

My name is Susan Sheehy. I am a volunteer with Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN). I am requesting that council permit a variance to keep a one-legged 67 year old man (John) to have a tent up the entire day at Stradacona Park (as an exception to the required down by 7am rule).

A bylaw person told me that this request must go through council. Therefore, I am officially making the request on behalf of NSUN, myself and John. I have a letter from him which authorizes me to speak on his behalf.

At this time, John has only a tarp and pillow and a blanket due to bylaw removing his tent while he was a distance away from his belongings. Bylaw had been advised that the tent belonged to him and that John was within eye-sight of the officer (who did not approach him for verification).

John also needs to be in close proximity to the bathroom due to the length of time it takes to get up and wheel himself to the washroom (wheelchair is not a mobilized one).

When speaking with bylaw, the officer informed me that he would inform his manager of my request and that the manager would confirm what the officer had told me. He advised that it would be later that morning that I would either get a call or email that day. That was early last week. It is now Sept 20, 2022.

John is on the BC Housing registry and has been for over 5 years. Earlier this year he was housed, but lost his housing while he was in the hospital.

This is an extreme case of the system failing a vulnerable individual. As BC Housing has failed to provide shelter for a vulnerable senior, the least council can do is to allow him some dignity (in case of nature calling) and have warmth over the winter months. John has told me that he believes he will not survive the winter under his current conditions.

Regards,

Susan Sheehy