

My Name is Niki Ottosen, and I live at 3340 Metchosin Rd.

Honorable Mayor and council members, I am here today to ask once again, for a response to my request to file a motion to suspend the 7 to 7 sheltering bylaw before during and after an extreme weather event, as defined by Environment Canada, and the BC EWRP

I am also asking that you repeal Bylaw 23-105 and Bylaw 23-106, or suspend the Bylaws until they can be amended with consultation from advocates and people who are most affected.

I have read through the report that was submitted and passed unanimously by Mayor and council, on Dec. 7th without having gone through 3 readings.

And I have found many inconsistencies and contradictions and I want to explain how it further harms people who are homelessness and living in poverty.

Bylaw 23-105 and 23-106 were developed to.

* increased deterrence *reduce the volume of impounding *and increase effectiveness

But it fails to address the volume of items that end up in the landfill.

Throughout the report it promises to “not expand powers or authority.”

However on page 6 the report states and I quote “the proposed bylaw provides City staff MORE discretion to discard material.

And on page 5 it states that “Those who may be liable for a fee typically lack the financial means to pay, and so the fee has little practical effect.” But on the same page it says “Fees, fines and, perhaps most importantly, inconvenience, are potential components of deterrence. And that “Proposed fees will increase with each impound and will have to be paid before property is returned. So by this rationale fines will go up and people living in poverty won’t be able to pay the fines OR collect the belongs that have been impounded and MORE items will end up in the landfill.

The report states that City staff are impounding up to 10 tons a week.

If even half of that was ending up in the landfill, at today’s rates that works out to \$40,000 a year, paid by taxpayers.

We know that once people have their belongings confiscated from a park. That they have no other choice but to go closer to community and services to provide themselves with items that have been seized. This is why people end up on the sidewalks of Pandora, Rock Bay and Queens. People don’t choose to live on sidewalks; they are forced there by displacement. We also know that Indigenous people are disproportionately over represented in the unhoused community. And yet in the age of reconciliation, the city is still displacing Indigenous people on their lands.

It has been determined by the courts that people have the right to shelter in parks. And the protection of those rights has been decided by the courts based on Section 7 Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. People need a place to shelter. And they need access to Basic human rights.

None of these changes are in line with YOUR commitments and promises to the community on the protection of Human rights, Indigenous Rights & sovereignty, OR your commitment to the environment.

We are asking that you repeal or suspend the Bylaws immediately.

And suspend the sheltering Bylaw during extreme weather.

Thank you