

November 8, 2012

Dear Neighbors and Friends of St. John Vianney Parish,

I am writing to notify you of an arrest that occurred at Tent City, which is being hosted by St. John Vianney parish. On the evening of Nov. 7 an individual was arrested by Pierce County law enforcement for charges of child rape that allegedly occurred in Pierce County. He is now being held without bail in the Pierce County Jail.

I want to assure you that the accused, like all residents, was subjected to a thorough background and a sexual offender check prior to being granted residence at Tent City. The background checks came up clear. The criminal charges in this case were filed on Oct. 26, nearly two weeks after the individual became a Tent City resident.

The morning after the incident, parish staff met with Tent City staff and have taken steps to implement a system of random weekly sexual offender checks for residents to assure the safety and security of our neighbors, parishioners and all who use our parish facilities.

St. John Vianney Parish has hosted Tent City for 3-month stays five times since 2004 without incident. TC4 arrived here on October 13 and will be moving January 12.

We are committed to providing a humane housing alternative for homeless individuals while making safety for the community we serve our highest priority. Although this alleged criminal behavior did not occur at Tent City, or anywhere in the Kirkland community, we take it very seriously and will continue to review our guidelines and procedures to assure that safety remains our first priority.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Margie at (425) 823-0787.

Sincerely,

*Father Ramon*

Fr. Ramon Santa Cruz, Pastor

St. John Mary Vianney Parish