



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Roberts and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk

DATE: February 9, 2016

RE: Documents received at 02/08/16 Council Meeting

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager
John Norris, Assistant City Manager

Attached hereto are documents received from the public at your February 08, 2016 City Council Business Meeting.

- 1) Written comment regarding homelessness submitted by Brad Lancaster.

COUNCIL TALK

2.8.16

My name is Brad Lancaster. I live in Shoreline.

I am identifying ways the Council might change social policy in Shoreline to make the experience of homeless people in the city less difficult. Last week, I asked the Council to make a permanent tiny house village for homeless parents with school-age children.

This week I suggest that Shoreline should revise its permitting process for homeless encampments in seven ways.

First, streamline the permitting process for homeless encampments.

Second, reduce the fees involved to a *de minimis* sum.

Third, create an application process specifically for homeless encampments that seeks only that information pertinent to a homeless encampment.

Fourth, allow citizens and churches to sign up for such encampments preemptively, before the need for siting a camp arises.

Fifth, make the time period for each temporary encampment six months (April 1 to September 30, October 1 to March 31), so that no camp is required to move in the middle of the winter rains and snows.

Sixth, once an applicant has applied and been approved to host a homeless encampment, that approval should remain valid for a period of five years, absent a fundamental change of circumstances.

Seventh, encourage permitted individuals and organizations to collaborate to support specific camps, creating circles of four permitted locations, so that homeless encampments have a predictable cycle of local siting year after year. This arrangement means that each site would host a camp only once every eighteen months. It is important to retain camps in a single municipal area. Presently, camps bounce all over Puget Sound. Campers' efforts to find jobs and establish stable relationships and educate their children do not survive such jolting dislocations.

The City will encounter not-in-my-back-yard anti-homeless-people sentiment. NIMBY neighbors fear. "No change," they rant. One educates the fearful. One does not let petulant voices rule the day. The fact is that as a culture, we Americans have adopted social policies and encouraged industrial practices that leave millions of Americans housing insecure. Some become homeless. 2016 is not 1950. The homeless are our neighbors. We must welcome them, embrace them, and make their lives better. Just as we attempt to do with all endangered citizens. Government exists to do that for which we are all responsible. Housing the homeless is one such task.