

**From:** [Stephanie Monger](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Shoreline Backyard Encampment Opposition  
**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:20:10 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

Homelessness is an increasingly growing problem. However, having homeless people camping in our backyards is not the solution. In fact, it will create a whole new set of problems for residents who live in Shoreline. It will increase the homeless population in the City of Shoreline. Rumor has it that Seattle's incentives for homeless people are so good that it has attracted homeless people to move to Seattle from neighboring cities/states. So rather than reducing the problem in our city, it will increase.

When Shoreline's Brad Lancaster started a homeless camp in his own backyard in 2015, he was reported as saying "he understands if neighbors are concerned about what he is doing. In fact he respects their opinion and would be concerned himself if anyone else was doing what he is..."

(Right here, lies a problem. His neighbors were concerned, it created friction in the neighborhood. He himself would have been upset if he wasn't the one doing it.)

"But he argues that he has taken on the matter from a safe perspective. He ran background checks on his back-yard residents. No one is a sex offender or has warrants out for their arrest. He even took copies of their IDs..." Source [MYNORTHWEST.COM](#), Staff report | December 17, 2015.

If this proposal is passed, which I hope it is not, what measures will be taken to ensure that background checks are being done, and that sex offenders & people with warrants out for their arrest aren't living in my neighbors backyard? Who is going to pay for the background checks, the city? The homeowner? Who from the City of Shoreline will enforce background checks and make sure that they are kept in good standing.

Additionally, Lancaster set up portable toilets, will these be required? Who will be ensuring that they are being kept up and are in sanitary condition. Also, how many people per portable toilet. How many people per yard?

This is being proposed as 'temporary', nine months. Who will monitor that someone isn't longer than 9-months. What if the camper doesn't want to leave after nine months. Will they be entitled to stay? I've heard how hard it is to evict

renters, what about a backyard camper?

Offering temporary camping in our neighborhood is not a fix.. It is not a solution..It will backfire and the residents of Shoreline will pay the cost as we watch our neighborhoods suffer.

I hope that you will take my (and my fellow neighbors) strong opposition into account and not allow this proposal to be enacted. Not one person I have spoken to is in support of it. This Bill is not in Shoreline's best interest.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Monger  
Shoreline Resident