

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 camps
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 6:17:19 PM

From: Patty Cummings[SMTP:DESKOFPATTY@GMAIL.COM]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 6:17:01 PM
To: Plancom
Subject: Fwd: Backyard homeless camps
Auto forwarded by a Rule

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Patty Cummings <deskofpatty@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Nov 27, 2016 at 4:38 PM
Subject: Backyard homeless camps
To: <plancom@shorelinewa.com>

To the Shoreline Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge you to *vote against* allowing homeless camps to be put in Shoreline residents' back yards. I think this is a poorly thought out idea and one that has the potential to create a number of problems. Additionally, and more importantly, it doesn't do anything to address the issue of homelessness in our society.

Allowing private residents to put up homeless camps in their backyards creates a number of problems for our community, including increased garbage, human waste, noise violations, fire concerns, privacy issues, and the potential for increased alcohol, drug use and crime. Tent cities and other camps for homeless people should be left to the non-profits, churches and agencies that are equipped to house the homeless and follow specific procedures, such as rules against drug and alcohol use, background checks to protect public safety, and easy access to the services and facilities homeless people need. Private homeowners are not equipped to deal with this public crisis and the city should take the necessary steps to prevent this. I would hate to see something horrible happen because of a well-intended, though very flawed, idea, and can't imagine the liability the city would face if it supports and approves the expansion of homeless camps in residential backyards. People would definitely be looking to blame someone if anything went wrong and the city would be at the top of that list and would have to respond to any actions brought against it, whether it is found liable or not.

Homeless camps aren't long-term solutions to the problem of homelessness in our society, but they can provide safety for the homeless on a temporary basis.

However, these camps need to be run and operated by churches, agencies and non-profits that are set up to run them properly, including providing trash services, portable toilets, and located to provide access to public transportation so homeless people can get access to the services they need with the intent of helping them get out of the grip of homelessness. Allowing private residents to set up homeless camps in their backyards, no matter how naively well-intended, is a not a solution for people trying to become self-sufficient. Instead it will create problems for neighbors in Shoreline and increase liability to homeowners and the city of Shoreline.

Again, I would ask that you *not* approve this plan.

Sincerely,
Patty Cummings