

From: [Plancom](#)
To: [Rachael Markle](#); [Steve Szafran](#); [Easton Craft](#); [David Maul](#); [William Montero](#); [Paul Cohen](#); [Lisa Basher](#); [Jack Malek](#); [Laura Mork](#); [Miranda Redinger](#); [Julie Ainsworth-Taylor](#); [Susan Chang](#); [Donna M. Moss](#)
Subject: FW: Transitional Encampment Development Code Amendments
Date: Sunday, October 16, 2016 8:50:11 PM

From: Sheri Ashleman[SMTP:SASHLEMAN@COMCAST.NET]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2016 8:50:03 PM
To: Plancom
Subject: Transitional Encampment Development Code Amendments
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Shoreline Planning Commission Members:

We are writing in opposition to development code amendments that would allow transitional encampments in the backyards of single family homes in residential zones.

We are 36-year residents of Shoreline. We chose Shoreline to raise our family because of the school district and the family-friendly neighborhoods.

We have compassion for the homeless and those in transition and support organizations that provide services for them. We demonstrate our commitment to helping their situation by organizing three food drives each year to benefit Hopelink, contributing financially to Hopelink and Mary's Place and volunteering for the annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by Mary's Place. We live just down the street from a transitional encampment and have provided food during their stays.

However, we feel it is entirely inappropriate to allow transitional encampments in the backyards of single family homes in residential zones. It would be detrimental to the health, safety and well-being of everyone involved. We encourage you to consider the following:

- While these encampments may have to follow the same codes that apply to larger encampments now, who is going to monitor them? Who will make sure they have access to water, bathrooms and trash receptacles to avoid disease and rat infestations on the property and surrounding areas? Who will regulate who comes and goes in these encampments? At a time when the City is claiming they don't have enough money to continue providing current services without a levy lid lift and police don't have time to respond to or investigate anything except major crimes, we are unclear what the plan would be. It sounds like a recipe for disaster.
- Shoreline is already addressing the housing issue for people in transition through appropriate developments like Ronald Commons and Compass Housing. Even Richmond Beach Congregational Church has acknowledged this--they will be selling off the property they have used to host transitional encampments in the past.
- The City has further addressed the issue by providing incentives for low income housing at the 185th and 145th Street transit stations.

- Encouraging people in transition to camp out and live in tents is NOT the answer. Housing is a better solution. Providing housing in areas where there are services and transportation is a much better plan than placing people in tents in residential areas.
- If residents really want to help people in transition, they should let them live inside their homes or churches, not exposed to the elements in flimsy tents with no decent facilities. No change in the development code is necessary for this solution.
- Each city needs to contribute to the solution—Shoreline does not need to provide more than its share of transitional housing. Any additional housing projects should be located in appropriately zoned areas—not pushed off into residential areas. The development code exists to make sure density is located in appropriate areas.

While the code amendments may seem like a good solution, I honestly believe these changes would only create more problems and ill will in the long run. Balance is the key and the well being of homeowners must be considered and respected along with those who lack permanent housing. Please preserve the integrity of our neighborhoods and keep transitional encampments and housing in appropriately zoned areas.

Respectfully,

Rick and Sheri Ashleman