

From: webmaster@shorelinewa.gov
To: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: City of Shoreline Agenda Comments
Date: Monday, November 23, 2015 8:21:23 AM

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on Agenda Items
Date & Time: 11/23/2015 8:21 AM
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Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. Brad Lancaster
2. Shoreline
3. (o) North City
4. brad@lancasterlawoffice.com
5. 11/23/2015
6. 8a
7. Honored members of Shoreline City Council, friends and neighbors who have come to watch the council work, and citizens of Shoreline. My name is Brad Lancaster.
I ask the Council to declare homelessness in Shoreline an emergency. A number of people are trapped outdoors with no realistic prospect of finding housing in the near future. So, these folks are faced with the prospect of fragile shelter, or no shelter at all, during the storms and cold of this winter of 2015-2016.
It is difficult to know just how many homeless people are struggling in Shoreline. Shoreline School District defines a homeless student as one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence. Recently, a representative of the District reported that 355 Shoreline students are homeless. That is 4.4% of Shoreline's more than 8,000 students. Let's just say the number of homeless persons in Shoreline is hundreds.
Cities and counties and states in the western United States are declaring homelessness an emergency. Los Angeles, Portland, Hawaii, Seattle, and King County have declared homelessness a state of emergency. Utah declared no state of emergency, but took gutsy steps, with the LDS church, to give every homeless person a residence and a case worker. The federal government has released many millions of dollars to end veteran homelessness. Local governments declare homelessness a state of emergency by stretching their powers to declare emergencies when earthquakes, terrorists, or rioting strike. These mayors and executives do so to make a formal plea to the state and federal government that homelessness is a growing problem that exceeds the resources of the local community. Mayor Murray of Seattle intends to use the declaration to bypass zoning restrictions and create new sites for homeless encampments.

When the Oso landslide struck in 2014, 43 people died and 30 families were displaced. It was declared a disaster. We all grieved. When Mount St. Helens erupted, 57 people were killed and more than 200 homes were destroyed. It was declared a disaster. We knew that was the right thing to do. Homelessness differs. It is a slow motion plague. Homelessness in King County rose 21% in the last year. So is there an emergency? Consider the numbers. If one counts only the homeless persons in Shoreline, more people are exposed this winter to tremendous danger than died in the Oso landslide and the eruption of Mt. St. Helens combined.

I ask the Council to declare Shoreline homelessness a state of emergency.

8. Neutral

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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