

From: [Sheri Ashleman](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Transitional Encampment Development Code Amendments
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:23:29 PM

Shoreline City Council Members:

I am writing in opposition to development code amendments that would allow transitional encampments in the backyards of single family homes in residential zones or in parks where homeless members of society are isolated from services they need to get back on their feet. After reading many approaches to the problem of homelessness from authorities on the subject, this one makes the most sense to me.

There is a fine line between creating dependency and a victim mentality and walking along side people to enable them to create real and lasting change. Placing the homeless in backyards, giving away our parks, creating safe areas for people to take illegal drugs or offering free services does not show true compassion or help.

Let's put our tax dollars where they will really make a lasting impact rather than on bandaid solutions. Create a "work for services" program to help people take ownership of their future, learn new skills and be empowered to create change in their lives. Get the homeless who are struggling with addiction into rehab, then give them a choice between a "work for services" program or jail. It may sound harsh, but it's more compassionate than enabling them to stay in a life of addiction and homelessness in which they have no self worth or anything but drugs to live for. Teach them that they have an identity and worth outside of the situations in which they currently find themselves. And provide real, indoor, community-based housing options for people in the "work for services" programs.

Respectfully,

Sheri Ashleman