

09 November 2011

Liaison Team Meeting with representatives Mayors Office

Present:

Jennifer Yokum - Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Adams

Amy Ruiz - communications director

Nat - Safety/Peacekeeper POC

Sam - fire marshall POC

Alaina - police liaison POC

Jim - city hall POC

meeting start: 5:00 p.m.

Jim: Has anything changed since yesterday?

Jennifer Yokum: Since the beginning, Sam has talked about behavior matters. Balance between public health and safety and free speech.

Amy Ruiz: Sam said that it is out of balance right now.

Jennifer Yokum: 2 events -- OD, and molotov cocktail. Things that you don't have control over.

If mayor changes his position, to enforce park rules, what are your suggestions on how we can do that?

Alaina: what does park rules mean?

Jennifer Yokum: all park rules

Jim: ON our way in, KGW reporting that police have plans to raid camp and are just waiting for the ok from the mayors office

Amy Ruiz: many different contingency plans have been developed ahead of time.

- that is a part of their job and standard operating procedure - not new news

Jim: will tomorrow's press conference communicate a change in position?

Amy Ruiz: Conversations are ongoing, meetings tonight...don't know what will come of that so need to wait for tomorrow and the press conference.

Sam is considering various scenarios. Wants to know what OP suggests as the best way to move forward

Jim: Mayor has met with police chief

Amy Ruiz: voicemails full, requests for "what's happening". response to so many requests for interviews is press conference

Jim: this paper says you can accommodate up to 3 occupy reps for press conference. 10am tomorrow, at city hall in rose room. Why response now if plans have been in place for awhile?

Amy Ruiz: response to what the Oregonian reported and incidences last night

Jennifer Yokum: news of arrest of arsen, conflation of conversations

Jim: to clear up David Hodgsen: he's not a person who's a part of OP, he just arrived in camp a few days ago

Jennifer Yokum: he was in SF occupy

Jim: not a member of OP

Jennifer Yokum: I'm not blaming you guys. We understand that there is a conflagration of events.

Jennifer Yokum: Do you have suggestions on how to make the camp safe? we are going to continue conversations.

And, if we were to evolve our position do you have suggestions on how we do that?

Jim: We have been reiterating day after day that this is a nonviolence movement, concensed upon by the GA multiple times. We want you to know this is a lone individual.

Jennifer Yokum: What will you do tonight?

Jim: Announce at GA

Jennifer Yokum: that's not working. Is there anything else that can be done?

Jim: 99% of people on camp are nonviolent. even if they are on drugs

Jennifer Yokum: ok

Jim: OD: safety team has been working on these issues

Jennifer Yokum: statistics have been in up-tic.

Amy Ruiz: news reporters are being harassed at a level and in a way the City has never seen. I received a call from the head of a news outlet requesting that we close camp because it is not a safe environment

Jim: i've been in contact with reporters. corporate media wants us to go away for political reasons.

Jennifer Yokum: I've seen the shift in the public from "i support" to "what's going on?"

Jennifer Yokum: What does a win look like?

Jim: continued escelating pressure on the fed gov't to address the grievances of the 99% and economic inequality

Jim: our main priority is to maintain space and organizing infrastructure challenge the system and address economic injustice

having access to Occupy space 24/7 while building alternative models (to current society)

Jim: examples of visions for committee and OP ops moving into the future were given
- engineering (having a safe space to work on projects)

Jim: does the city have a building for us?

Jennifer Yokum: expressed questions about liability and asked if we have a space in mind

Jim: what if we have access to donation of an insurance bond?

Amy Ruiz: is the lotus conversation continuing?

Jim: yes

Jim: absolute is need for a building where we 24hr access and full control

- money is an issue

- if someone has a building they want to pay for and give to us, this is less desirable (then us taking space) but still acceptable

Jennifer Yokum / Amy Ruiz: what about the GA?

Jim: decision by committees to move out of camp would be made by each individual committee

Jennifer Yokum / Amy Ruiz: health codes and issues with providing services would still be an issue

- have concerns over food prep (commercial kitchen needed)

- who would stay/go? would the people who stay be people who are there just for services?

Jim: some people would stay, some would go...people here for both politics and services will stay

Jennifer Yokum: what about restoration of the park? OP has committed to this.

Jim: there are 2 committees committed to park restoration (gardening and engineering) and there is money set aside for this.

Jennifer Yokum: Time is running short

Many community supporters with money who support movement and not the camp (as is) but if there is another major incident then you will lose this support.

- what will a transition look like?

Amy Ruiz: would full daytime access to a park work for a transition?

Jim /Nat: there likely wouldn't be much interest in that

-does not allow us to use our infrastructure

Amy: City does not have a building

Jennifer Yokum: what is our contingency plan for the next day if we have to leave camp? what if there is a....

- meningitis outbreak? (staff infections are a pre-cursor - confirmed to be present in camp)

- fire?

Jim: committees have plans

some individuals will stay and some will go

Amy Ruiz: what can the mayors office do to help?

what buildings is OP looking at?

Jim: lotus, whickman building

Jennifer Yokum: we have been willing to lobby for OP from the beginning and have communicated that many times

- if there is another incident this will change

- need more info to be able to support OP finding/using a building space

Sam Adams supports broader goals but needs info and to be empowered to be an effective advocate for OP

time is pretty much up.

Summary:

Any new information or a change in position will be communicated at the press conference. City feels that they have been trying to work with us without success or progress, camp is not safe and our presence undermines the ability for the city and social service agencies to do their jobs advocating for homeless and vulnerable youth populations. City needs OP to articulate how they can support the advancement of the greater goals of the Occupy Movement and the dismantling of the current OP camp. It was expressed by the City that the current camp does appear to be an Occupy camp but has turned into something different -- not healthy -- and more violent incidences will undermine our movement. If there are violent/ life threatening incidents then City

support and ability/desire to advocate for the Occupy Movement and the OP camp will disappear. City expressed that we need to move fast because time is up... many opportunities to deal with issues already given.

POC contact phone line for safety team provided to City and PPD.
- connected to safety team POC and member of liaison team

Hard copies of crime statistics from the PPD were provided.

Follow-up meeting set for tomorrow morning after press conference.