods Park Costs

| Type of Cost | Amount |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Staffing Costs | \$416,690.04 |
| City of Toronto | \$110,979.04 |
| Private Security | \$127,872.00 |
| Toronto Police Service | \$177,839.00 |
| | |
| Total Non-Staffing Costs | \$191,173.70 |
| Fencing | \$139,109.22 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Miscellaneous (TTC, logistics, meals, equipment, supplies) | \$52,064.48 |
| Trinity Bellwoods Park: Total Cost | \$607,863.74 |

2. What were the total costs of the Alexandra Park encampment removal, including but not limited to as individual line items:

- a. Equipment, Fencing, and Machinery
- b. Police
- c. Private Security

Table 2 – Alexandra Park Costs

| Type of Cost | Amount |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Staffing Costs | \$200,049.41 |
| City of Toronto | \$43,326.83 |
| Private Security | \$90,576.00 |
| Toronto Police Service | \$66,146.58 |
| Total Non-Staffing Costs | \$178,070.48 |
| Fencing | \$146,041.43 |
| Miscellaneous (TTC, logistics, meals, equipment, supplies) | \$32,029.05 |
| Alexandra Park: Total Cost | \$378,119.89 |

3. What were the total costs of the Lamport Stadium encampment removal, including but not limited to as individual line items:

- a. Equipment, Fencing, and Machinery
- b. Police
- c. Private Security

Table 3 – Lamport Stadium Park Costs

| Type of Cost | Amount |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Staffing Costs | \$223,388.72 |
| City of Toronto | \$39,221.54 |
| Private Security | \$39,960.00 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Toronto Police Service | \$144,207.18 |
| | |
| Total Non-Staffing Costs | \$99,545.02 |
| Fencing | \$71,711.50 |
| Miscellaneous (TTC, logistics, meals, equipment, supplies) | \$27,833.52 |
| | |
| Lampport Stadium Park: Total Cost | \$322,933.74 |

The total staffing and non-staffing costs for the clearing of encampments in the three parks is \$1,308,917.37. In addition to the costs outlined above, the cost for sustainment and revitalization in the three parks is approximately \$792,668.00.

4. Who within the City of Toronto authorized and sought the attendance of the Toronto Police Service at the encampment removals?

The City's Senior Leadership Team, led by Chris Murray, City Manager authorized the actions to be taken in respect to encampments. This included the engagement of the Toronto Police Service which was authorized and directed by Tracey Cook, Deputy City Manager, overseeing the encampment file.

5. What rationale was provided to produce such a large uniformed and heavily equipped police presence at the encampment removals?

The attendance of the Toronto Police Service was done to ensure the safety of staff, encampment occupants and the general public. The Police response is developed by the police service based on their assessment of risk.

6. What actual information did the City of Toronto provide to the Toronto Police Service that informed their risk and threat assessments for each of the encampment removals?

The Toronto Police Service gained first-hand information via their attendance at the City action attempted to be undertaken at Lampport Stadium on May 19, 2021. On this occasion, the city staff were met with significant resistance to their efforts to engage with the encamped occupants, which necessitated the engagement of the Toronto Police.

Further, the risk and threat assessments were informed by information shared regarding an increase of harassment and threats towards City staff, social media posts indicating an intent to obstruct the City's lawful enforcement of trespass notices, and the noted conduct experienced at Lampport Stadium on May 19. These are in addition to and amongst other factors that they take into consideration when developing operational plans.

7. Did the City of Toronto meet with any encampment residents and community stakeholders before the removal? If so, please provide a list of the dates, times, outcomes, and the names of all individuals present.

The names of individuals are not included in this response to protect the privacy of those experiencing homelessness.

In total, between January and July 2021, street outreach staff recorded their attendances at Alexandra Park to connect with encampment occupants as 106 visits resulting in 260 engagements, Trinity Bellwoods Park as 47 visits resulting in 161 engagements, and Lamport Stadium as 79 visits resulting in 228 engagements. Other City Divisions engaged with encampment occupants such as Toronto Paramedic Services, Toronto Fire Services, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation however these engagements are not tracked. Throughout this time, City staff have also engaged with individuals supporting those encamped, as well as the broader community on a regular and ongoing basis, however, those interactions are not tracked.

Since the beginning of 2021, 128 people from these three specific encampments have accepted referrals to safe, inside space at a variety of shelter and hotel locations.

Engaging encamped individuals includes discussions about their needs and our services. Offers of access to 24-hour respite site spaces, hotel and shelter programs are most of these engagements, as well as permanent housing. Further, interviews and focus groups occurred with encampment occupants around what their needs were.

As coordinators for this work, collaboration discussions with city divisions, agencies, funded and non-funded partners occurred to discuss how to address risks and vulnerabilities within encampments.

Engagement with community members includes responding to complaints and concerns one on one, with resident groups, bias, neighborhood groups, friends of parks, etc. These conversations usually centre on risks experienced or observed as perceived stemming from a local encampment site.

The Pathway Inside Project, initiated in March 2021, was a coordinated and enhanced approach to addressing encampments that is modeled on work in other North American jurisdictions that have had success in resolving encampments. This approach mitigates the health and safety risks associated with large encampment sites by providing enhanced services and supports to assist individuals in accessing alternative indoor spaces.

The Pathway Inside Project provided outreach and service efforts on four large priority downtown encampment sites – Moss Park, Trinity Bellwoods, Alexandra Park and Lamport Stadium, as well as other priority encampment locations based on need.

In addition to ongoing consultations and engagement with encampment occupants and stakeholders, an Encampment Engagement Survey was conducted in March 2021. This

three-phase survey engaged 72 current and former encampment occupants across a wide range of geographic locations throughout the city. Survey participants received a \$10 cash honorarium in recognition of participants' time and expertise. The purpose was to give a voice to those individuals in identifying their needs and provide an opportunity to those individuals in identifying what supports and services they need to end their homelessness. A summary of result from this engagement was provided in the June report to Council.

8. What is the breakdown from each encampment clearing on the number of people offered permanent housing or temporary accommodations in a hotel or shelter?

Everyone staying at encampments is offered safe indoor space prior to enforcement. In total between January and July, 64 people were offered services at the four encampments prior to clearing. The number of people at each location is listed below in Table 4.

Table 4 – Services Offered at Encampments

| | Individuals on site | Offered indoor space | Declined service | Accepted shelter | Currently in shelter (Sept 23) |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lampport Stadium (May 19) | 14 | 14 | 3 | 11 | 7 |
| Trinity Bellwoods | 14 | 14 | 1 | 13 | 8 |
| Alexandra Park | 26 | 25 *1 person already housed | 11 | 14 | 8 |
| Lampport Stadium (July 20) | 11 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Total | 65 | 64 | 18 | 46 | 27 |

9. How many encampment residents have:

- i. accepted indoor accommodations and/or housing and remained indoors;*
- ii. accepted indoor accommodations or housing and have returned to the encampments;*
- iii. refused all offers of service and/or indoor accommodations and housing; and*
- iv. what happened to those who did not accept housing and were evicted from the encampments?*

In total, prior to clearing at these three encampment locations, 46 of 64 people accepted indoor spaces, and of those, 27 remain in shelter as of September 23. Some individuals referred from an encampment who subsequently leave an overnight program will continue

to move between staying in an overnight program and staying outdoors, so this data should be taken only as a point-in-time snapshot of current status.

The 18 people who declined service on the day of enforcement also continue to be offered services by Streets to Homes if they are encountered again outdoors in another location.

10. What process and operational improvements are City staff considering adopting in future encampment removals and will it reduce the heavy presence of armed police officers and the high costs of such work?

Since January 2021, the City has facilitated the voluntarily clearing of more than 1000 encampments which did not require the involvement of the Toronto Police Service. The City will continue to engage and work to bring people to safer inside space on a voluntary basis. As tents and other structures are vacated, these are removed through a coordinated approach. Where circumstances necessitate it, a more coordinated effort including the Toronto Police Service is determined based on risk and threat assessments.

The City is continuing an approach to help individuals in encampments that focuses on:

- The safety of those living in encampments
- Working with partners to provide essential supports, focusing on health and wellbeing
- Building trusting relationships to support the transition to indoor settings
- Providing access to safer, indoor spaces including shelter and housing

The City is continuing to balance this approach with individuals, with both the Parks and the Streets Use Bylaws which indicate that people are not permitted to erect tents and other structures on City property. These standards exist to ensure the safe, equitable and available use of these public amenities by the community at large.

City staff are committed to a continuous improvement approach to delivering services and will continue to adapt our response to the specific circumstances and context in each situation, as well as in providing services, housing and shelter options to meet the specific needs of the individuals experiencing homelessness. The focus of our street outreach continues to be on establishing supportive relationships as a first step in addressing an individual's immediate health and safety needs, as well as providing supports to move into available shelter and housing opportunities.

Sincerely,



Chris Murray
City Manager