
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2018 Aug 21

FROM: DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

SUBJECT: **CAMP CLOUD PROTEST SITE – SHELLMONT STREET AND UNDERHILL AVENUE**

PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update on the City operation to remove Camp Cloud protest site located along the corner of Shellmont Street and Underhill Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive the report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the City operation to remove Camp Cloud protest site located along the corner of Shellmont Street and Underhill Avenue.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The City of Burnaby's *Corporate Strategic Plan* supports the following goals and sub-goals of the Plan:

- A Safe Community
 - Transportation Safety – “make City streets, pathways, trails and sidewalks safer”
- An Inclusive Community
 - Serve a diverse community – “ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community”
- A Thriving Organization
 - Communication – “practice open and transparent communication among staff, Council and the community”.

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3.0 CAMP CLOUD PROTEST SITE

On August 10, 2018, the City was granted a BC Supreme Court Order regarding the dismantling of Camp Cloud – a protest group located at the corner of Shellmont Street and Underhill Avenue.

It is because of Camp Cloud occupants' unwillingness to address several serious safety issues at Camp Cloud – in spite of requests and attempts by the City to achieve compliance through face-to-face dialogue – that the City applied for an injunction that would allow the City to dismantle Camp Cloud. These safety concerns included: ongoing burning of an unsafe fire; threats and acts of violence by camp occupants; and unsafe and illegal building construction.

On the evening of August 10, 2018, staff posted the Order on site and served the defendants with a 48 hour notice to leave and dismantle the site as required by the Order.

The Court issues the Order and the RCMP determines how to implement the Court's Injunction Order. Given that the occupants of Camp Cloud failed to comply with the Order and vacate the site, RCMP attended the site on August 16, 2018 at approximately 5:30 a.m. to enforce the Order. There were 11 people removed from the camp and subsequently five were arrested without incident for the alleged violation of the injunction, and were released on conditions with a future Court date. A family of three who had been living at the protest camp was assisted by Emergency Health Services and Burnaby RCMP services in order to acquire emergency shelter.

In order to enforce the Order and for safety reasons, temporary closure of Shellmont Street (at Arden Avenue) and Underhill Avenue (at Forest Grove Drive) was brought into place and a letter was dropped off by City staff to residents in Meadowood and Forest Grove neighborhoods informing them of this.

At approximately 7:43 a.m., City staff was informed by the RCMP that the site was safe and secure. Upon receiving the clearance, City staff entered the site and began the dismantling process. For Council's information, as a part of the dismantling process, staff were photographing and taking an inventory of possessions being removed from the site. These possessions were subsequently taken to and secured at a City owned site to allow Camp Cloud occupants to retrieve them at a scheduled time in future should they wish to do so. Information on City's contact number, to retrieve the possessions, was posted at several locations at the site after the dismantling and clearing of the site was completed. Concurrent with the dismantling and removal of the structures, concrete barricades were installed along Shellmont Street and Underhill Avenue where

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there were previous gaps. These concrete barricades, which were primarily installed for safety reasons, will be maintained on an interim basis at the site to discourage installation of tents or shelters.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. that day, the site was cleared and the interim road closures were lifted. A second letter from the City was issued and dropped off by City staff to residents in Meadowood and Forest Grove neighborhoods that night informing them of this.

For Council's information, during the dismantling of the site by City staff a location at the north-east corner of Shellmont Street and Underhill Avenue was established for the media to attend and view the dismantling. Staff was also available for media interviews.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The removal of Camp Cloud protest camp was necessitated due to the occupants' unwillingness to address several serious safety issues at Camp Cloud after repeated attempts by the City staff. The City's goal remains to tolerate peaceful protest, as long as it does not compromise public safety.



Dipak Dattani
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

cc: Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Planning and Building
Director Public Safety and Community Services
City Clerk