



**City of Seattle**  
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

Office of the Mayor  
City of Seattle  
Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

**Executive Order 2020-08: To provide City departments direction on a coordinated City response with respect to observed and reported life safety, public health, and property issues in and around the East Precinct and Cal Anderson Park.**

*The purpose of this Executive Order is to direct Departments to coordinate the City's response to observed and reported life safety, public health, and property issues in and around the East Precinct and Cal Anderson Park.*

**WHEREAS**, the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, has generated anger and outrage across the United States, resulting in mass demonstrations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City supports the people's right to lawful assembly guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Washington. Due to the current State of Emergency and the Governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy Order, the City was unable to issue a parade and/or demonstration permits to groups who wished to lawfully assemble to voice their opinions, and plans to escort parades and otherwise assist in the safe and lawful right of speech and assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that parades and demonstrations which will travel upon public streets and sidewalks, will disrupt and impair pedestrians, motorists and transit, and the City recognizes that some disruption is part of the rights of free speech and lawful assembly which the City will safeguard; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the expression has been peaceful and created community solidarity for Black Lives Matter, including features such as a community garden, public art, and conversation corner; and

**WHEREAS**, to date, City departments have more than reasonably accommodated protestors by offering services and shelter. The City has spent weeks on voluntary efforts to urge people to leave the Cal Anderson Park area given the emerging circumstances and recent shootings; and

WHEREAS, in the area around the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct, bounded by Broadway (west) and 13th Ave E. (east) and E Denny Way (north) and E. Pike St. (south) (defined as "Cal Anderson Park Area"), the City has reasonably facilitated on ongoing exercise of First Amendment rights and demonstrations by:

- Providing basic hygiene, water, litter and garbage removal, and electricity;
- Temporarily allowing obstructions of public parks, streets, and sidewalks;
- Modifying SPD and SFD response protocols to meet public safety needs to the extent possible within this area;
- Modifying streets and pedestrian access routes;
- Providing social services outreach and engagement along with referrals for shelter, behavioral health and other supports for individuals in need; and
- Facilitating modified city services delivery to local residents and businesses impacted by the events in this area.

WHEREAS, the City's obligations under the First Amendment do not require the City to provide limitless sanctuary to occupy City property, damage City and private property, obstruct the right of way, or foster dangerous conditions; and

WHEREAS, after significant national attention, many protestors have left the area but the conditions in the Cal Anderson Park Area have deteriorated to the point where public health, life, and safety are threatened by activities in and around this area, as supported by the following facts:

- On June 20, 2020, the first of three incidents of firearms violent with multiple victims occurred; one individual was shot and killed, and another was shot and seriously injured.
- First responders from the Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Police Department were denied safe access to the area by hostile crowds, including armed individuals, and obstructions.
- On June 22, 2020, a second incident involving firearms violence injured two additional individuals. On June 26, 2020, SDOT employees attempted to remove a limited number of barriers, but unarmed employees were met with hostility and weapons. SDOT could not conduct operations.
- Access by first responders to emergencies have been impeded further. On the morning of June 28, demonstrators moved the concrete barriers to completely restrict access of fire and medics on multiple roads. Demonstrators had previously agreed to open these areas to access for residents, businesses, city services, and fire.
- On June 29, 2020, a juvenile was shot and killed, and another juvenile was seriously injured in the immediate vicinity of this area. Evidence indicates that this murder may have been committed by individual(s) "occupying" the area.
- On June 30, 2020, SDOT removed a limited number of barriers with SPD, but was quickly met with agitated opposition to the removal.
- In addition, SPD has received numerous reports of narcotics use and violent crime, including rape, robbery, assault, and increased gang activity. An increase of 525%, 22 additional incidents, in person-related crime in the area, to include two additional homicides, 6

additional robberies, and 16 additional aggravated assaults (to include 2 additional non-fatal shootings) between June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, compared to the same period of time in 2019.

- Residential and businesses in the area have documented incidents of harassment, graffiti, noise disturbances, and obstruction of vehicular traffic to residences and places of business, and multiple lawsuits and claims have been filed against the City by residents and businesses impacted by the activities in this area.
- Significant damage has been caused by those remaining unlawfully in the area to City property, including Cal Anderson Park and the East Precinct facility. The full extent of damage to the East Precinct remains an open question until city employees are allowed access to the site in order to make that assessment.
- Open fires and vehicles on the reservoir are placing important regional water infrastructure located within Cal Anderson at risk.
- An alarming recent rise in COVID-19 numbers across the region, coupled with a lack of social distancing in this area, and the daily attraction to this area of outside individuals place the neighborhood at opening businesses at increased risk for outbreaks.
- A pervasive presence of firearms and other weapons has been well-documented.
- Ongoing violations of the Seattle Parks and Recreation's Code of Conduct have been observed, including camping and parking in the park, conduct that unreasonably deprives others of the use of parks, disrupting Seattle Parks and Recreation business, dumping trash and/or creating unsanitary conditions or health hazards that violate public health rules; behaviors that impede restroom use; urinating or defecating, except in designated restroom fixtures, blocking entrances, exits, fire exits, disabled access areas, public walkways; conduct that creates an unreasonable and substantial risk of harm to any person or property; and abusive and harassing behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, significant property damage has been attempted on the East Precinct, to include arson, and the extent of damage has not been fully assessed due to lack of access to the building; and

**WHEREAS**, SPD has observed and is aware of credible threats against other City infrastructure, to include the West Precinct, which houses city-wide 911 communications services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, recognizing the pivotal momentum and opportunities for social justice and public safety reforms that events following the murder of George Floyd has generated, has attempted in good faith to engage protestors in productive dialogue; and

**WHEREAS**, the City remains committed to re-imagining policing and making significant investments into the community and continuing outreach, engagement, and opportunity for community input in re-examining the role of police and the reform of social services; and

**WHEREAS**, since 12:00 pm on June 30, Cal Anderson Park has been closed pursuant to an emergency rule closing the park to address life safety and property issues; and

WHEREAS, while thousands of peaceful people have travelled to the area, police and city employees have encountered hostile and armed individuals in this area who have indicated by their actions and words their intent to resist government intervention with physical violence that have caused concern for the safety of the legal residents and city employee safety if current circumstances persist; and

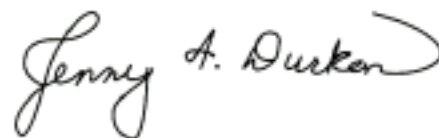
WHEREAS, based on the known ongoing criminal activity in and around the Cal Anderson Park Area, it is anticipated that there will be exigent circumstances that require immediate action by SPD to protect and preserve public safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor of Seattle, hereby directs all City departments to work in coordination to respond to the observed and reported exigent life safety, public health, and property issues in and around Cal Anderson Park Area, which is defined as the areas bounded by Broadway (west) and 13th Ave E. (east) and E Denny Way (north) and E. Pike St. (south).

1. Effective at 12:00 pm noon on June 30, 2020, Cal Anderson Park was closed. At 2:00 am on July 1, 2020, the entirety of the Cal Anderson Park Area shall be closed to the public to restore public safety, open roadways, remove obstructions to roadways and public rights of way, and to accomplish full closure and restoration/cleaning of Cal Anderson Park. All departments shall coordinate as follows to accomplish this work.
2. All persons who are unlawfully occupying Cal Anderson Park area who are in public rights of way or the park shall be directed to leave the closed area immediately.
3. The Seattle Police Department shall enforce this closure and provide dispersal orders for anyone refusing to vacate the area immediately. Persons who refuse or intentionally fail to obey this closure order to move and disperse from the area will be subject to arrest.
4. Any use of force shall be consistent with SPD policy and the terms of the Preliminary Injunction issued in *Black Lives Matter v. City of Seattle*, No. 20-CV-887.
5. In coordination with Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Human Services Department, as necessary SPD officers shall in their discretion remove or arrest individuals who are trespassing in the Cal Anderson Park Area in violation of the parks closure and who refuse to leave, including exigent arrests of individuals who may be occupying a tent or other obstruction or created structure in a public right of way, or in the Cal Anderson Park Area.
6. All reasonable efforts will be made by the city departments to assist individuals in accessing necessary services, shelter, or transportation and in packing and/or storing any personal property, including tents. The City shall take reasonable steps to separate personal property from material that is not personal property, provided the segregation does not pose a danger to the individual segregating the personal property from the other material.
7. Due to the safety risks and ongoing threats to City buildings, SPD is authorized to maintain a reasonable security buffer around the East Precinct and control entry into those areas in order to limit any obstructions to access.

8. SDOT is directed to remove all barriers and obstructions that impede foot traffic or vehicular traffic in the Cal Anderson Park area, and to maintain open sidewalks and streets going forward.
9. Seattle Park and Recreation is directed to begin cleaning, remediation and restoration of Cal Anderson Park.
10. Seattle Public Utilities is directed to inspect and secure all water facilities, and to end any temporary utility service modifications to the area;
11. Seattle Public Utilities, together with Finance and Administrative Services, Office of Economic Development and other Departments as needed shall work with the community to ameliorate all graffiti and property damage;
12. City Light shall be called to inspect any power issues identified during the operation;
13. Department of Human Services is directed to continue providing social services outreach and engagement along with referrals for shelter, behavioral health, and other supports for individuals in need;
14. Seattle Parks and Recreation shall engage the community, businesses, residents and protest leaders to develop a parks plan to preserve the public art, create a community garden and other possible features like a conversation corner.
15. This Order shall be limited to ten days or until further notice, whichever comes first.
16. Inquiries regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Senior Deputy Mayor Mike Fong, Office of the Mayor.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny A. Durkan  
Mayor of Seattle