From:

To: gknutson@cob.org, ptmvargas@cob.org, hestone@cob.org, ssidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us, mlilliquist@cob.org, mayorsoffice@cob.org, ccmail@cob.org

Date: Jan 12, 2021 at 12:14 PM Subject: Re 210 social serv.ice needed

Dear City council & whom it may pertain too,

Thank you so very much for holding the emergency low barrier meeting.

I work remotely with the collective trying to find any outreach progra willing to help on site location at camp 210. To no avail due to covid restrictions. as the covid remote restrictions. The homeless don't have access to cell phones and many are too sick or frail to walk the four blocks to the phone made available for their use at 511 Holly Street, while others worry their personal items will be stolen if they leave.

I have been working with Marissa, with outreach Opportunity Council program. It hasn"t been effective at all. I was only able.to get 150 copies of the Release of Information applications with no staff to distribute them. they too on covid remote restrictions.

In an update from Marrissa only one application had been turned in. This is due to lack of on site staffing from any org.

We are in desperate need still of your hell to bridge this gap.

To better asssist & aid getting the services & housing these homeless folks, on your city lawn need.

For our Volunteers are over worked & understaffed triaging emergant consist needs on site.

They do not have enough staff to do all this them selves.

I am also working with Unity Northwest to provide applications for free medical insurance.

They only are alliwing for Pickup and drop off of applications available behind city hall on the Tuesday and Friday COVID testing days, but they cannot assist in helping with the applications awareness or process of filling out or questions about it .

No word if it actually has had any return alolications.

Our limited pool of volunteers have been overwhelmed with the constant triage needs on each given day. Campers are wet continually from rain, wind storms & snow, and sick, injured in pain, some with COVID. Many suffer from mental

illness & other issues needing intervention & even those who don't are upset and worn down with hopelessness. Tensions run high. Volunteers must also coordinate the donations, feeding schedule, and camp cleanup, wind damaged tents or blown away tents in storms, & much more.

I also want to address, Council Liliquist unfounded remarks about campers not cleaning up their site & asking volunteers to.

Campers DO help around camp ,they do not have money for or have laundry onsite to wash & dry wet rained on clothes. They can not buy & prep food sanitarily in these conditions Please be careful in making assumptions when council them selves havent spent time down on camp 210. We understand you need more info. Just ask the collective they will be happy to inform you with correct information. As you help make a difference at camp 210.

We appreciate your help in getting some tiny homes on swift haven sites. We just know their are higher needs at camp & restrictions keeping remaining campers on your lawn.

We need City counsel menbers to help find us on site @camp 210 social services help assess the needs A S.A.P!!

The needs assessments must be completed by the end of January so we will have an accurate count of the campers who have need of low barrier shelters because they are restricted from base camp. We really need help from outside individuals to get this done,

perhaps an organization willing to provide volunteers to help each camper fill out the applications onsite behind city hall with outside tables.

Would you be able to help make this happen? Do you know of a group that could assist us with this time-sensitive task?

If there is anything you can do to help fill these gaps I would appreciate hearing from you, as we all work together to help the homeless situation at camp 210. I would like to work with you to better help all of your city counsil understand the gaps still needed fillimg!

Thank you,
Sincerely,

Scripture:

"My Peace I leave you my Peace I give you"

choose daily the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23