

Community Conversation on Sanctioned Encampment: Myers Way

Thursday, December 8th

5:30-7:00 PM

Greenbridge Learning Center - Room 117

9720 8th Avenue SW

Introduction by George Scarola. George asked how many in the audience had visited the 2nd Chance encampment - 10+ people indicated they had visited (show of hands).

Review of encampment details.

Opened up to questions, comments and requests from audience:

QUESTIONS:

- What are the rules?
- Will it be clean and sober?
- Where do people who don't want to move to sanctioned encampment go?
- Who can move people?
- City report says that Myers Way site is too toxic for housing - if so how can it be safe for tents?
- What about illegal dumping?
- What was the equity and social justice lens used in Georgetown?
- Will there be increased police protection for the surrounding neighborhoods.
- What will happen with the campers in vans? There are too many and more are coming.
- Will 2nd Chance expansion hurt Ham Creek and other wetlands on the site?
- What was the selection criteria for choosing this location?
- Why tents and not tiny house at this location?
- What services will 2nd Chance get that they're not already getting?
- Will utilities be provided and which ones?
- What are the environmental impacts of generators?
- These two encampments are 1 mile apart as the crow flies. Why are they both in lower income communities and what RSJI lens was used to determine location?

REQUESTS:

- 24/7 police patrols along the city/county border near and around the encampments.

- Operator agreement include the 6 months that the 2nd Chance encampment has been on site and be back dated to June 2016.
- People serving on the CAC should be compensated for their time.
- Ballard CAC website address.
- We need an OPIOD Czar and a Heroin Czar.
- Lowell Elementary had their pathway closed due to dangers posed by homeless. Asks to have portions of Roxhill Park fenced off to keep campers out.
- Can water testing be completed to determine a baseline of toxicity particularly around the out drain and wetlands?
- Neighboring communities want commitment from the City that if the encampment goes in that they'll address issues including garbage and illegal encampments such as the "Grotto".
- We don't want to have to call SPU for garbage removal. We want regularly scheduled pick-ups.
- HPAC demands the City to respond to all request in writing within 5 days.
- Ask that the city give all service requests from surrounding communities impacted by encampment priority status when responding.
- No parking signs along Myers Way to deter van campers.
- South Park is the super highway between the Georgetown and Myers Way encampment. How will the City compensate the community with goods and services (no cash).
- Dedicated policing and improved lighting.
- Better coordination between SPD and KC Sheriffs Office. Invite store front Sherrifs deputy to next meeting.
- Prioritize or speed up the process to develop the land as park space.
- City should buy the homes of near neighbors who can't sell their homes.
- Add garbage dumpsters and regular pick-up from garbage trucks parked down the street.
- Hold January meeting at the Joint Training Facility.

COMMENTS:

- 99% of garbage along Myers Way is caused by van campers.
- Other near neighbors say 2nd Chance is in a dangerous place - surrounded by prostitution, drugs, chop shop, etc.
- Tent encampments say there is no sense of urgency in solving homelessness.

- How much has been spent? Neighbors will be demanding a tax rebate if problems and lack of service persists.
- Near neighbors feel terrorized; called police 3 times today and confronted homeless person casing homes; SPD has hands off policy.
- Part of the problem is the encampment falls on the border between the City and the County.
- We don't trust the city.
- Illegal encampments in Roxhill Park and impacts on that community.
- City won't engage with volunteers working to restore wetlands and prepare to design a park on the property.
- More officers are needed for the SPD.
- Are we coordinating with EOC and can we take better advantage of these resources, especially since it's an emergency?
- Better integration with federal/state and local governments needed.
- Study paid for by the City says that tent encampments are poor solutions. George responds to Poppe report.
- Colleen Paul spoke to audience about being the face of recovery and the need to humanize people living in the encampments.
- Almost all community members say that encampments don't help or make things better.

COMMENTS FROM CITY REPRESENTATIVES:

- George Scarola talks about next steps and next meeting in January.
- George Scarola on system transformation.
- George Scarola: Clarifies low barrier encampment being stood up at 86th and Nesbit in North Seattle, describes what low barrier means.
- George Scarola: Clarifies that city can't tell people where to live
- Chief Wilske talks about Navigation Team and Navigation Center.
- Sola talks about the Community Advisory Committee.
- George Scarola talks about additional services provided to sanctioned encampments. Sola talks about process/steps for moving people from temporary to permanent housing.
- Mike from FAS clarifies the issue about toxic soil at the site. Describes site disposition, size and other details.
- Chief Wilske noted that 9 additional officers have been added to the SW Precinct.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 PM

