

From: webmaster@shorelinewa.gov
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: City of Shoreline: Contact the City Council
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:47:45 AM

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Contact the City Council
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Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. Richmond Beach
2. Email
3. Barbara Twaddell
4. 1337 NW 201st
5. Not answered
6. Barbtwaddell@comcast.net
7. Dear City Council,

Re: Discussion of Ord. No. 762 – Amending SMC for Temporary Encampments. City Council agenda item for 2/27/17 meeting.

I am against homeless tent encampments in residential back yards for many reasons. The main reason is that it bad for the homeless to be isolated in back yards, far from social services. This is the opinion of most, if not all, professionals in the field. By preventing the homeless fast access to permanent housing it begins to enable the encampment lifestyle, then a temporary situation becomes basically permanent. We have seen this with some encampments who have very long term residents who embrace the "family" that has become their camp as they move from place to place. The other reason is that it means there will really be no single family zoning in Shoreline when there is the ability for anyone to have large numbers of people living in back yards.

I also agree that church homeless encampments should be allowed because of religious freedom. But even though church encampments should be allowed, it doesn't mean it is a good way to help the homeless. It does give the church members a feeling that they are "doing good", but their good feeling comes with a price for the homeless. It helps continue the homeless cycle.

This proposal also asks churches to provide reasonable setbacks to be a good neighbor and to

protect the neighbors from the sights, sounds, and smells of outdoor living. I believe the council should approve these setbacks. There have been a few people who have claimed these setbacks will prevent most churches from hosting an encampment. I am wondering if this is actually true. There are people who claim that the length of the time for the encampment would discriminate against school children, even though these time lengths were what the churches themselves wanted. It is not easy hosting a camp. There are at least 43 churches in Shoreline. I think the council should survey these churches themselves and find out if this is true. Some of the questions that might be asked are:

1. Has your church ever tried to host a homeless encampment?
2. If No, why not? Was it due to city rules (setbacks) or just the preference of the members?
3. If Yes, in the past? Why not now? City rules (setbacks) or the preference of the members?
4. Does your church want to host a homeless encampment?
5. If Yes, how long do you want the camp to stay?

After the results of this survey are in, the council should decide whether the proposed new rules would limit most churches from hosting a homeless encampment, which I doubt. Conversely they should decide if the proposal is reasonable and that the churches who really want to host homeless encampments still have that ability. My fear is that watering down the rules provided by the planning commission, will make it easier for another family to host a back yard homeless encampment, and set a legal precedent, to the detriment of the homeless and the city.

Sincerely,
Barbara Twaddell

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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