

Excerpt from, “Chapter One: The County Executive – Whatcom Barriers to Equity, a review for 2021 candidates” related to rules at Camp 210:

In the second paragraph of the attached draft memo, Sidhu struck a conciliatory note, stating:

*“I’d like to suggest that we all take a step back, consider the broader picture, look for opportunities for positive change and reflect on possible lessons we can apply. I think we all share a desire to improve our future actions and approaches as it relates to how we address homelessness and our housing situation.”*

But that was quickly followed by him suggesting, “First, let’s be sure we all have a realistic picture of Camp 210,” after which he gave a narrow and, in some places, inaccurate description covering some attributes of the camp.

He stated that the encampment “provided an environment free of rules and responsibilities.” But this conflicted with the account of Aida Cardona, who was regularly volunteering at camp and participating in the City’s negotiations for improved sheltering solutions. On a [KZAX 210 Camp Special Report Update 11-23-2020](#), she stated that camp residents would meet daily and reported:

*“We had a community meeting again this afternoon at noon and we had a really great turnout. I was very vocal and passionate about the need for all campers to step up as leadership and to show us what it is that we all need to do together to be able to keep this sustainable. “And through that we were able to have a very productive conversation about the rules and guidelines and considerations that all campers need to have in order to keep everyone safe.”*

From reviewing various Bellingham Police Department body worn camera videos recorded for incidents from November 2020 through January 2021, when police received service calls to the area – despite disputes, behavioral health, and other issues that did arise at the

encampment – tents and materials at camp appeared to be predominately orderly and set up to be serviceable.

Other examples of people taking responsibility at the camp were clearly apparent, as well. From the limited view of some of the videos it could be observed that campfire areas were secured in dedicated spaces, and in other footage people were at work in clothing tents and other common areas. There were instances of people losing items with a number of people going off to search for them. In one case, a person informed another on how their remarks were inappropriate and that their efforts to praise others should not be expressed in that manner. In another case, involving a person who needed dry clothing, an individual went to their tent to get dry items of their own to replace missing and wet items.