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Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Grp.All.Employees (ALLCOB) <Grp.All.Employees@cob.org>
Subject: January 26 encampment update

City employees,

I'm writing with additional updates about the encampment. Here I will try to summarize events this week, while more detailed information is posted on the City website at www.cob.org/encampment.

Early Tuesday morning we provided the required legal notice to inform people on the City Hall and Library lawns that they must remove their belongings and leave by 4 p.m. Friday, January 29. This follows our intentions, stated repeatedly during the past month, that this encampment, which violates our municipal code, must end in January. Shelter space is available.

All our recent actions have been undertaken with heavy hearts. We have been called cruel, unfeeling, reckless, manipulative, and many other terms, all of which could not be further from the truth. The core City team working on the encampment and I have spent enormous amounts of work and personal time exploring options, negotiating transparently and in good faith, navigating circumstances that were tense to start and have only become more difficult.

It is these difficult and possibly risky circumstances that caused us to close City Hall and the Library this week. The number and nature of incidents at the site have greatly escalated during the time we have been negotiating with the Collective and especially in recent weeks. We are seeing tensions rise and an increase in fights and violence, threats to people who walk by, mental health episodes, drug use, criminal incidents, along with serious public health risks.

Tensions flared during last Friday's confrontation, with intentional agitators joining peaceful protestors as we tried to clear a safety zone around City Hall. Incidents continued over the weekend and we expected further incidents would continue, thus our decision to entirely close City Hall and the Library. And we were correct, as Mayor's Office windows were broken at City Hall this morning while we posted signs outside.

As I have committed, the encampment will end this month. On a parallel track, we will continue the important, challenging work, along with our partners, of increasing shelter options. We hope campers will take this opportunity to check

in to Base Camp, where there are dozens of warm, dry beds, meals and other services, and we continue to diligently explore other options.

Again, we continue to track [key encampment communications using this page of the City website](#), which we update regularly, and we anticipate additional communications in the days ahead. Many of our steps are tactical in nature and will not be made public in advance. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and flexibility. This has been an extraordinarily demanding time for us all and you have continued to provide services with grace and compassion, which is appreciated.

Seth Fleetwood

Mayor

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