

**Guillen, Abel**

---

**Subject:** RE: Lafayette Park

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 10:47 AM

**To:** DeVries, Joe; PWA Call Center; Woo, Winnie; Levin, Brooke A.; Jones-Taylor, Audree V.; Lew, Andrew; Landreth, Sabrina; Schaaf, Libby; Benavidez, Stephanie; Council President; Reid, Larry; McElhaney, Lynette; Kalb, Dan; Guillen, Abel; Gallo, Noel; ebrayard@oaklandnet.com; Brooks, Desley; Campbell Washington, Annie; Ivey, Brenda; Downing, David; Armstrong, Leronne; Jones-Taylor, Audree V.; Rubin, Talia Y.

**Subject:** RE: Lafayette Park

Mr. DeVries,

Thank you for your response. We truly appreciate your efforts in addressing these issues and sincerely hope things will improve as a result. Please keep me updated.

**Best Regards,**

---

**From:** DeVries, Joe [<mailto:JDeVries@oaklandnet.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 5:15 PM

**To:** PWA Call Center; Woo, Winnie; Levin, Brooke A.; Jones-Taylor, Audree V.; Lew, Andrew; Landreth, Sabrina; Schaaf, Libby; Benavidez, Stephanie; Council President; Reid, Larry; McElhaney, Lynette; Kalb, Dan; Guillen, Abel; Gallo, Noel; [ebrayard@oaklandnet.com](mailto:ebrayard@oaklandnet.com); Brooks, Desley; Campbell Washington, Annie; Ivey, Brenda; Downing, David; Armstrong, Leronne; Jones-Taylor, Audree V.; Rubin, Talia Y.

**Subject:** RE: Lafayette Park

Mr.

On behalf of the City of Oakland, I apologize that your email went without a response since last month but I assure you the City is taking action on the problems in Lafayette Park. Although our Public Works team has been conducting regular clean-up efforts and our Human Services Outreach Team has conducted outreach to this population I recognize that this is not enough. This morning I spoke with the Deputy Chief who oversees this command area and they are prepared to conduct park curfew enforcement now that more officers have been deployed to the Metro Unit. I appreciate that you understand the complexities of the homeless problem and we are working on short and long term solutions to this problem.

As we did in late August, we will conduct a coordinated removal effort that includes Human Services, Public Works, and OPD. We are already looking into why the bathrooms are not being locked, this appears to be an oversight that we can correct quickly. We have asked the HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County to assist by providing Sharps Containers to Intravenous Drug users to prevent the spread of the needles. In regard to the personal belongings that have accumulated, our crews do their best to remove junk and debris but, based on recent court cases, if we are overly aggressive in removing and destroying what someone considers a personal belonging we will be subject to lawsuits. Both the Cities of Los Angeles and Fresno have had to pay out million dollar claims for removing and destroying people's property when clearing homeless encampments which is why Oakland is especially careful in dealing with the accumulation of material.

As soon as the next coordinated effort is scheduled, I think you will see some positive results however, I do not want to suggest we will completely remove the problem.

Thank you for your patience,

**Joe DeVries**

*Assistant to the City Administrator*

City of Oakland

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 238-3083

[jdevries@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jdevries@oaklandnet.com)

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:08 PM

**To:** PWA Call Center; Woo, Winnie; Levin, Brooke A.; Jones-Taylor, Audree V.; Lew, Andrew; Landreth, Sabrina; Schaaf, Libby; Benavidez, Stephanie; Council President; Reid, Larry; McElhaney, Lynette; Kalb, Dan; Guillen, Abel; Gallo, Noel; [ebayard@oaklandnet.com](mailto:ebayard@oaklandnet.com); Brooks, Desley; Campbell Washington, Annie; Ivey, Brenda; DeVries, Joe

**Subject:** FW: Lafayette Park

I've contacted everyone on this email almost a month ago to do something about this park and nothing has been done. I didn't even receive one reply from anyone. I talked to the public works department and they said they were going to escalate to a supervisor but that was almost 2 weeks ago and still nothing. I walked over to discuss this with some of the city workers that were cleaning the park today and they said there was nothing they could do. I was also told that they would not go up on a latter to address the issue with all of the blankets, clothing and garbage on the top of the bathrooms. The homeless encampment has only grown to about twice the size since my last email. My residents are scared to go into this park at night and walk their dogs and will not take their kids to play at the play structure due to many needles found on this play ground and the fact that there are passed out people sleeping on the benches throughout the entire day. Bathrooms remain open at night even though a worker told me they are supposed to be locked at night and reopened during the day. We continue to struggle with the dangers and the horrible condition of this park with zero response from anyone from the city and police. As I stated in my previous email, we are sensitive to the homeless situation in Oakland but don't feel we need to live with the conditions that exist in this park and believe as residents of Oakland we should be able to enjoy the city parks as well. I look forward to someone taking responsibility for these issues. Thank you.

**Best Regards,**

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 2:39 PM

**To:** 'Oakland Parks and Rec'

**Cc:** 'opwccallcenter@oaklandnet.com'; 'wwoo@oaklandnet.com'; 'blevin@oaklandnet.com'; 'ajones-taylor@oaklandnet.com'; 'alew@oaklandnet.com'; 'jlong@oaklandnet.com'; 'slandreth@oaklandnet.com'; 'lschaaf@oaklandnet.com'; 'sbenavidez@oaklandnet.com'; 'president@oaklandnet.com'; 'lreid@oaklandnet.com'; 'lmcelhaney@oaklandnet.com'; 'dkalb@oaklandnet.com'; 'aguillen@oaklandnet.com'; 'ngallo@oaklandnet.com'; 'ebayard@oaklandnet.com'; 'dbrooks@oaklandnet.com'; 'acampbellwashington@oaklandnet.com'

**Subject:** Lafayette Park

I am contacting you regarding a situation in Lafayette park on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. There is a homeless encampment set up in this park for several weeks now. The material is boxes and other items set up for a living shelter approximately 5 cubic yards in size. We own the property directly next to this park at 901 Jefferson and this has been an unsightly mess for too long. We contacted police but have not seen anything done about it to date. There are also at least 6 other homeless people in the park with blankets and garbage strewn throughout the park. Also as our building is 5 stories in height we can see down on the roof of the bathrooms and there is at least ten big garbage bags, blankets and other material on the roof of this structure which is also very unsightly and has been there for about 9 months. One of the main problems with this park is that the bathrooms are never locked so they are continuously used each night for

illegal drug use as we have found several needles in the bathrooms. We are sensitive about the homeless situation in Oakland however drug use in the bathrooms and other illegal activities are a regular occurrence in this park to 3am in the morning which pose a danger and disturbance to our residents. Furthermore we understand there may be homeless sleeping on park benches all day which exists now but I don't believe you can set up a permanent encampment in the city parks. We have contacted police about the illegal activities but receive no response. That is however a different matter which you have no control but we do feel the following things that you do have control over will help improve conditions in the park. We would like to see this park cleaned up and the above mentioned items removed as well as a policy to lock the bathrooms at dusk to avoid further drug use in those facilities. Thank you and I look forward to your response.

**Best Regards,**