

## **SODO BIA Supports Airport Way Camp Closure**

The SODO Business Improvement Area fully supports the Mayor's action to close the encampment at Airport Way & Royal Brougham. It was always intended to be a short-term measure to accommodate people displaced by the cleanup of the Jungle while they waited placement in other shelter and housing. Having served that purpose, it is now time to relocate the remaining long term inhabitants, permanently close the encampment, and clean up the area.

Conditions at the encampment have deteriorated and are creating ongoing public safety and public health hazards to the people living there and for those working in the area. Biohazards, rats, mounds of garbage and criminal activity are victimizing the inhabitants and the entire SODO district. Due to these unsafe and deplorable conditions, offering alternatives to the remaining inhabitants and closing the encampment is the only compassionate and reasonable course of action.

All the homeless encampments in SODO have been unsafe and unhealthy for those who live in them and the people who work and do business in the area. We urge the City to take steps to ensure this encampment is permanently closed and does not simply move to another part of SODO.

We are empathetic to the plight of the homeless, but strongly believe that encampments are not an acceptable housing solution for our City's unsheltered residents. We do support effective measures to help people off the streets and rapidly house them in a housing first strategy.