



ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

111 North Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-1405
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April 18, 2022

Mr. Bernard Rice
Executive Director of Physical Properties
Ann Arbor Public Schools
2555 South State St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mr. Bernard Rice:

On November 28, 2021, the City of Ann Arbor reached out to Ann Arbor Public Schools regarding numerous life safety concerns. These concerns were the result of overnight recreational vehicles (RV) parking at the Pioneer High School parking lot. On November 26, 2021, the night before the University of Michigan versus Ohio State University football game, the Ann Arbor Fire Department did a walk-through of the site based on an incident that occurred at the Indiana game earlier in the 2021 season. This was approached from an educational perspective; no enforcement action was taken, and no citations were issued.

There were a significant amount of fire code violations, violations of the City's tent ordinance, and lack of inspection and permitting for portable generators. Firefighters checked several trailers for carbon monoxide (CO), and found several had elevated levels of CO. One trailer was at 120 PPM of CO, which could have been fatal overnight. Additionally, there was a significant volume of stored gasoline and propane next to trailers with occupants sleeping. Yet another issue was the misuse of portable heaters in tents.

The fire department takes responsibility for not addressing these concerns historically. We have verified with the State of Michigan Bureau of Fire Services that the City of Ann Arbor codes, ordinances, and enforcement apply to this activity.

The City of Ann Arbor wants to work proactively with AAPS to address these concerns well in advance of the 2022 football season. Since November 28, 2021, there have been numerous communications and meetings between various City staff and AAPS to discuss concerns and paths for compliance.

The City is supportive of the "Angled RV Proposal, March 29, 2022" submitted by AAPS. However, this proposal would still require the following items:

1. Generators – permits and inspections. This can be done with one permit for the generator installation(s) on the site. However, if an additional generator is needed later, an additional permit and another inspection would be required. Grounding is the main concern; hence, an inspection should be scheduled prior to any start up. Furthermore, generators should be protected from the public.



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2. Electrical cord coverings – to avoid trip hazards.
3. Tent Permit application – This can be done with one permit that would cover all AAPS tailgating areas – for any tents / membrane structures over 400 square feet. An inspection should be scheduled prior to the event. On November 26, 2021, there were several large tents (one specific on the north side of the lot) that were over 400 square feet and had multiple propane heaters.
4. Flammable gas storage - Excess quantities of propane and gasoline need to be stored away from overnight sleeping areas.

There is a path for overnight RV parking to continue. However, it will certainly be different from what has historically occurred. We greatly appreciate the collaboration with AAPS to help prevent a tragedy similar to what occurred in 2021 at the Faster Horses concert in Brooklyn, MI. We want to be upfront that for the 2022 season, the City will shift from an educational to an enforcement posture regarding this activity. AAPS is the property owner and would ultimately be responsible for any issued citations.

Respectfully,

Mike Kennedy - Fire Chief
City of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Copied:
Glen Dempsey, City of Ann Arbor, Building Official
Michael Reddmann, City of Ann Arbor, Fire Marshal