

**Resolution 2023-03**  
Northeast Community Council (NECC)

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*March 16, 2023*

**Opposing Repurposing of Centennial Campground and Municipal Parks**

Whereas, the Administration failed to notify the Assembly, Northeast Community Council (NECC), and local residents of last summer's emergency repurposing of Centennial Park, never adequately justified the irresponsible and reckless decision, and refused to respond to local concerns; and

Whereas, the repurposing of Centennial Campground last year created an unnecessary humanitarian crisis. The Administration forced houseless people out of the Sullivan into a campground that posed unsafe and inhumane conditions without supportive services or security. A police officer was shot, children were traumatized, and many suffered. Tents were ripped into by wildlife and five bears were shot and killed. People experiencing homelessness were abandoned and left to local residents to help; and

Whereas, Centennial Campground and other municipal parks are unsuitable to place people experiencing homeless as clearly illustrated by the tragedy last year; and

Whereas, the NECC previously adopted [Resolution 2022-10](#) addressing this repurposing, finding that the emergency repurposing of Centennial Campground was unacceptably unnoticed and ill-advised; and

Whereas, the Federation Of Community Councils (FCC) adopted [Resolution 2019-01](#) in 2019, finding that the Mayor's Office must give at least 31 days notice to Community Councils to allow proper time for residents to provide input; and

Whereas, the MOA prohibits all park facility closings until the Parks Director determines it is in the best interest of the public ([AMC 25.10.003](#)), and Parks and Rec violated municipal law by closing Centennial Campground without this finding; and

Whereas, the municipal government failed in their responsibility to provide proper support to their most vulnerable citizens. Displaced people were not supplied with necessary resources to maintain basic living conditions and were dumped into a campground with trash bags of goods often without shoes or anything to sit on; and

Whereas, the Mayor's choice last summer hurt small and local businesses in Muldoon by removing the customer base of visitors from Centennial Campground that supported our stores; and

Whereas, the northeast community and local neighbors have worked for years to keep Centennial Park maintained with the help of the Weed Warriors and other volunteer groups and secured the \$500,000 grant to upgrade the campground; and

Whereas, the actions of the Administration radically undermined the wellbeing of residents, campground patrons, local businesses, people experiencing homelessness, and our entire community.

Be it now resolved that the NECC hereby condemns the repurposment of Centennial Campground or any municipal parks to relocate houseless citizens.

Be it further resolved that the Administration consult and seek advice from the Assembly and Community Councils prior to taking action on addressing homelessness in the city or impacting our parks in accordance with FCC [Resolution 2019-01](#).

**Resolution Vote:** For 17 Against: 0 Abstain: 2

Ronald P. Meehan

Ronald P. Meehan President, NECC

Murray Crookes

Murray Crookes, Secretary, NECC