

Minute No. 451
Minutes – Council – July 17, 2025

Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Motions

Item No. 1 Encampment By-law Enforcement

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS the Federal government has made it clear that encampments cannot be dismantled without the provision of adequate housing;

AND WHEREAS municipalities retain the authority to determine where encampments may or may not be permitted within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS I have consistently advocated to ensure that our parks, playgrounds, and public spaces remain safe and accessible for children and families;

AND WHEREAS there are well documented concerns from daycares, community members, and service providers regarding unsafe and hazardous materials such as drug paraphernalia being found in parks and playgrounds where children play;

AND WHEREAS fentanyl, a highly potent and deadly substance, has been found in parks and public spaces, and even trace amounts such as residue in discarded packaging can pose serious or fatal risks if picked up by a child;

AND WHEREAS discarded needles have also been found in areas frequented by children, posing serious health and safety concerns, including the risk of puncture injuries and exposure to blood-borne diseases;

AND WHEREAS there has been a concerning increase in encampments within community gardens, spaces where families grow food and children are often present, creating further risk of exposure to unsafe materials;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be directed to:

1. Prohibit encampments in community gardens, playgrounds, spray pads, pools, and community centers spaces specifically designed for children and families.
2. Prioritize enforcement and coordination with outreach organization at these sites while continuing to uphold the City's legal obligations.

The Speaker ruled automatic referral of the motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services, in accordance with Rule 16(1) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.