

**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: Backyard homeless tent camping  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 5:21:26 PM

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**From:** Barbara Twaddell[SMTP:BARBTWADDELL@COMCAST.NET]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 5:21:21 PM  
**To:** Plancom  
**Subject:** Backyard homeless tent camping  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

\*\*\*Hello, my name is Barbara Twaddell. I have been a resident of Richmond Beach for 35 years. I am a retired nurse who worked most of my career at Harborview Medical Center where many homeless people receive their health care. Helping the homeless can very complex.

I'm here because I oppose homeless camping in residential neighborhoods. The city of Shoreline has allowed homeless tent camping in the back yard of a Shoreline family without much public input. I, for one, never heard anything about it until just recently. This is a radical social experiment. I oppose it, and the amendments that encourage more encampments, for three reasons.

1. I don't think there is a need for this in Shoreline. If you read Danny Westneat's Sunday column about clearing out the jungle in Seattle, the social services people found that 75% did not want to take advantage of the offered housing because they'd have to follow rules such as no alcohol or drugs. Many, many beds went unused.
2. I don't think outdoor tent camping is safe for the homeless. The reason we have building codes for habitation, is for public safety. The homeless are citizens who should be protected. There is danger from falling tree limbs and danger from poor sanitation. Camping in back yards of private homes can not be easily regulated for firearms, drugs, alcohol, and noise. It is the homeless themselves who usually are the victims at these encampments. But next door neighbors are also potential victims. If people want to host the homeless in their homes, they should let them stay indoors with heat, plumbing, etc. If the city of Shoreline wants to help the homeless it should build facilities in properly zoned areas.
3. Two of the amendments that will likely increase the number of these encampments are: waiving the fee, and changing the setbacks from 20 feet to 15 feet. I read that one of the reasons these amendments have been added, was from a potential threat of a constitutional challenge from the Lancaster family, based on religious freedom. The Lancaster's also want to host the camp indefinitely. I don't think city code should be based on anyone's religious beliefs. The city's reasoning says the fee, setbacks, and public health, safety, and welfare requirements, present too many barriers to homeless camping. There SHOULD be MANY barriers to using your property in a way that harms your neighbors. Many of us live in areas zoned for single families. This will

throw that zoning out the window and encourage sub-standard, multiple family housing in all our neighborhoods. I hope we can re-visit the entire homeless camping issue in the near future. If homeless tent camping in the back yards of residential homes is allowed, it will have sweeping changes on the ability of many people to enjoy their own homes. Sincerely, Barbara Twaddell

Sent from my iPhone