



Diane Nichols Tradd
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Mary Shannon Thomas, LICSW, Dir. Homelessness Initiatives
Christine Clancy, P.E., DPW Commissioner

DATE: July 14, 2020

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 6/23/20 BY COUNCILOR SAMARAS
REQUEST CITY MANAGER HAVE PROPER DEPARTMENT SEE TO THE
CLEAN-UP OF ECUMENICAL PLAZA

The Director of Homelessness Initiatives has been made aware of the concerns related to loitering at Ecumenical Plaza, and has engaged with various providers to assess the scope of the issue. The area is not known to the City's Opiate Response team (the COOP) and is not an area with consistent service from any known providers in the area. The Director will assess and attempt to engage with individuals who may be loitering in the area, and redirect them to access services at other identified locations in the city, such as the Lowell Transitional Living Center or the temporary day program at the Eliot Church on Summer Street. The Director has also reached out to St. Patrick's Church and Holy Trinity Church for more information about specific issues and to hear their concerns.

DPW has received previous reports of trash overflowing at the park barrels located at Ecumenical Plaza. Waste Management (WM) is responsible for picking up these barrels. The reason for the overflow was a combination of illegal dumping and homeless people utilizing the barrels for their own purposes and camping out at the plaza. Upon being made aware of this situation, DPW turned power off the outlets in the park to deter loitering and also coordinated with WM on picking up the barrels per the contract requirements.