

August 8, 2022

Re.: Statement and Recommendations

Dear Homeless Serving Organizations,

We received your statement and recommendations as published on August 5, 2022. We are open to dialogue and conversation and believe that those experiencing homelessness are best served by everyone working together.

We also recognize the importance of agency to those experiencing homelessness and are interested in further discussing how residents at designated sites can take a more active role in how these sites work and are open to discussion of other potential sites that meet the criteria as currently endorsed by Regional Council.

Currently, designated sites have garbage collection, portable toilets, storage boxes and needle boxes. Provision of running water, while complicated, is something we are actively exploring and working to provide. In the meantime we are providing weekly bottled water delivery. While the municipality is not able to support any structure that does not meet building code, we are open to a dialogue about temporary emergency shelters such as those placed on church sites. We are also open to discussion around other innovative solutions, e.g. tiny homes.

As per your request for a 7-day delay, it is our understanding that as of noon on August 8th, there are no residents sheltering in Meagher Park. As such we will be fencing the park and expect the support of service providers in closing the now empty site.

Our preference is not to require police to be involved in enforcement related to encampments. As always, Halifax Regional Police must respond to issues of public safety. The health and safety situation at Meagher Park had deteriorated significantly and prior civilian efforts to encourage people to relocate were unsuccessful. I reiterate that we are open to conversation on the best way to support those experiencing homelessness

Sincerely,



Margaret MacDonald  
Executive Director, Parks & Recreation  
Halifax Regional Municipality

**HALIFAX**

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