

My name is Barbara Twaddell  
I am a Shoreline resident

I'm here to thank the planning commission for listening to the vast majority of Shoreline residents who oppose backyard tent encampments.

I support the revision of the amendments that were released on December 7th. These amendments make it clear that backyard encampments will not be allowed in the yards of single family homes. Thank you for clarifying that both the owners of properties and the managing entities of homeless encampments must be a religious or city recognized, non-profit, organization. This is important because the professional oversight, such as background screening and 24/7 security, cannot easily be provided by well meaning amateurs.

I strongly agree with maintaining the 20 foot setback from neighboring properties. This setback is so important for the homes adjacent to a church encampment due to the possibility of outhouse smells and the sounds of living through thin tent fabric. The setbacks are also important because they limit unsuitably small spaces for encampments, which would have an even greater negative impact on neighboring properties.

I also want to comment on the concerns of some that children will have to change schools if they are not allowed to stay at a camp for nine months or more. This is not a valid concern. One knowledgeable person from Richmond Beach noted that the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that provides funding to the state, which then goes to local districts to ensure school stability and provides money to transport students to a student's school of origin.

I'm glad to see that the staff really looked into what other cities allowed and I am also happy that consideration for a public partnership with Fircrest and the state of Washington might be considered. The other positive message put forth is for the city to try to gather an understanding of the different types of homelessness and how to address their different needs. Thank you.