From: Mirtha Becerra
To: Dale Bickell
Cc: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; John Engen; Eran Pehan; Ginny Merriam
Subject: Re: Authorized Camp Site
Date: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:04:42 PM

Thanks Dale for the added background information.
Mirtha

Sent from my iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 12:08 PM, Dale Bickell <BickellD@ci.missoula.mt.us> wrote:

Good afternoon Council Members,

I wanted to provide some additional information about the recent removal of structure at the Authorized Camp Site. In early May, we were made aware of violations to program rules at the ACS. These primarily involved the construction of hard sided structures and the use of fires in these structures. Our site program manager worked with tenants throughout the first week of May trying to gain voluntary compliance with program rules and was unsuccessful.

The Authorized Camping Site prohibits the construction of structures. By maintaining tent based camping, we can maximize the number of individuals we can serve on the site while ensuring that first responders have safe and quick access to each camping site.

Additionally, we prohibit the use of fire in tents or at individual camp sites to reduce the risk of harm to that particular camp site's tenants as well as to all adjacent camp sites.

The presence of both hard sided pallet structures and fire being used inside of these structures presented incredible risk to the tenants of the camping site, and prevented first responders from safely accessing these sites should a health emergency arise. As a result, after an onsite inspect by the Missoula Fire Department and the city's Code Compliance Team, tenants of the site were given 48 hour notice that we needed them to comply with the programmatic rules of the site, as stated above. This notice was provided in person on May 9th and each tenant understood the requirement.

On May 11th, City of Missoula staff, along with contractors including Missoula Works and Rogers International, came on site to assist in taking down structures that remained.

Best regards,

Dale

Dale D. Bickell
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Missoula
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