



Memorandum

DATE: October 26, 2004
TO: Chief Pentony
FROM: Capt. Clement Rusk **VIA:** Direct
RE: Tent City Recap
CC: Capt. Rusk's file, Tent City File

Tent City has been in the City of Shoreline from April 19th, 2003 to June 22nd, 2003. I met with Scott Morrow, from Share Wheel, the organizer of Tent City and Jeff Horton, the Pastor of the Shoreline Free Methodist Church at a neighborhood meeting prior to Tent City moving into Shoreline. After this meeting I directed officers to stop by and chat with the organizers periodically while Tent City was in operation and ensured that both Share Wheel and the Church had the ability to communicate directly with me. I also made periodic visits to Tent City to meet with the organizers and also periodically spoke with Jeff Horton.

During this time the Church had no issues with Tent City, feeling that they had lived up to their part of their agreement. During my contacts with Tent City I noticed that the 24 hour security tent was always staffed and someone was present to answer questions or deal with problems. The staff at Tent City is all volunteer and was elected on a weekly basis by the residents. During most of my visits I noted that Tent City seemed to be full, with little if any room for additional tents to be erected. The permitted occupancy was to be 100 residents. During their stay, the staff did maintain a log of the residents, listing people they had expelled and the reason why. They also went to the nearby library to check the King County Sex Offender website to attempt to eliminate known sex offenders from staying at the camp. The weakness of that system was that occupants were not required to have identification. The Porta Potty area and the dining area seemed to be clean and orderly. Tent City was unsightly due mostly to the proliferation of older blue tarps covering many of the individual tents. After Tent City left I went to the Church and saw that the grounds were very clean, and they were waiting

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for the temporary fences and Porta Potties to be picked up by the vendors. There was no garbage on the grounds.

I checked with Shoreline Fire. They had six calls for medical services at Tent City. There were no fire calls.

I found 10 police calls that were directly attributable to Tent City, with an additional four calls that were probably related. The calls for service included serving a material witness warrant in an SPD Assault case where one occupant of Tent City was arrested. There was also a possible strong arm robbery for cigarettes in the area that was believed to be committed by residents of Tent City. Most of the calls for service involved residents of Tent City that were asked by the staff of Tent City to leave for either disorderly behavior or theft.

There were also several reports from neighbors in nearby areas who suspected residents of Tent City of using or selling drugs in the surrounding neighborhoods. No drugs were found and no drug arrests were made during this period. On the Narcotics Activity Reports it was impossible to prove that the suspects were from Tent City as the suspects were not located.

CRT received three calls regarding Tent City. Two of the calls were general concerns about having Tent City in their neighborhood. The other call involved a 13 year old youth being approached by someone wanting cigarettes. This was very near Tent City and it is very possible that the suspects were from Tent City. The caller was referred to the Police, however our records indicate that she did not call.

The major unintended consequence of Tent City was that residents of Tent spilled into the neighborhoods after being evicted from Tent City or not allowed into Tent City. Of note was a registered sex offender from California who was denied access to the camp because of his sex offender status. He was later contacted by patrol after he set up camp in Echo Lake Park. While evicted residents or potential residents that are not allowed into Tent City are given bus tickets after being evicted, there is no guarantee that they will actually leave the area as directed, and no provision is made for them if the busses are not running at that time of day.