

From: [Marcia Sutttenberg](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Homeless camp proposal - support
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 3:57:05 PM

I watched the hearing from last Wed. - so many thoughtful comments. I have worked with the city, county, and non profits on homeless issues for many years. Indeed a complex situation.

I have reached the conclusion that , even though 500 per site seems like too many, as a phased approach it is both necessary and desireable. I currently volunteer with the Rose Haven day shelter and the Common Good Project which takes food and clothing out to about 10 different tent pods. These folks are drug users, mental health disabled, as well as decent folks who don't want to be part of any sanctioned shelter program, or just dont know what else to do. They are not going to get off the streets unless they are forced. And I know that even large sites will offer them a better overall quality of life than they currently experience (bathrooms, showers, some level of security)

Allowing street camping has been a disservice to our neighborhoods, and our city. Our population is in a very bad way. Allowing street camping is poor land use policy, and poor social justice policy. It must stop. It is dividing our city and strangely empowering homeless folks to feel entitled to have their tents in public places. Crime is up. Families are living with fear.

Implementation won't be smooth - but even the resulting problems will be better than doing nothing. Yes, more emergency shelters, tiny house communities, transitional housing, and low income units with service support are all needed. But forced camping with support is a very good start. Time for a bit of tough love.

Thank you for getting us started on a fresh path.

Onward

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Sent from my iPhone