



NUCOR STEEL SEATTLE, INC.

2424 SW Andover Street

Seattle, WA 98106-1100

206.933.2222

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June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

*Via email*

Honorable Jenny Durkan, Mayor  
City of Seattle  
600 Fourth Ave.  
Seattle, WA, 98104  
jenny.durkan@seattle.gov

Re: Unauthorized Encampment Located Adjacent to 2424 SW Andover Street

Mayor Durkan:

My name is Matthew Lyons, and I am the Vice President and General Manager of Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc. (“Nucor Steel Seattle”), a subsidiary of Nucor Corporation (“Nucor”). Nucor is the largest steel and steel products producer in the United States and the number one recycler in North America. Constructed in 1905, our West Seattle facility is the only steel mill in Washington, the largest recycler in the state, and one of the most sustainable steel mills in the world. We are deeply involved as part of the community in West Seattle and all 315 of our teammates work hard to be good neighbors and responsible stewards of our property every day.

Safety, and particularly teammate safety, is one of Nucor’s core values, and the motto “Safety First” guides everything we do. To that end, I am writing to express my serious concerns about an unauthorized encampment that has developed on city-owned property along the exterior of our Nucor Steel Seattle fence line, located at 2424 SW Andover Street, Seattle, Washington, 98106 (the “Andover Street Encampment”), which has created an immediate health and safety hazard for our teammates and the general public, and is obstructing Nucor Steel Seattle’s normal use of its property.

Nucor Steel Seattle last reported the Andover Street Encampment to the Customer Service Bureau on May 20, 2021. We were transferred to a voicemail and provided the location of the encampment, details about the hazards created by the encampment, and captured our observations that activity at the encampment is creating an urgent and escalating situation. To date this call has not been returned. Unfortunately, the most recent call is just the latest report we have made through the City’s official channels for reporting encampments. Enclosed with this letter is a memo detailing previous reports made through the Encampment Abatement Program and direct

intervention required by the Seattle Police Department. We have records that document the issues set forth in the memo and are willing to provide these to the City.

We believe that the Andover Street Encampment is an *immediate hazard encampment* as defined by FAS Encampment Rule 17-01 section 3.3, and that the encampment must be removed. The erection of unauthorized structures, tents, and other shelters on the city-controlled property along the Nucor Steel Seattle fence line has created an immediate hazard because the occupants have threatened serious injury or death to others, including our teammates and contractors, while those individuals were onsite earning a living at our facility. I have personally been the subject of a threat against my life by an occupant of the encampment that entered and refused to leave an office building at the Nucor facility.

There are large quantities of garbage, debris, and waste present in the encampment. Used needles have been discarded onto the Nucor Seattle property. Additionally, based on observations from our teammates, security personnel, and discussions with our neighbors, we believe that the encampment has created criminal activity beyond illegal substance abuse, including trespassing, assault, theft, prostitution, drug dealing, and illegal metal scrapping activities. Instances of trespassing on our property, related theft, and damage to fencing have all increased significantly during the time that the encampment has been located along our fence line. It was acknowledged directly to me by the same occupant of the encampment that threatened my life that he and fellow occupants often enter our facility at night. This is further corroborated by the fact that there have been 15 instances of holes cut in our perimeter fencing to gain illegal access to our property that required repair in 2021. This trespassing causes more than an unlawful interference with Nucor Steel's use of its property, it also poses a serious danger to the trespassing individual. Nucor Seattle maintains a safe work environment for our teammates, contractors, and guests by implementing and enforcing comprehensive safety standards and policies, which are strictly followed by our highly skilled and trained workforce. Individuals trespassing into the Nucor Steel facilities create the possibility of a life-endangering situation because they are unfamiliar with the facility and fail to observe the safeguards put into place through our safety standards and policies.

Seattle police have been involved in addressing legal complaints stemming from the encampment, but their involvement alone has not improved the hazardous nature of the camp or lessened the apparent criminal activity stemming from it. Unfortunately, we realize ours is not a unique situation, and we believe that our deep concern and the urgency with which we believe the City must act is shared by many of our neighbors and others region wide.


We understand that the homelessness crisis in Seattle is complex, and many who are living outside face profound challenges to their personal health and well-being. We also understand a program to develop several 'safe lots' for such encampments is under consideration and urge the City to

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move forward with that proposal as soon as possible. However, because the Andover Street Encampment continues to create an immediate health and safety hazard for our teammates we must seriously and urgently advocate for the interests and rights of our teammates to a safe work environment. The risk of serious injury or death posed to our teammates by the encampment is unacceptable. We formally and sincerely appeal to the City that the unauthorized encampment is an *immediate hazard encampment* and must be removed or otherwise prioritized for timely removal according to applicable laws and rules.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues further. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (206) 933-2200. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Lyons, Vice President – General Manager

Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc.

enclosure

CC: David.Moseley@seattle.gov

## MEMO

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc.

Date: May 19, 2020

Re: Unauthorized Encampment Located at 2424 SW Andover Street, Seattle, Washington 98106 (the “Andover Street Encampment”)

This memo stands as a record of past correspondence related to Andover Street Encampment.

Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc. (“Nucor Steel”) has been in contact with multiple officials from the city of Seattle as well as Seattle police, the former Navigation team and the Seattle fire department regarding the Andover Street Encampment. The following list documents those communications and events reported by Nucor Steel.

- **Assault**
  - An onsite contractor was sprayed with pepper spray substance while walking down the pedestrian path on Nucor property near the fence line of the unauthorized encampment.
    - Reported to find it fix it and relayed to multiple city officials.
  - An onsite contractor reported that he believes he was shot at with a firearm while operating a large equipment during the nightshift.
    - Reported to Seattle Police.
- **Threats of violence and intimidation by members of the unauthorized encampment**
  - Multiple occasions including:
    - 27 August 2020 at 13:30 against two Nucor personnel walking the fence line.
      - Reported to find it fix it and relayed to multiple city officials.
    - 20 December 2020 at 05:30 against a single Nucor personnel walking in to work. In this instance sticks and canes were brandished as weapons.
      - Reached out to city officials 22 December 2020 again requesting assistance and emphasizing the seriousness of this matter. City officials replied with a “Will flag the HOPE team” response. No further action seemed to have occurred.
    - 8 April 2021 self-declared encampment occupant that trespassed into security office boasted of his being charged with murder in the past as an attempt to intimidate those that asked him to leave.
      - SPD responded to incident.
  - Numerous altercations with Nucor Steel security guards by members of the Andover Street Encampment at the Nucor Steel facility, Seattle Police

assistance was required. Often centered around vehicles blocking access to an entrance of the facility used for fire response access.

- **Trespassing**
  - 8 April 2021 at 09:00, a member of the unauthorized encampment walked into the facility guard shack to voice complaints and refused to leave the premises.
    - Seattle Police were called.
  - Multiple occurrences of trespassing at our gates and in the parking lot; reported to Seattle Police.
  - Reports of trespassing into the Nucor Steel facility after normal business hours.
  - Multiple instances of facility perimeter fencing cut to enable entrance into the facility.
  
- **Illegal drug usage next to our fence line causing a public health issue.**
  - Discarded needles thrown over the fence and in the path of Nucor personnel ingress and egress from the Nucor Steel facility.
    - Pictures were taken and are on record. Reported to find it fix it and local officials on multiple occasions.
  
- **Public Indecency**
  - Indecent exposure and public urination.
  - Solicitation for money.
    - Reported on find it fix it.
    - Also reported by neighboring businesses and residents.
  
- **Bicycle and appliance theft and dismantling operation**
  - Single RV with dozens of stolen bikes strapped to the roof
    - Countless stolen bicycle reports by neighbors reported and bicycles stored on the reverse side of chop shop RV (including Lime and Jump bikes) until processed and stored or sold. Reported to find it fix it and police on multiple occasions
  - Break in and theft of tools from onsite contractor toolshed
    - Reported to Seattle Police
  
- **Other public health and safety issues:**
  - Trash and barricades strewn.
    - Reported to find it fix it.
  - Fire Hazard issues.
    - Reported to find it fix it.
  - Lack of social distancing and Covid-19 protocols.
    - Reported to find it fix it.



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We have requested assistance on multiple occasions, including through the city's designated channels, to address the unauthorized encampment. The following city officials (including Seattle Police personnel) have been contacted about or otherwise involved this matter:

- Council Member Lisa Herbold
- Deputy Mayor Casey Sixkiller
- Sgt. Eric Zerr of the Seattle Police Department
- Following members of Navigation Team
  - William Kohn
  - Trent Schroeder
  - Eric Pisconski
  - Daniel Nelson
  - Jeff Horan
  - Laura Fox
  - David Hare

We have detailed records that document the issues set forth above and are happy to provide such records for the City's consideration.