

From: [Chris Davies](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: testimony for public hearing item 899-903
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I strongly support the proposal for homeless campuses.
My only major concern is the timeline: this should be done IMMEDIATELY, treated as the disaster that it is. The campuses need to be put in place right away, with the urgency one would apply if there had been an earthquake or hurricane.

Over the past several years, I have seen our sidewalks, streets and parks increasingly claimed by squatters who block public right-of-ways, destroy green spaces, and have brought increased crime to the city.

One of many examples, but one which perfectly illustrates how ludicrous and dysfunctional City policy towards the homeless is: My bike commute brings me up N Mississippi from Interstate to Beech. There was a large encampment of massive tents set up there under the Fremont bridge. Piles of garbage were thrown onto the street and I'd sometimes see city crews picking up bags of garbage. One day I biked past just after the fire crews had doused a massive fire that had burned all the tents and charred the pylons holding up the bridge. What remained were the burnt remains of three motorcycles, 9 bicycles, and two lawnmowers, revealing that this had been a stolen goods chop shop. Within two weeks new tents were back, and the city continued to use my tax dollars to haul their refuse for free.

When I called the city to complain, I was told the priority was the well-being of the homeless. No concern whatsoever for the well-being of me, the person paying for this.

Another time, a homeless woman wacked off my internet backup battery off the side of my house with a 2x4 while I sat in my living room. When I called 911 the operator just took my phone number. I was called back 3 hours later and the officer apologized that all police had been dealing with a double homicide all evening, and he suggested I use pepper spray next time if I wasn't comfortable owning a gun.

This is complete madness.

For years the official word (and the excuse parroted by well-intentioned citizens) has been that these are hard-working poor people whose main problem is lack of affordable housing.

I once approached a group of homeless near my house and suggested they get a job flinging boxes for UPS, as a friend whose son worked there told me they were desperate for workers. The homeless dudes told me, essentially, to piss off. These days I wouldn't approach a homeless camp for fear of being killed.

The evidence of my own eyes, day after day, tells me this is a population that is either too insane, too addicted, or too socially maladapted to live in unstructured housing without destroying it. Affordable housing is not the main problem.

And yes, it's nonsensical to think they are better served by living in muddy squats in our nature preserves and along the freeway rather than in highly structured group camps with rehab services and police on hand to maintain order and safety.

The evidence of my own eyes tells me that most of the ghost RV's have out-of-town license plates. The evidence of my eyes tells me this is a population incapable of making choices that don't harm themselves and others.

Compassion that isn't based on reality

and data is pseudo compassion and does far more harm than good.

And lastly, to repeat, this is an emergency. This isn't an annoyance that we can wait 6 or 12 months to start to address. We need the campuses built TODAY, and funded today.

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*Thank you kindly,
Christopher Davies
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