

From: "Aaron Vidaver" <vid@runcible.org>
Subject: affidavit draft
Date: Wed, 27 Nov 2002 13:57:16 -0800
To: "Noah Quastel" <nquastel@hotmail.com>

- People still there.



Noah, a draft, a quick one. I'll format the rest & have it ready by the time you're here at 3pm. kay? Aaron

1. I, ?

- adjourn til Tues. - Carina Wood

2. The Friends is a volunteer non-for-profit organization that formed on Day 4 of the Woodward's Squat, 17 September 2002, in order to provide material and legal support to squat residents. We assisted with coordination of food, supplies and garbage removal from the inside of the building during the week of occupation. After the occupation we acted as a liaison between individual residents and lawyers. We published a daily newsletter to inform residents about the complex problem of finding housing for them. Throughout our existence as an organization we have not been involved in the direct management of the squat and have on no occasion acted as representatives of the residents. On the morning of Monday 25 November 2002, prior to noon, we removed all our remaining on-loan tents and objects from the Sidewalks in order to avoid the possibility of being in contempt of the injunction order.

3. As a spokesperson and street-level coordinator for The Friends, I have made over 40 trusted friendships with residents of the squat since 17 September 2002. I have attended to the Sidewalks daily in order to speak with people about their housing needs and observe the situation on the street. I have never felt threatened by any resident maintaining a structure on the Sidewalks. At the Woodward's Squat I have felt safe and protected from the violence which is present elsewhere in the neighbourhood. I have never seen any weapon on the Sidewalks except for those carried by police constables who have attended to the Sidewalks from time to time.

4. I believe that all remaining persons maintaining structures on the Sidewalks pose absolutely no threat of violence to City of Vancouver employees or members of the community. I believe all residents are committed to a peaceful resolution of this matter. I do not believe that an enforcement order to authorize police action is required or appropriate to the resolution of this matter.

5. I believe that all remaining persons maintaining structures on the Sidewalks are in genuine need of decent and dignified housing. I am concerned that the process by which the City of Vancouver has generated statistics to produce reports on the needs of these persons is deeply flawed. Many of the residents do not trust Judy Graves, the only staff person the City has assigned to process over 200 people. These residents do not trust Judy Graves to provide adequate housing for them. These residents cannot work with her because of what they consider to be false statements made by her in her affidavits and the failure of many of the arrangements she had promised. Now, over the past four days, when Judy Graves has approached people to offer them emergency shelter beds they have often declined because they do not believe she is competent in this matter. When this has occurred the City has interpreted these incidents as ~~are~~ ?refusals? of housing. This is certainly not the case. The City must now assign a more suitable staff person to process these residents.

6. The Woodward's Social Housing Coalition is working in a systematic and co-ordinated way with City of Vancouver Councillors-Elect Jim Green, Tim Louis and Ellen Woodsworth, The Portland Hotel Society, The Dominion Hotel, The Provincial Housing Corporation, emergency shelters, and church and community support groups to ensure that a peaceful solution to this matter is provided no later than early next week, after the swearing-in of the new City Council on Monday 02 December 2002. I believe that we are five days away from a peaceful resolution to this matter and that an enforcement order would severely disrupt the process of peaceful resolution.

On Wed, 27 Nov 2002 07:08:52 +0000
 "Noah Quastel" <nquastel@hotmail.com> wrote:

