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The Members of the Omaha Community

RE: Proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw

As you will be aware, the Omaha Beach Community Inc. ('OBC') has been engaging with Auckland Council regarding the deficiencies identified in their proposed freedom camping bylaw, and the way in which it was proposed to treat Omaha Beach (overturn the current prohibition under the Legacy Bylaws; use delegated powers to take away the current protections under the Reserves Act; permit camping in our parking bays and on our streets, etc.).

This engagement with Council, over a number of months, included advice, letters, meetings and producing draft proceedings for a judicial review by our legal advisors – Barrister, Brian Latimour, and Bob Hollyman, QC.

Significant work has also been undertaken by the OBC's Freedom Camping Sub-Committee, but particular recognition must go to our President, Chris Allan; Vice President, Murray Beatson; and our Freedom Camping Sub Committee member, Fiona Hyland, for their tireless efforts. Also warranting specific mention for his input and guidance is Graham Painter (a past President of the OBC).

The efforts to date, and legal challenges, culminated in the meeting held today by the Auckland Council Governing Body.

The meeting of the Governing Body yesterday, comprising the Mayor, Phil Goff (Chairperson); and all elected Councillors, considered the report and recommendations of the Council Regulatory Committee.

The upshot of that meeting was a unanimous vote for the option that the OBC had been arguing its case on.

Whilst what is now being proposed in the bylaw must go back out to ratepayers for consultation (due to it containing different provisions from what Council originally consulted on), it provides for:

- Continuation of the current protections for Reserves in residential areas (such as those in Omaha Beach).

- Inclusion of a 'General Rule' – prohibiting freedom camping in front of houses, business premises etc.

For the bylaw to be enacted as is now being proposed (with the protections the OBC has been fighting for), when the Council undertakes its new consultation we need to make sure people submit in support of the proposal.

When we receive details of this new Council consultation, we will advise all members. We will also continue to put up Posts on our website (<https://omahabeach.co.nz/>).

Any questions, please email to us@omahabeach.co.nz

Yours faithfully

Chris Allan
President
OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC.