

Memorandum

To: Darrell Rodgers

CC: Bill Lasby

From: Leonard Di Toro

Date: 11/21/2013

Re: Nickelsville Camp Inspection at 12914 MLK Jr. Way So., Seattle, WA 98178;

Tracking Number CO0080265

On November 18, 2013 Public Health Seattle-King County received a complaint regarding the sanitary conditions at a homeless camp located at 12914 MLK Jr. Way So., Seattle, WA 98178. I inspected this encampment on Tuesday November 19, 2013 and observed the following conditions at the camp:

- Rubbish, debris and bags of garbage were stored in an open utility trailer at the south end of the encampment. The bags of garbage were visibly breached by rodents and birds. The camp security person told me that garbage is removed about every two weeks contingent upon raising adequate funds to pay for transfer station fees. Utilizing an available pick-up truck the garbage is self-hauled by people living at the camp.
- There were numerous metal trash cans with lids staged throughout the camp. When garbage cans are full the bags are removed and stored at the utility trailer discussed above.
- There are two portable toilets at the camp. Both toilets were well maintained and had toilet paper and hand sanitize in the toilet area. I was told that the toilets are pumped at least once per week or as needed. I was told that there are 43 people living in the camp at the present time.
- The camp has a covered food preparation area that is located near the north end of the property adjacent to the camp entry point. I observed portable ice coolers that I was told were being used to store perishable food. I also observed dry food storage in metal trash cans with secure lids. The camp area was generally well maintained. Propane cooking stoves were present.
- Potable water is transported to the camp in 5-gallon containers. I observed a 5-gallon water container with a distribution valve at the base of the container. I was told that water from this container is used for hand washing and dish rinsing with temporary

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waste water collection in a 5 gallon bucket. The waste water (i.e. graywater) is disposed on the surface of the ground; there is no holding tank for waste water collection at the camp.

Recommendations:

- Garbage must be stored in reusable containers that are rigid, durable, corrosion resistant, water tight, rodent proof and equipped with close fitting covers. If the containers are handled manually they must be 32 gallons or less. And/or,
- Garbage must be stored in detachable containers that are durable, corrosion-resistant, non-absorbent, non-leaking and have either a solid cover or screen cover to prevent littering.
- All garbage must be removed from the camp at least once per week.
- All graywater must be collected in a holding tank or similar container for storage. Grey waste must be disposed at a location with a connection to sanitary sewer, a wastewater treatment plant or removed by a licensed waste water pumping company (e.g. septic pumper).