

From: [Joann Macey](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Suggestions for City Council to consider on helping homeless
Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:36:47 AM

Dear Council Clerk,

Regarding: Ideas for City Council to consider

These are some ideas and suggestions which may be useful in assisting and helping some of the people who find themselves camping outside in tents and other shelters. My main concern is that it might get very cold this winter with increased rain and wind.

I have camped in a tent on journeys and experienced heavy rains. No matter how many plastic covers, the interior of a tent gets wet as well as the stuff inside. Maybe seasoned homeless are better than I, but am doubtful they can remain dry.

My suggestion would be to rent something like the metal buildings shown at the sites listed below to be placed on cement or blacktop surface so that tenters could be out of the wind and rain. Previous encampments in the city have found shelter under bridges. They generally have rules about smoking, alcohol, and drugs. They often have leaders. Living in something like this would have to be acceptable to homeless, but I think it would be better than only having your tent on the ground. City organizations working with homeless would have to present this to the homeless.

A vision, if this were to happen, would be that homeless often live in groups for safety, and that several groups might join to move into one of these types of shelters. Portable toilets would be placed outside. Sunshine division might deliver food. Some kind of water station might be available. (Please no water bottles!) Some camps I have known in the past combined food stamps of residents and had a cooking station for feeding all residents. Residents could name their camp as did the dignity village people to show pride. They have solar lighting now. Haven't thought how to use this just yet, but when there is a will.....

Trash barrels just like at apartments could be placed outside with regular pick up. The city might have an account with garbage company to do this. The public service people could make trips to the sites to offer services to those interested. It takes time for a person to be helped out of their situation and this would provide safety and some shelter from the elements, as well as more sanitary living situation

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I think one of the best ways to keep the city cleaner is to provide those who have no way of getting any services whatsoever with a chance at safety and services in a location. My hope would be that the city would not have a lot of legal reasons to prevent something which is practical. Am guessing that your buildings department would be able to research these buildings and the costs. I did see that they can be rented .

Thanks for considering these ideas. I hope that the city would take the approach of helping campers move into safer places rather than sweeping sites and discarding possessions.

Joann