



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, December 2, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

[19-584](#)

Regulating the use of sidewalks and public spaces

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Areas: Good Governance; Safe Community; Strong and Diverse

Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community

Attachments: [Engrossed Ordinance Bill 10-19](#)

[EXHIBIT A to Engrossed Ordinance 10-19](#)

[Written Testimony](#)

[Written Testimony 1](#)

Add- Written Testimony

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Astrid Miller <chemastrid@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 1:02 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] Feedback on the recent vote on sit/lie down and personal belongings on sidewalks

Hello everyone!

My name is Astrid Miller and I have lived in Salem for 24 of my 29 years of life. I live in the Highland neighborhood and plan to grow old and die here. I love Salem very much!

I must comment, however, on your recent vote about banning sitting and lying on city sidewalks as well as preventing people from leaving personal possessions on the sidewalk.

When I heard on the radio that this was being voted on, I felt very angry. These measures are all a thinly veiled attempt at punishing homeless people for being homeless. We live in a city with the state mental hospital, and I have seen these people for most of my life and it is clear to me that they are mentally ill or suffering from addiction. The fact that these rules were even up for a vote comes off as very meanspirited to me, and shows a lack of compassion and humanity from the people who suggested it.

While I understand that the sit/lie part of the rules was removed, it made me feel so angry that it was even suggested.

Rather than punishing homeless people or hoping they will go "somewhere else" (where would that be, exactly), I would be thrilled to see measures to help house these people, warming centers set up now that it's cold, and areas where they are allowed to sleep without being bothered.

This issue is near and dear to my heart because before I knew him, my husband was one of those homeless drug-addicted men on the streets of Portland. He was a very sick person, yet now 9 years later he is married to me, runs a chemistry lab, and we own a home together. You would never know he had been homeless, yet he was. It can happen to anyone.

I ask that the council maintain a view of compassion, harm reduction, and helpfulness toward homeless people. Don't push them away, house them. If they are making a mess, enforce anti-littering laws rather than making new laws to target them.

I would also like to say that I walk to my job downtown twice a week in the dark morning and I feel quite safe doing so. There are a couple spots I avoid as a lone woman because I know homeless people congregate there for resources and help. I do not see a need to prevent homeless people from sitting, lying, or camping downtown, and I will always view rules made against the homeless as meanspirited and compassionless.

Thank you very much for your time and for hearing me as one of the citizens you represent! I appreciate it and I hope in the future to write about happier topics!

Happy thanksgiving and I wish everyone the best. May you all appreciate your homes, your food, your warmth, and your families and remember those who lack those things!

-Astrid Miller

Ruth Stellmacher

From: SARAH OWENS <hlowens2@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Steve Powers
Cc: Chuck Bennett; Matthew Ausec; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Chris Hoy; Cara Kaser; Jackie Leung; Jim Lewis; Vanessa Nordyke; Jerry Moore; CityRecorder; rjsund@gmail.com; Michael Livingston
Subject: Comment on Engrossed Ordinance Bill 10-19, 2d Reading 12/2/19

City Manager Powers,

Per your staff report on the referenced bill, In addition to making the revisions directed by Council on November 25, 2019, the City Attorney revised the ordinance findings, "clarified" the definition of "public sidewalk" to include the landscape or parking strip, added that violations constitute a "public nuisance" under SRC 50.800, and "clarified" that police have discretion when determining whether to issue an exclusion notice for listed offenses, and may issue variances when a notice is issued. See staff report.

The City Attorney's last two "clarifications" were apparently needed to conform the ordinance to police practice. However, allowing police *discretion whether to impose an additional penalty* for a violation inside a Crime Prevention District is, as a matter of law, arbitrary, and therefore a violation of constitutional due process requirements. See Engrossed Bill at page 11. Allowing police discretion to enforce the City's Civil Exclusion ordinance opens all the City's civil exclusions notices to legal challenge.

Sincerely,
Sarah Owens and Michael Livingston

SRC 95.770. Civil Exclusion.

- (a) Any person arrested or cited to appear in court for charging or lodged in jail for presentation to a judicial officer for charging, based upon probable cause to believe the person has committed an enumerated offense within a crime prevention district may be prohibited from being present on pedestrian ways or public ways within the district for any purpose, except as allowed by a variance granted pursuant to SRC

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Victor Reppeto <vreppeto@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Tom Andersen; CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: Re: Contact City Council

How is the ban on camping different from the sit lie ordinance? Once again you are attempting to step around the constitution rather than meet the city's obligation to follow through on recommendations from multiple Homeless issue committees. If you continue with this effort to desensitize the public to state sponsored slavery you are going to end up with more violence than you can handle. Your violent behavior will beget more violence. Yes, throwing people in jail for being poor is intensely violent and corrupt.

You need to provide these poor people with some place that it is legal to camp. Cascade gateway is a good candidate. There are also a number of properties you have purchased that have not yet been developed. A parking structure would make more sense but that would cost a lot of money. One way or another you need to meet your obligation to pursue a solution that does not include the violent threat of being arrested and jailed for laying down and sleeping some place, with or without a tent.

Stop trying to push these people underground. It is against the law. When you push people into a corner and kick them they will fight back. The danger of retaliation is real. That is what most of the school shootings are about but you refuse to take any responsibility for the behaviors that foment a hostile environment where such a resentment can take root.

Peace,
Victor Reppeto

503-383-9517

On Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 2:22 PM Tom Andersen <TAndersen@cityofsalem.net> wrote:

Thank you very much for your comments, Victor, especially their measured tone. From all angles, this is a very tough issue that is facing Salem and, indeed, the whole nation. It is important that we hear from as many people as we can before making any decision. I appreciate your concern and comments.

Regards,

Tom

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net <noreply@cityofsalem.net> on behalf of vreppeto@gmail.com <vreppeto@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 10:36 AM

To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: Contact City Council

Your Name	Victor Reppeto
Your Email	vreppeto@gmail.com
Your Phone	5033839517
Street	615 Commercial st NE, Salem, Or 97301
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	The sit lie ordinance is illegal. The SCOTUS has ruled. Kicking people out of downtown without taking them to court first is a violation of due process. Drop this witch hunt and keep your commitments to provide help for the homeless including but no limited to a sobering center and 24/7 bathroom facilities. It is apparent you are telling everyone else to use their words and conduct business peacefully while you stand there with a gun in one hand and a baton in the other. Victor Reppeto 503-383-9517

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/18/2019.

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Communication is the problem and the solution

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Bob Elliott <robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 8:47 AM
To: citycouncil; mordhorst.lyle@co.polk.or.us; sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov; Tina Kotek
Subject: Salem spends more than \$5.2 million a year on homelessness issues, draft report states

I'm wondering if this report would have come out prior to last Monday night would the vote on sit/lie been different? The upcoming vote on banning camping on public property is crucial to saving our City. Number one issue with citizens in Salem and a combination of 40 activists, homeless and those who are not directly impacted by the homeless swayed liberals on council to continue to allow the visual blight and unsanitary conditions to remain. Maybe this issue should have been dealt with months ago when the weather was warmer, freezing temps weigh on all of us but this issue has to be addressed now. Where will they go if kicked out of Arches, all over Salem, State Property and back to Polk County along the river? My last point is where did they come from are they former Salem residents? Maybe a survey to find out? Our tax dollars may be being spent taking care of other cities citizens. No easy fix. Bob Elliott Check out this article from Statesman Journal:

Salem spends more than \$5.2 million a year on homelessness issues, draft report states

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2019/11/29/salem-homelessness-issue-budget-project-draft-report/4324061002/>

Sent from my iPhone

Ruth Stellmacher

From: REBECCA BEAMAN <bb4892@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 01, 2019 10:12 AM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: Material for Dec 2 City Council Meeting
Attachments: 20191201 - Safe Place ver 3.pdf

Please provide the attached document to the City Council. It proposes an alternative to a ban on tent camping on City of Salem property, and I would like it to be considered before the ban is voted on.

Becky Beaman
Ward 7
3280 Elderberry Dr S, Salem, 97302

Safe Places

A Proposal for Emergency Shelter of Salem Homeless Citizens



"There, but for the grace of God, go I"

Safe Places

A Proposal for Emergency Shelter of Salem Homeless Citizens

Background

When the City of Salem considered a proposed ordinance to keep homeless people from sitting or lying on city sidewalks during the day, it was seen as heartless and inhumane by many. Denying the homeless the right to sit and rest, when they arguably have no place to go, was too much – and the City Council amended the proposed ordinance to remove that provision.

Now, the Council is considering passing an ordinance to keep homeless people from sleeping in tents. It's probably safe to say that people are safest and their health most protected when they sleep in buildings. If they have no buildings they can sleep in, they are safest and their health most protected when they sleep in tents. They are most at risk, and their health least protected, when they sleep without protection from the elements.

Consider the case of a hypothetical homeless person who spends several days in the hospital (paid for by the Oregon Health Plan) being treated for some illness. Upon release from the hospital, they would be better off in a tent than without one, but under this ordinance the city will insist that no tent may be used. This hypothetical homeless person is more likely to cost the state more money in medical costs if we deny him/her the use of a tent.

These unhoused people are citizens of Salem. If Salem continues down the path we are on, we may eventually be able to kill them all off by exposure and denial of the basic necessities of life. But can we live with ourselves after this happens? In the past, the territory and state of Oregon treated black people this way – the law said it didn't matter where blacks lived, it just better not be here. It would be far better for Salem to now focus on where we want the homeless to be, rather than focusing exclusively on where we don't want them to be.

Safe Places

A Proposal for Emergency Shelter of Salem Homeless Citizens

Introduction

Salem City Council faces a crisis. We have a large, dense, apparently spontaneous gathering of homeless in tent dwellings in the downtown business district in close proximity to traffic, and a single proposed tool: an ordinance to outlaw camping on all city property. Lacking budgeted resources to implement the recommendations of the Homelessness Solutions Task Force, Salem has failed to address the issues that make the homeless population the top problem on the minds of many Salem residents. This proposal attempts to incorporate the recommendations of the Task Force, on a minimal basis, and alleviate the immediate pressure on the City to enact draconian measures that deny the homeless their right to exist in the City of Salem.

If the ordinance succeeds in forcing all the homeless to sleep without their tents while on City of Salem property, the homeless will be even more likely to sleep on city sidewalks under the few existing canopy shelters. Without available 24/7 bathroom facilities, they will leave human waste on public and private property and probably leave other messes that businesses rightly object to. Illness among the homeless is likely to increase, as sleeping without a tent is colder, less secure, and less restful than sleeping in a tent.

In brief, this proposal is to establish a small tent camp and car camp in each ward for the homeless to shelter in at night, giving at least part of the homeless population a place to go other than the downtown streets and sidewalks. An ordinance prohibiting camping on city property should not be enforced until and unless the camps are established and there are vacancies in an approved tent camp. An ordinance prohibiting sleeping in one's car should not be enforced unless there are vacancies in an approved car camping area.

Overview

This proposal is to establish a small tent camp and car camp in each ward. An ordinance prohibiting camping on city property should not be enforced until and unless tent camps are established and there are vacancies in an approved tent camp. An ordinance prohibiting sleeping in one's car should not be enforced unless there are vacancies in an approved car camping area.

This is an emergency plan. In a perfect world, an emergency plan would be drafted with the participation of all interested parties and stakeholders and coordinated extensively and approved up and down the decision-making chain before implementation. But sometimes the emergency happens before the plan is completed. In those cases, the draft plan is the best available plan, and whoever gets tasked to implement the plan assembles the best available team and plows ahead.

This is a DRAFT proposal. It should be carefully reviewed and revised to incorporate additional detail to make it workable. It is important that mental health professionals with experience working with the unhoused review and modify provisions to increase the likelihood of success in light of the difficulties faced by the homeless. This provides a starting point, but it is by no means sufficient. In particular, once a portion of the homeless community is at predictable locations, a plan to increasingly connect these homeless to the services they need to rise out of homelessness is appropriate and not addressed in this proposal.

Part I proposes services and facilities that are needed at each location to make them equal in amenities to the downtown locations we seek to depopulate

Part II compares some alternative approaches for dealing with the current crisis

Part III proposes locations for small tent and vehicle camps in each Salem Ward.

Part IV describes a proposal for parking areas for homeless car campers in each Salem Ward.

Part V outlines decisions and rules that need to be developed for the program and for each location.

Part I

Amenities and services at each location

The downtown area attracts the homeless because of the services and amenities available there. Some of these can be provided at the satellite (camp) locations, and some are best provided by bringing the homeless back to the downtown using available bus services or establishing shuttle services for this purpose. To enable the homeless to move to a camp, they should be provided with the services and amenities that make it possible for them to live and, hopefully, progress from the camp to a more safe, stable living situation in permanent shelter.

Only the basic elements are addressed here. A true “housing first” approach would get the homeless into permanent housing before looking to accomplish anything else. Professionals in the field of homeless services and advocacy are better positioned to propose what services can be provided to persons living in tents, and plans for efforts along these lines should be developed if this proposal is implemented.

Amenity/Service	Proposed point of service	Wild Idea About Who Pays	Comments
Drinking water	Each camp	Chamber of Commerce	
Toilet facilities	Each camp	Churches	FUMC: 1
Garbage service	Each camp	City of Salem	
Emergency communication ¹	Each camp		Are there sufficient free phones among camp residents?
Meals	UGM & others	UGM & others	
Showers	Arches/UGM	Arches/UGM	Need mobile showers
Laundry			Need mobile laundry
Recharging devices	Arches/ROCC/UGM	Arches/ROCC/UGM	

¹ Essential to summon medical/police help or report a problem where other assistance is needed

Amenity/Service	Proposed point of service	Wild Idea About Who Pays	Comments
Bus transportation		City of Salem	Bus passes ²
Security for belongings left unattended	Each camp		Problem. If fenced, could be monitored by residents. How is it done now?
Medical	Existing hospital & clinics		Bus transport or ambulance

Location of Amenities and Services

²We want to enable campers to get to appropriate services but need to consider liability. For safety, need to identify problem points. Are we enabling child molesters to exit busses at schools? Can Arches issue “bus ID” so we can identify people more specifically? How enforced? What happens if we “black-ball” someone?

Part II

Comparison of Alternative Approaches

When Salem authorities took no action to designate a location for homeless camping, the city perhaps bore less liability in the event that anything happened as a result of the homeless presence. By designating locations where tent camping is permitted, and passing an ordinance denying homeless residents the right to camp on any other city properties, there may be some implied liability should harm come to a person living in the designated camping area. Similarly, should a camp resident be involved in an altercation with a resident of the surrounding neighborhood, there may be some implied liability.

There are alternative approaches that might address the crisis without establishing multiple designated camping locations:

Alternative 1: Locate the homeless camping area(s) in a more remote location, but with the appropriate amenities including transportation to the downtown area where centralized services are available (which may require changes to city bus services);

Alternative 2: Allow the homeless to camp on a first-come, first-served basis with required spacing between tents and required set-back from city streets and sidewalks (will probably require permitting, to establish when camp sites were established so that latecomers who violate spacing requirements can be identified and given responsibility for relocating); or

Alternative 3: Allow the homeless to camp as they have been doing, and instead of rousting them out when the mess gets out of hand, establish governance and garbage service at the various remote locations and remain engaged to keep things running more smoothly.

These alternatives have advantages and disadvantages, some of which are summarized here:

Option	Human waste	Risk to non-campers	Ease of Implementation	Risk to homeless
No action	●	●	●	●
Camping ban	●	●	●	●
Proposal	●	●	●	●
Alt 1	●	●	●	●
Alt 2	●	●	●	●
Alt 3	●	●	●	●

Comparison of Alternative Approaches

This table applies to the issue of tent camping, but does not consider vehicle camping. The same humanitarian consideration applies to vehicle camping as applies to tent camping, so if a solution other than outright banning of tent camping is implemented, a similar solution should be implemented for vehicle campers.

Part III

Individual Camps

For fairness, it is proposed that each Ward host one small camp, which would include up to 10 tents and up to 10 car camping vehicles.³ Appropriate locations are near to bus lines, could have water piped for use, and provide some “buffer” from immediate neighbors. A fenced area is preferred, for security reasons (although fencing could conceivably be added). Each location should have porta-potties, 1 per 10 residents (?)

Due to time constraints (because there is only one week between the first and second readings of the proposed ordinance), the locations listed below are not coordinated with anyone and may be completely unsuitable. But at least one location is listed for each ward. It is probable that Councilors and neighborhood associations will be able to come up with other locations that are at least as suitable as the ones listed here, which could be substituted for the ones listed.

Each location has some characteristics that make it problematic to use as a camping area – for example, it may be private property, requiring the City to seek a low-cost lease arrangement to use it; there may be zoning issues that must be dealt with; or it may be state property that requires state permission to use. This plan can only succeed if the Council and the Mayor agree to commit to it and pursue it in good faith and hold staff to a similar good-faith effort.

³ Should the tent and car camping sites be collocated, as suggested here, or handled independently? This will probably vary by Ward. No need to have car camping on the bus line, for example, but separating them would suggest more sites have available water and 24/7 toileting. Also, is 10 the right number? Do we use “one group of 10” as the initial allocation, followed by another group of 10, and should the second group of 10 be governed separately?

Ward	Neighborhood(s) ⁴	Councilor	Location
1	CAN-DO West Salem Grant	Kaser	Open area along 17 th St near the fairgrounds; or inside one of the vacant warehouses on Front St (close enough to downtown that bus is not needed)
2	SCAN	Anderson	Former car dealership lot along Mission St across from airport
3	Morningside Faye Wright SEMCA	Nanke	Open area along Battlecreek Rd, south of Leslie Middle school, if served by bus line
4	South Gateway	Leung	Open area along Commercial St south of Barnes Rd, if served by bus line
5	Northgate Lansing Highland	Ausec	Fairgrounds or fairgrounds parking lot
6	ELNA NOLA NESCA	Hoy	Open area along 45 th Ave, south of Swegle Elementary & north of Salem Academy, if served by bus line
7	SWAN Sunnyslope Faye Wright	Nordyke	Large field along Liberty St, north of community garden
8	West Salem	Lewis	Open area at Orchard Heights and Doaks Ferry, if served by bus line

Possible small camp locations

⁴ This is not the complete list of neighborhoods. Need to complete this.

Part IV

Car Camps

- It is illegal, within Salem city limits, for a person to park on a city street and sleep in their car
 - Police will respond to complaints and tell the driver to move on
 - Sleeping in the car while parked on a driveway or in a parking lot is legal
 - Perhaps having the City identify locations where car camping is permitted will allow carving out an exception from the ordinance
- First step: identify locations where specific, identified homeless (assigned parking places for known persons to sleep in their cars) and form a steering committee
 - Ensure representation from folk experienced in homeless outreach
- Work together to establish policy constraints on what behavior will be allowed
 - Parking hours, type of client (families? ex-cons? etc), noise/outdoor congregation limits, cooking/fires, smoking, drug/alcohol use, location and hours of porta-potties, signed agreements for clients, self-governance of clients, oversight by steering committee and neighborhood representative (?)
 - Discuss with residents in the neighborhood, make sure they know what behavior is acceptable and what should be reported
 - Ensure police are advised of the program and know how to refer people to it when appropriate
- Start small if possible, for a trial period
 - Engage professionals (case worker?) for each client
 - Client is assigned a parking space (NOT first-come, first-served)
 - Vetting ensures clients have are advised of established rules
 - Decisions need to be made about whether we will require clients to have licenses, insurance, proof of citizenship, etc
 - Assess after each week (client, case worker(s), oversight (CERT?)?) and adjust rules as needed. Evict client if appropriate.
 - Add additional clients, adjusting rules as appropriate

Part V

Decisions

Program

- A. Is it possible for the City of Salem to hold off on enforcing a ban on tent camping, and a ban on car camping, until there are approved (and equipped) camping locations with vacancies? Is it possible for the City to suspend enforcement when there are no vacancies, until additional space can be designated? Will the decision makers agree to do so?
- B. Is City Council willing to commit to a plan that provides tent and car camps, despite the fact that they are somewhat unsightly and disruptive and disturbing to the neighborhoods they are in, given that there is a crisis here?
- C. Is the City of Salem willing to approach the State and inquire about declaring a crisis/emergency, to try to get State-level support (National Guard tents and/or manpower, access to state land and equipment, possible funds)?

Campers (people)

- 1. How to allocate campers to locations as the locations are initially established (first-come, first-served at request of camper? Allocated to balance number of dogs or genders or problem personalities or some other criteria? Do people with jobs get priority to locations nearest their jobs?)
- 2. What do administrators record about campers at a location? (Name, DOB, next of kin, insurance status (OHP), employment status, case worker, criminal record, smoker or not, user or not, citizen or not?) Can we ignore citizenship status (please)?

Campers (behaviors)

- 3. How do we want the camps to govern? Self-government is surely most advantageous from a cost perspective. Does each camp choose their mayor? What say do they have on their rules? What do they do if/when there are problems? Each camp will need to “report” to someone – a CERT member? City staff? Good Neighbor liaison? Police officer?

4. What illegal behaviors will we make no attempt to govern? (Drug use, if done in the privacy of a tent/car? Drug sales? Prostitution? Selling of food stamp benefits? Theft? Assault?)
5. How shall we document problem behaviors? What shall we do about problem behaviors? What shall we do about serial transgressors? Is the tent a “home” that requires a warrant to search, in the event of a problem with a neighbor outside the camp?
6. What do we do if a camper walks off and leaves his/her belongings (in part or all)? How long an absence will constitute surrender of a place in the camp? Are there “excused” and “unexcused” absences? Who cleans up the mess left behind?
7. What do we do if a camper appears to stop going to meals, or otherwise caring for himself/herself?
8. If we had a communal tent for each camp, how would we use it?
9. Are the “known problem causers” allocated to a single camp, spread among camps, or what?
10. (Car campers) What do we do in the case where a vehicle breaks down and cannot be moved?
11. (Car campers) Do we set hours when cars can be there, or allow parking at all times the way we allow tents to be up at all times?

DRAFT

Basic Campsite Rules

1. Each camper is responsible for cleaning up his/her own mess, for keeping his/her belongings within the boundaries of his/her own campsite.
2. Each camper is responsible for putting his/her trash into designated trash receptacles.
3. Each camper is responsible for considerate use of shared resources. Each camper must endeavor to keep the porta-potty clean and in good working order. Each camper will use water only as needed and will turn spigots completely off after use.
4. Each camper will treat other campers with respect; will respect other campers' belongings; will allow other campers to have privacy while in their own tents/cars.
5. Quiet hours will be from 9 pm to 7 am.
6. For safety and hygiene reasons, the following activities will be allowed only in designated areas (which will vary depending on specifics at each location):
 - Smoking
 - Cooking
 - Dumping wastewater
 - Peeing and pooping (better terminology, please!)
7. Camps are allowed in neighborhoods on the basis of a promise of neighborly behavior. Neighbors will be treated with respect. Problems with neighbors will be reported to (whom?) and resolved by (is there something in the Good Neighbor program we can use?)

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Victor Reppeto <vreppeto@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 01, 2019 10:58 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Cc: Owens, Sarah
Subject: Camping Ban

Taking things that are not abandoned is considered theft in the State of Oregon. Certain rules need to be observed. Posting for 10 days before moving such items is required.

You can pass what ever City ordinance you like but it will be superseded by state statute and I will do my best to see to it that you are prosecuted.

Victor Reppeto
Salem, Or
503-383-9517

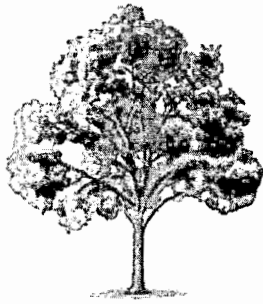
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Communication is the problem and the solution

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Susann Kaltwasser <susann@kaltwasser.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 4:53 AM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Steve Powers; Jerry Moore
Cc: Fowler, Sue
Subject: Comments for tonight's city council meeting
Attachments: ELNA comments on Sidwalk ordinance 12219 .pdf

Please enter the attached comments into the record from East Lancaster Neighborhood Association for tonight's Council meeting.

Susann Kaltwasser
East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
Co-President



EAST LANCASTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (ELNA)

December 2, 2019

To: Salem City Council and Mayor Bennett
From: Susann Kaltwasser, East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
RE: Regulating the use of sidewalks and public spaces, Second Reading

After listening to the Council discussion and various motions regarding the ordinance regulating the use of sidewalks and public spaces, the East Lancaster Neighborhood Association continues to oppose the entire ordinance. We would request that a final vote be delayed until the question of 'where will they go' has been fully addressed. We also ask once again that the City engage in more discussion amongst citizens through the Neighborhood Associations on solutions to the problem of housing alternatives for those in need. We submit this request again in hopes that you will consider our position and delay a vote at this time.

Our original comments are submitted again for your consideration.

On November 7, 2019, the East Lancaster Neighborhood Association members discussed the proposed ordinance regarding the issue of unhoused individuals in the downtown area. After some discussion there was an unanimous vote of all the people there that we should oppose any form of this ordinance. The feeling was mixed about the causes of the current situation, but there was complete agreement that enacting new restrictions on sitting, laying or even building protections from the weather was not a good idea.

The citizens of Salem seem to agree with the sentiments of the ELNA members that homelessness is their number one priority for the City. What is not clear is that a majority of people perceive the problem to be one of law enforcement or the lack of additional laws. They felt that the problem is more likely the lack of affordable housing, enough vouchers for the poor, and the lack of essential services for addictions, mental illness, and basic supports of food and clothing.

The ELNA members would like the City Council to reject this ordinance at this time and to rather renew the efforts to implement the recommendations of the Downtown Homeless Task Force. Many of those recommendations are not complete yet. It is essential that before the use of more enforcement like this ordinance, the City look at ways to help the unhoused with sanitary service and access to social services. When you force people to move when there is no place for them to go, it is just prolonging the situation and can force people into other neighborhoods. How does it help?

We feel that there are already enough laws that can be used to address real safety issues such as public indecency, urinating in public, intoxication and disruptive behaviors. Utilizing teams of people who have special training to assist a merchant makes more sense than to accelerate a perceived nuisance into a criminal offense. Issuing fines to people who cannot pay them is futile. It may seem to address the immediate problem, but it only creates more expense for the taxpayer, takes police away from more important duties if it comes to court action, and clogs

the system with useless litigation. It makes more sense to the ELNA members to use those resources that we have to work on alternatives.

The ELNA members recognize that the problem we see most intensively downtown is in part because we only seem to have services clustered in that area. We would like to see more services or shelters provided in other parts of the City. We see a lot of unhoused people in East Salem area as well, but there are no support services in that area. Many of the unhoused cannot easily access the downtown service agencies due to health issues. Neighbors told stories of homeless people sitting on the sidewalks because they are unable to walk very far at a time due to untreated arthritis, sore hips or wounded feet. They are essentially stuck where they are for long periods and no way to access medical care or social services. One neighbor said that they were able to befriend a homeless man and connect him to needed services just by offering a ride. Such a simple act of kindness helped a person and was a much better solution than calling the police.

Homelessness is not just the responsibility of the government. It is an issue that we all have to take some responsibility to address at the local level. Therefore, the ELNA members would urge the City to conduct local discussions through the neighborhoods about the local situation and to seek solutions together. There are a lot of caring people who would like to help, but do not know how and/or do not know what is available. We think there are many more people who want to help than there are people who want to see their neighbors criminalized for being poor.

If this ordinance is passed, even in a limited form, ELNA feels that it will just make the problem worse. It will suggest that poverty can be solved with laws, that some members of our community are 'less than' because of their lack of income, that addiction is a crime and not a disease, and that the problem only exists when we see certain behaviors that are in fact coping methods for people who are destitute and need help. We do not think that it will do anything more than turn innocent people into criminals, push people into other areas of town and prolong finding real solutions to the housing crisis we currently face.

We urge the Council to work with us to find real solutions and not to waste time on ineffective laws.

Thank you for your consideration of our neighborhood concerns.

Susann Kaltwasser
Co-President
East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Margaret Stephens <mlstep@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 10:20 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Sit/Lie and sidewalk usage

Dear Council members:

The City of Salem should not ban camping on sidewalks/public rights of way under current conditions, nor should sitting or lying on the sidewalk be banned.

We need to keep all residents safe. And Is it not safer for residents who are houseless to camp in a public area, rather than one isolated, where they may be victimized and isn't it better to have people camping where there are accessible sanitary facilities* and close to the "services" that are available, such as they are, which, by the way seem very inadequate.

(* That is IF there were enough downtown -- remember the offer of ArtaPotties and the downtown business's refusal to site them, for free?)

Ban camping on sidewalks when and only when every single person has the option for permanent shelter, every night of the year. Otherwise, Salem is trying to hide the issue. If there are behavioral issues with a few people, then address them with the current rules and regulations. Don't punish everyone for the actions of a few.

Also, the terminology used by the city to describe the property of our houseless residents as "unsightly" is incredibly offensive. Imagine if YOU had to carry around EVERYTHING you owned? I think that our houseless residents are pretty creative, and that their carts, etc are far less unsightly than the "McMansions" all around us, using up inappropriate amounts of resources in huge spaces that house just a few people.

The wealthy trying to get rid of the poor who are just trying to live is what is really ugly and unsightly in Salem. Until the wealth disparity and the broken social safety net is repaired, we should be reminded daily of how things really are; that includes the fact that some residents in Salem have no place to live other than outside and in the streets.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 10:32 AM
To: Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for 12/2 agenda: Sidewalk Behavior Ordinance - support for business
Attachments: Support for business and Be Bold examples.pdf; CANDO Good Neighbor Guide.pdf

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the highest art is the art of living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner.

and...

with our thoughts, we make the world.

♥♥.***.♥.*** ♥*..* ♥*.***.♥.***.♥♥.***.♥♥.***.♥♥

THE BASICS

Do

- Make eye contact and talk kindly to people.
- If someone appears to be struggling to meet basic needs, refer to **ARCHES (503) 399-9080** (9-4 M-F) or call Northwest Human Services **Crisis & Information Hotline 503-581-5535** (24/7).
- If someone is being disruptive, try to de-escalate the situation if comfortable.
- If someone is threatening harm to self or others, acting recklessly or violently, or having delusions, call 911.
- Install good lighting around your building; lock or turn off exterior power outlets.
- Let people know your property boundaries. If someone is doing something illegal and won't leave, call the non-emergency police line 503-588-6123 or 911 if the situation is dangerous.
- Keep the area in front of the business clean and well maintained. This encourages others to respect the area.

Don't

- Don't assume people know your expectations.
- Don't offer food or money, unless you are equipped and willing to handle repeat requests
- Don't permit anyone to camp or store things on your property

COMMON SCENARIOS:

Someone is sleeping/loitering at your front door:

- Odds are, this won't be a one-off interaction, so it's good to establish a friendly relationship. Introduce yourself. Ask for the person's name.
- Politely and kindly ask them to leave in a way that deflects the request from yourself to a third party (e.g. the property owner asks them to leave, even if that person is you). This reduces the power dynamic, and will help in future interactions.
- Let them know where they can be, such as ARCHES, HOAP or Union Gospel Mission (limited hours/days), as opposed to only where they cannot be.
- If they are not cooperative, tell them you are going to call the police, *but would rather not*. Avoid confrontation and keep a safe distance if you feel threatened in any way. Call the non-emergency police line at 503-588-6123. If they become disruptive or dangerous call 911.
- If advice is needed on what to do about belongings, debris or potentially hazardous material left behind, call Public Works Dispatch (503-588-6333).

Someone exhibiting disruptive mental health symptoms has walked into the business

- If they buy something, treat them like any other customer. If they don't, let them know this area is for customers, and politely ask them to leave, *only if you would do the same for any other customer not making a purchase*.
- If they are symptomatic and disruptive: Ask them to leave clearly and politely. Your safety, and the safety of your patrons is your priority. If they remain in the facility, call the non-emergency police line. If the situation feels dangerous, call 911.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU WANT TO HELP SOMEONE:

- Get to know your neighbors living on the streets.
- Encourage/help them call services like Northwest Human Services or ARCHES.

Northwest Human Services:

503-581-5535 (24/7) Info/Crisis Intervention, Emergency Rent, Utility and Prescription Assistance, Access to Food Boxes, Cherriots Day Passes, Counseling Services

ARCHES: 503-399-9080 (9-4 M-F) Referral Services, Drop-In Day Center (8:30-3 M-F), Housing Programs.

KEEP IN MIND:

- Many organizations help people experiencing homelessness and work to increase affordable housing. Find an organization that you want to support, and ask them what they need.
- Salem's homeless service providers know how to help our homeless neighbors. The more you support them, the more they can help people get off the streets and into stable housing.
- Avoid perpetuating stereotypes, stigma and myths. People experiencing homelessness are not defined by their housing status. It's likely they've sought housing and/or shelter and there was none available. Likewise, people are not defined by any mental or physical health conditions, including addiction, they might be experiencing. It's likely they've sought treatment, but their conditions are made worse by their lack of stable housing.
- Advocate within your circle of influence to help make things better for neighbors who are homeless. This will help the business community, too.

- Your neighborhood association is here for you. CANDO meets from 6 to 7p the 3rd Wednesday of each month at First Christian Church on the corner of Marion and Cottage Streets. Here you can speak informally with your neighbors, your City Councilor, and members of the Downtown Enforcement Team, and weigh in on problems, plans, projects and trends.

- Follow CANDO's FB page, CANDO Archive blog and Twitter account to stay up on local news and politics affecting people experiencing homelessness downtown.

- Josh Lair and Matt Maciera with **Be Bold Street Ministries** have relationships with many who live downtown, and they are ready and willing to help you and your business when you have a difficult situation that doesn't warrant a police call. Josh can be reached at 503-576-9388, Matt at 971-273-8086.

Facebook

@CANDONeighborhood

Twitter

@CANDOArchive

October 2019

Downtown Salem GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDE

In every city in the U.S., people are living outdoors and in places not fit for human habitation for extended periods. The vast majority are long-time residents of the area. Many suffer from addiction and poor mental and physical health. Legally, they are "homeless." They are also neighbors.

- * Dos and Don'ts
- * Common Scenarios
- * How to Help



Download this Guide

<https://youcandosalem.blogspot.com/2019/10/cando-good-neighbor-guide.html>

My name is Lynelle, and I'm writing to convey continued interest and investment in connecting with businesses to hear their concerns and experiences, and to see what existing or new strategies might be useful to address their needs in ways that also treat unsheltered neighbors as fellow human beings.

Background - I have been volunteering at the winter warming centers for the last three years. As a result of that work and other volunteering, I've heard some people's stories, and I learned that I had some misperceptions about homelessness and people who are unsheltered. The work and stories have captured my heart, and led me to accidentally become an advocate for people who are homeless.

I've been a social worker for the last ten years. Before that I did disability advocacy administrative work, and before that, I worked for many small businesses and startup companies. It is a significant challenge to balance the burdens and joys of and diverse tasks of running a business - finding an affordable location, negotiating lease terms, developing relationships with bankers and vendors and coordinating loans and credit lines as needed, painting, decorating, setting up shop, ordering inventory, creating or choosing and then learning an inventory control and point of sale system, figuring out pricing to attract customers and in ways that also enable enough profit to sustain yourself, your shop, and possibly some employees, merchandising the store for visual and buying appeal, while also being the shipping clerk, receiving clerk, inventory control person, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and the janitor, toilet-cleaner, and plumber/plunger expert as needed.

Small businesses have a special place in my heart - there's something about starting with a dream and making it come true. Those times have been some of my favorite jobs in spite of the high risk, huge time investment, and diverse workload. I understand and empathize with business concerns.

Common ground - As the proposed sit-lie/Sidewalk Behavior ordinance has been considered and discussed, I see significant common ground - every advocate I know understands that sidewalks need to have clear and safe passage for all people. There is support of laws to insure clear passage if there are gaps in the existing rules. It is also important to have a boundary of appropriate behavior, yet there are existing laws to address behaviors.

Revised ordinance - As you know, advocates have many concerns about the proposed ban on sitting and lying. With the sit-lie ban omitted from the proposed ordinance, the camping ban and property ban remain.

Business needs and resources - Business needs matter, and I am committed to continuing outreach to businesses, to hear what situations they are encountering, to share information and resources, and to identify what other supports might be useful to them. At this point, there are more resources available to support businesses now than there has been in the past, with more resources and supports coming soon.

Current and upcoming supports for businesses:

- **CANDO Good Neighbor Guide** (attached) - shares information and resources, including contact numbers for Be Bold Ministries. Josh Lair and Matt Maceira of Be Bold Ministries have been unsheltered, and they have struggled with addiction, so they come from a position of being a peer, with the credibility and respect that comes from that shared life experience. Advocates visited 72 downtown Salem businesses and spoke with the store owner or manager at 29 stores. Businesses conveyed positive responses and gratitude about the guide, and some asked for extra copies for employees. Advocates will continue to connect with businesses to share other information and resources, and to identify what other supports might be useful to them.
- **Arches Outreach Coordinator** - position is open now; job description conveys that the person will focus on downtown, providing another support for businesses.
- **Be Bold and Arches offer morning "Room Service"** teams, serving coffee to unsheltered individuals sleeping downtown, helping people to wake up and get up if they are not already awake, and sharing resources as needed. Room Service teams are seeing fewer people sleeping in doorways - most are already up when they get there, and litter and debris are an exception, not the rule.

- **Trainings**
 - Be Bold Ministry offers trainings
 - United Way and other trainings are offered at various times
- **Cahoots** pilot project is in the planning stages; it will provide support for individuals who need some mental health assistance and resources.

Examples of Be Bold supports: Josh Lair and Matt Maceira of Be Bold have been unsheltered, and they have struggled with addiction, so they come from a position of being a peer, with the credibility and respect that comes from that shared life experience. Be Bold Ministries provides supports that focus on building collaborative relationships with businesses and unsheltered individuals. Examples of their work and accomplishments are listed below.

- **Resource and supply sharing:** Shares resources, connects people to support services, and/or offers supplies, food, or drinks to individuals who just need some items to meet basic needs.
- **Encouraging people to move on:** Upon request, Be Bold Ministries encourages people to move elsewhere; they can buy someone a coffee or small meal as part of the encouragement.
- **De-escalating:** De-escalates situations that are beyond what the business can handle on their own, yet isn't at a level of needing to call the police.
- **Compensation and boundaries:** In a situation where an unsheltered individual ordered and ate a meal but had no money to pay for the meal, Be Bold Ministries shared that they can pay the owner for the meal, and work with the unsheltered individual to emphasize that their actions are stealing, and the owner is being nice to not report the behavior to the police, THIS TIME, yet they cannot repeat this behavior, and Be Bold would share about free meals that are available to the individual.
- **Educating unsheltered individuals and boundaries:** Connects with unsheltered individuals to encourage appropriate behavior and calls police when behavior warrants police involvement.
- **Implementing boundaries:** Upon business owners' request, encourages unsheltered customers to use sidewalk café chairs and tables for a reasonable timeframe, so that the chairs and tables are also available to other customers.
- **Educating businesses:** Educates businesses and other community members as needed. Education goes far in enabling sheltered people to understand behaviors, change some beliefs, develop rapport and connections as possible, and reduce fear.
- **Identifying options:** Educates and shares when police, 911, or a crisis response team are appropriate; makes those calls as needed.
- **Changing disruptive behaviors:** Works with unsheltered individuals who are causing regular messes or disruptions. Salem Tire, Venti's, US Bank, and Great Harvest have each had unsheltered individuals relieving themselves, or yelling or causing other disruptions. Be Bold developed relationships with the individuals, shared supplies and resources as needed, connected them to services over time, resulting in the individuals no longer causing those issues.
- **Encouraging mental health and sobriety:** Since Be Bold Ministries staff have been unsheltered and struggled with addiction themselves, they come from the position and credibility of being peers. Educating about the distinction that people are not the problem; behaviors can be a problem. Encouraging people, as peers, to consider sobriety, and connecting people with rehab and/or mental health services as paths to growing stability and moving forward.

I look forward to connecting more with businesses to enable the shared goal of a vibrant downtown for all.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Rachel Kitterman <rskitterman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 10:54 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Oppose the Camping ban

Categories: Council Dox

“We consider whether the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment bars a city from prosecuting people criminally for sleeping outside on public property when those people have no home or other shelter to go to. We conclude that it does. “ ~Marsha S. Berzon, 9th circuit court.

Speaking on behalf of the houseless population in the city of Salem, Oregon I am asking city councilors to vote "NO" on the proposed ordinance that would place a ban on camping in public spaces.

With not enough shelter beds available, and a warming center criteria that still leaves people exposed to dangerous overnight lows, creating a camping ban right as the temperatures are turning cold will put greater undue hardships on people who are already struggling, and put many people at greater risk of hypothermia, frost bite, and even death.

It is important now more than ever, that Salem city council shows empathy towards those living on our streets. Please show that you care. Put a stop to this unconstitutional ordinance.

Sincerely,
Rachel Kitterman

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Full Name <jfkfc1@excite.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for 12/2 Sidewalk Behavior ordinance: Temporary Camping Area
Categories: Council Dox

As someone who has been homeless and has become a homeless advocate, I oppose the camping and property bans.

With sweeps resulting in more people being displaced, and with fewer and fewer places for people to go, a camping ban at this point would do the same thing that the proposed sit-lie ban would have done - people would be displaced from one place to another to another, destabilizing people and traumatizing people even more, and further stigmatizing people based on poverty and their lack of a place to live. The ongoing displacement with nowhere to be makes it harder and harder for people to move forward in their lives.

If a camping ban will be implemented, I hope our city would delay implementation until springtime when more housing and sleeping options are available. It is not humane to implement a ban now when weather is so cold, and there is nowhere to go. Pushing people from one un-permitted place to another serves no one well.

If a camping ban will be implemented soon, I urge the city to identify and implement a temporary camping area. Advocates convey such strong need for a permissible place for people to be that I'm sure advocates could provide 24/7 staffing. One half of the lower level of the Marion Parkade might provide a perfect temporary option - providing basic shelter, out of sight, ideally with the city providing a dumpster and porta potties. If the Union Street side was utilized for a temporary camping area, people parking in the garage to go shopping at the mall or other stores closeby wouldn't need to pass by unsheltered individuals, yet unsheltered individuals would have space to exist, until springtime when more housing and resources are available.

The following two articles show camping options - one shows how a church created a safe camp area, and another article that shows a camp that clearly cannot be viable, and a grid option that would enable organized staffing and codes of behavior for a temporary camping area to be viable.

If a camping ban will be implemented, please let us live up to our value of being a city of peace and compassion, by creating a temporary place for people to be.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Russell

https://www.ucc.org/news_oregon_church_sees_hosting_houseless_people_on_its_property_as_christian_duty_11042019

http://m.olympiawa.gov/community/homelessness/Mitigation-Sites.aspx?fbclid=IwAR05Y9hJZcApmltkwn5nH-nl_-8uGB0l1TGeseeZXBcLDaOq0pP1G7NQ2BQ

Ruth Stellmacher

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of artfotowrytr@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 1:12 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Categories: Council Dox

Your Name	Desiree Stratford
Your Email	artfotowrytr@gmail.com
Your Phone	5416367446
Street	524 S 42nd Street #D
City	Springfield
State	OR
Zip	97478
Message	<p>IF you choose to make being homeless and resting llegal, then you are responsible for providing housing for these people. If they were dogs, there would be crying soccer moms demanding justice. Human rights abuse is horrific when pretending you are not in fact responsible for the gentrification of your state to the extent that an ever growing population of full-time working homeless is on your shoulders. Either you accept that there is not affordable housing for the working population and nothing is created to care for those citizens in the most severe need due to mental illness or addiction in which there is not enough provisions for and THAT is your fault also. I worked across the street from the State Hospital in the old dome building that now houses the Board of Parole and DOC. You may see my permanent contribution to this State with my large, hand-carved sign inviting you. You are welcome. Now, it's time to address the growing concerns that is YOUR responsibility. Sincerely, Desiree Stratford, published author and internationally selling artist Formerly- Desiree Lambright the artist.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/2/2019.

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 1:13 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for 12/2 Sidewalk Behavior ordinance: Request to delay camping bans and to allow temporary shelter options
Categories: Council Dox

While I can generally support a camping ban, I am concerned about implementing a camping ban now, when more people than ever are displaced, with nowhere to go.

Some people are visibly camping because their remote campsites were swept, and people are not being allowed to re-settle in those places, as they had been able to do in the past. So even people who WANT to be out-of-sight, out-of-mind are less able to do so now. There is nowhere for people to go.

Some people are staying in the downtown area for their own safety, and a camping ban puts them at higher risk, in addition to there not being anywhere for people to go.

When there is nowhere for people to go, **a camping ban implemented now would be the same as a sit-lie ban that only moves people from one place to another, with nowhere legal for people to actually be.** When there is nowhere for people to be, and we force people to move again and again anyway, we cause more trauma, more harm. People are less and less able to keep their heads above water, and they lose energy, health, and hope, resulting in people being less and less capable of doing the very things we hope people will do to move forward in their lives.

When there is nowhere for people to be, and we force people to move and move again anyway, we end up criminalizing existence. Poverty already leaves people with fewer options for meeting basic human needs. When we ban tents or camping, we prevent people in poverty from sheltering themselves in the only ways they can.

If we had other options to offer, a camping ban might be humanely viable. That's not our reality now.

In the works:

Inside Out and United Way are partnering to create Safe Sleep. More sleeping options for women and their kids will be available once Safe Sleep is open. They will operate 365 days/year, NOT contingent on temperature! They expect to open with very limited space soon, yet they will have larger capacity after construction is completed, around springtime. Similarly, the city has several housing projects in the works, yet they are not here yet. More people will

have more options for shelter once these projects are in place. Till then, **please consider delay of the camping ban till springtime, when more projects and options are likely to be a reality.**

The current version of the Sidewalk Ordinance bans tents of any kind at any hour, and defines camping and campsites as:

(1) "To camp" means to set up, or to remain in or at a campsite, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a temporary place to live.

(2) "Campsite" means any place where there is a tent, or any structure or assembly of materials consisting of any material with a top or roof or any other upper covering or that is otherwiseand enclosed on one or more sides, that is of sufficient size for a person to fit underneath or inside while sitting or lying down.

Either way, tents enable some safety from the elements. Shelter from the elements is a basic human need and disallowing that puts lives at risk, and inordinately affects people with disabilities.

At a minimum, can the ordinance be edited to allow pup tents and small, temporary tents/structures, if they are put away by 7am?

I loved Trevor Phillip's testimony at the first reading of this ordinance, where he spoke about "do no harm". While I can generally support a camping ban, timing matters, and immediate implementation harms many people. Please let us do better than that.

~~~~~

Details:

Current shelter options include emergency shelter space at UGM and Simonka ~ 50 overflow mats at UGM (men only), and 10 at Simonka Place (women and their kids only), and warming centers. Those options are available when temperatures are 32 degrees or less, and warming center space is contingent on having enough volunteers to open.

There are many, many nights and days that are very cold, yet not cold enough for emergency shelters to open. Each year, we have had to turn some people away because the warming center was at full capacity.) There is nowhere for people to legally camp, and emergency shelters operate intermittently and there is more need than capacity.

To be fair, I realize that the City also has multiple housing projects in the works, yet those housing options are not available yet:

- Possible tax breaks for development of 8 non-profit housing projects for low income and homeless individuals
- A nursing home on Fisher Road will be converted into 37 units, including 6 units for rehab from the hospital
- The old State Hospital grounds is being converted into 50 rooms for homeless veterans.
- Salem received an award of \$400,000 for more vouchers for unsheltered individuals

We want accountability from individuals about their behaviors. And we have laws to enable that, with more rules soon via this ordinance. Yet I wish we also have city accountability of phasing in this ordinance as their end of Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force recommendations are implemented.

Lacking that, we are creating catch-22s about the basic human needs of people being able to safely, easily, and legally relieve themselves, exist somewhere, and shelter themselves from the elements in whatever ways they can.

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the highest art is the art of living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner.

and...

with our thoughts, we make the world.

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## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Jules Eaton <kjeaton09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** I oppose the camping ban "sidewalk behaviors"

**Categories:** Council Dox

Dear City Council,

Why are we doing this now? With the night time temps dipping into the low 20s, why? There seems to be a new cruelty that is trickling down from the highest levels of our national government and into our local government. To strip houseless folks of their shelters in the dead of winter is nothing but cruel.

I read an article this weekend in the Salem Reporter (also reported by the SJ) that the city reports that they spent 5.2 MILLION dollars on the houseless issue last year and that 4.7 (!) MILLION of that went to the police department. That's 90%, if since you're keeping track. Why have we WASTED that much money criminalizing people who are already on the bottom rung of our society rather than spending it on long-term solutions like housing, training, outreach? This really sticks in my craw. First the bloated police station goes millions over-budget, then to find out they're also sucking up all the resources in the case is just beyond the pale. Seeking a police solution to a humanitarian issue is immoral and just plain lazy.

You've got to know laws like these that have been passed in other communities have been found to be unconstitutional. So I guess we'll have to fork out more of our tax money to deal with the inevitable lawsuits from the ACLU, which are bound to come. If this passes, I'll personally email them daily to make sure they know what's going on in my community.

We have so much empty space/buildings/lots. If solving this problem is beyond your scope, look to other communities who have found compassionate solutions. Stop giving all our money to the police. Stop being lazy and kicking this can down the road.

Remember FDR's "Four Freedoms Speech" which eventually appeared in the UN Charter: Freedom of Speech; Freedom of Religion; Freedom from WANT; and Freedom from FEAR. I believe Salem should try to live up to those ideals and not follow the ruthless lead of our national government and just throw people in jail who are just trying to survive.

See you tonight,  
Julie Eaton  
Ward 2

## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2019 1:25 PM  
**To:** Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Testimony for 12/2 Sidewalk Behavior ordinance: Camping ban constitutionality?  
**Categories:** Council Dox

A camping ban might not be constitutional when there is not enough shelter space:  
[https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/a-federal-ruling-limiting-cities-from-criminalizing-homeless-has-rippled-across-the-west/?fbclid=IwAR0cTPy6gHFvAQU6JqnvVBIDf1094ARMAZ8TsLego14\\_0IGMu0WRO9T4PCE](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/a-federal-ruling-limiting-cities-from-criminalizing-homeless-has-rippled-across-the-west/?fbclid=IwAR0cTPy6gHFvAQU6JqnvVBIDf1094ARMAZ8TsLego14_0IGMu0WRO9T4PCE)

~~~~~  
Details:

Simonka Place is in Keizer at 5119 River Road North.
They offer emergency shelter for women when it is 32 degrees or less. Emergency shelter hours are from 8pm to 8am. They prefer people to check in by 8pm so staff can do some check-in paperwork. Their emergency shelter capacity is 10 people. Some people do not have the health, bus pass, or money to get to and from Simonka Place each day.

UGM is downtown and they offer emergency shelter for men when it is 32 degrees or below. Their doors lock at 8pm but they can check people in after that if they knock. They have emergency capacity for 50 mats.

Salvation Army does not offer emergency shelter beds.

Note: Simonka and UGM are not able to take pets or partners. Each warming center CAN accept pets and partners. Some individuals struggle with mental health and may not be able to stay in close quarters with so many other people close together.
Some people have claustrophobia and can't be inside.

We don't have family shelters, couple shelters. When the warming centers close we have no shelter that allows pets. Family Promise is very limited taking in 3-4 families at a time.

Space is one factor, and viability of the space is another relevant factor.

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the highest art is the art of living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner.

and...

with our thoughts, we make the world.

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Ruth Stellmacher

From: Anna Davis <thecreativeanarchist@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 1:35 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: HOMELESS CAMPING BAN IS CRUEL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Categories: Council Dox

Hello,

My name is Anna Davis and I live in Ward 2.

It seems you listened to us when you said we didn't want a sit lie ordinance but what you replaced it with is even worse. It was 23 degrees at my house last night, there are insufficient warming shelters and overnight shelters, and all the services homeless people need to get back on their feet are in the core of downtown... where do you expect them to go? Banning the house-less populations best solution for warmth safety, stability, and storing possessions without offering a better solution is cruel. And inhumane. I don't want to walk past a row of ugly tents on my way to the mall any more than anybody else, but I can tolerate it with compassion until a better idea is proposed. I don't want to solve this problem by shoving it out of sight, like a kid whose Mom wants his room clean so he pushes everything under the bed. Instead of wasting resources and energy and time on making the problem worse, act like adults and elected leaders and do better.

Also a quick Google search shows similar ordinances have a terrible track record of ineffectiveness and unconstitutionality. So why are we even considering it?

Please consider my opinion when you deliberate at the meeting tonight.

Thanks,

Anna

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for 12/2 Sidewalk Behavior ordinance: Request to delay property ban or provide storage space
Categories: Council Dox

From Exhibit A:

"It is unlawful for any person to knowingly leave personal property unattended on a public sidewalk during the hours of between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m."

Things to consider about the property ban:

People are already hesitant to leave their property unattended since that puts them at risk of having their property stolen. Yet some people take that risk anyway and go to court dates, medical appointments, mental health appointments, Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and some people look for work and accept jobs - all things that move them forward.

When you don't have a car of your own, or access to someone else's car (via borrowing or paying for Uber, taxis, or other services), getting to and from those places requires walking or busing. Walking and busing both can take a lot of time. Just the traveling to and from those places can take hours, depending on location, your walking speed, the bus schedule, etc.

The property ban is likely to result in people being less willing to take the risk of leaving their belongings unattended, since almost anywhere they go might involve leaving their belongings unattended for a few hours at minimum, a full day if they are employed full time. Many more unsheltered individuals are employed than most people think.

If we make it more risky for people to risk leaving their belongings, more people are likely to opt out of appearing for court dates, getting physical and mental health attended to, attending rehab and support group meetings for recovery, looking for work and accepting jobs because EACH OF THOSE TRIPS ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN LEAVING PROPERTY UNATTENDED FOR AT LEAST A FEW HOURS.

The property ban will ripple to reduce the very things we wish for.

The city's Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force recommended lockers, and even our Mayor said that is something the City should be able to do.

It seems that Arches might have a pilot project to offer about ten lockers around springtime, yet ten lockers does not even come close to meeting the need for people to have safe storage for their few belongings.

Please delay implementing a property ban until there are safe and viable options for people to store their belongings.

Lacking that, we disable people from doing the very moving-forward things we wish for people to do.

The city offers some lockers for people to rent. Perhaps the city could offer their available lockers for free so that the property ban has a path to actually be feasible?

(Or, consider an edit to implement a property ban if belongings are unattended for 10 or more hours, so people could accept a full time job if they are willing to risk having their property stolen.)

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Ruth Stellmacher

From: Pamela LyonsNelson <3plnelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 2:01 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Fwd: Oppose sit-lie

Categories: Council Dox

Thank you, Ruth

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pamela LyonsNelson** <3plnelson@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 25, 2019, 8:30 AM
Subject: Oppose sit-lie
To: cbennett@cityofsalem.net ckaser@cityofsaleml.net tanderson@cityofsalem.net bnanke@cityofsalem.net jleung@cityofsalem.net mausec@cityofsalem.net choy@cityofsalem.net vnordyke@cityofsalem.net jlewis@cityofsalem.net kretherford@cityofsalem.net <spowers@cityofsalem.net>

I am writing today in advance of the meeting tonight to reiterate points that are necessary to be made:

1. The city's stated opposition to establishing several small, safe, well-managed sites throughout the city for the unsheltered to live until they can get permanent housing is appalling and fails to recognize that homelessness is the fallout of a disastrous social change. Government had the responsibility to serve the governed, not just those with means. Not just taxpayers. It is each city's responsibility to rapidly shelter those that have none. We desperately need tent cities, parking areas for accommodations on wheels, tiny houses, et cetera to meet this need. Sit-lie does not even touch this.
2. The unsheltered are not a problem to be solved. The lack of actually getting them shelter and services is. This especially affects those who are already incredibly vulnerable: those who have all sorts of disabilities, many of which are not visible, children, senior citizens, and women who are daily raped and trafficked. These people were once housed somewhere as our neighbors. Sit-lie does nothing but compound and potentially criminalize this population and situation.
3. We as a city, through the Downtown Task Force on Homelessness, came up with several important items to ease the situation while people are not yet housed. The city has not yet implemented those items, although others are attempting to fill those gaps. Sit-lie does nothing to fill the gaps that isn't already being done otherwise.
4. Anything that just chases people to somewhere else rather than sheltering them until they can get permanent housing is simply inhumane. The far majority of them are desperate to get off the streets, and traumatized by their situation. The work that is being done is largely being done by churches and non-profits, usually blocked from doing even more by the city. Sit-lie only contributes to their misery.
5. When other municipalities, countries, etc are being far more successful in dealing with homelessness and it's resultant issues, we know we can do better. We ask the City to help us implement our work instead of throwing up roadblocks. To remove those roadblocks instead of using them as reasons to keep us from implementing safe temporary spaces and a robust housing first model makes our city shabbier and inhumane.

Work with us!

Pamela Lyons-Nelson
Ward 1

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for 12/2 Sidewalk Behavior ordinance: Thank you, business support, and camping ban delay?
Categories: Council Dox

Sincere gratitude to each of you for your work, consideration, and decisions on multiple aspects of the Sidewalk Behavior ordinance. Even when I might not agree with a perspective, I know there is a lot of thought and work invested to develop and propose possible options, and I know it can be heart-wrenching and hard to make a decision on such contentious topics.

I DO care about business concerns, and balance does matter. I will continue to connect with businesses to share some existing resources more widely, and to see what other supports might be useful to them.

~~~~~

As I understand it, the ordinance defines camping pretty broadly:

- 1) *"To camp" means to set up, or to remain in or at a campsite, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a temporary place to live.*
- (2) *"Campsite" means any place where there is a tent, or any structure or assemble of materials consisting of any material with a top or roof or any other upper covering or that is otherwise enclosed on one or more sides, that is of sufficient size for a person to fit underneath or inside while sitting or lying down.*

In my interpretation, it seems that having any "roof" and one enclosed side constitutes a campsite. To me, in a literal translation, that would ban sheltering yourself with a tarp, or a piece of cardboard or a pup tent if any of those things served as a roof and had at least one enclosed side, even if you were putting those shelters away first thing in the morning. If that language might be interpreted literally, people would be banned from having basic shelter from the elements.

**If the definition is that broad, might an edit be feasible, to indicate that small shelter to cover yourself for the night is permissible, as long as it is completely put away by 7am? People need permissible ways to shelter themselves from the elements, especially in winter weather.**

In case it's useful to refer back to the meeting conversation and the City Attorney's words about camping, the camping definition is at 3:05 on the City Council meeting video.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYi\\_O57LDmU&list=PLSUQ1gg6M78VKOuqulugWwZJ2MERL1ul8&fbclid=IwAR3zcul-lRe6zc-p50ts\\_O7MdWnlgoT2SL5VbMRNtSzXmeIAG-6UneaVKkM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYi_O57LDmU&list=PLSUQ1gg6M78VKOuqulugWwZJ2MERL1ul8&fbclid=IwAR3zcul-lRe6zc-p50ts_O7MdWnlgoT2SL5VbMRNtSzXmeIAG-6UneaVKkM)

~~~~~

As a second concern, I do support a camping ban in philosophy, yet in practicality, there are currently many campers who will have no place to go. My heart breaks to think of telling them to move on, when there is nowhere for them to move on to. In past times, people were often able to return to camps after a sweep, yet current law enforcement practices seem to prevent that option, leaving more people who purposely camped out of sight/out of mind, with nowhere to go.

I don't know the answer to that... some cities designate areas for people to camp. Some people have suggested allowing one or more parks to be used for camping for the wintertime since few people use parks during cold and rainy weather. Some cities have permitted parking garages to be sheltered sleeping space during the night time. I don't know what is feasible or reasonable in our city, yet I wonder what options you all might consider, or if it might work to delay camping ban implementation till spring?

When it's a reality that there is nowhere for people to go, "move on" becomes an inhumane cruelty and hardship.

~~~~~

I realize it's common for some people to characterize unsheltered individuals as violent, drug addicts, drunks, lazy, losers. Yet to put some faces to some campers... In my warming shelter volunteering, and in serving food sometimes at Arches, I've come to know some people who are camping.

One camper is a 50-something year old woman who uses a walker and a service dog to help her walk and navigate her days. She was in a car accident that left her with disabilities that prevent her from working, and still.... she hopes to find a job she can do one day.

Another camper is a kid who aged out of foster care, unprepared for life. He hears voices in his head, and struggles each day to separate the real world from the voices who tell him they are real.

Another camper is a retired school teacher who lost everything after her husband died and she got cancer.

Another camper had an apartment and a job, yet rent increased beyond what she could afford, so she lost her place. She kept working anyway, yet she worked in food service and it's hard to maintain good hygiene when you are homeless, so she lost her job.

These are some of the people who would be displaced by a camping ban. These are some of the people who will have nowhere to go.

I don't know what a viable option might be, yet if nothing else, please consider a delay till spring, when some more shelter options are likely to be available.

Thank you for your consideration.  
lynelle wilcox

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## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2019 2:25 PM  
**To:** Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Testimony for 12/2 agenda: Sidewalk Behavior Ordinance - Who stays at warming shelters?  
**Attachments:** who stays at warming shelters full version.pdf

So you might consider real people, real lives, real hearts as you consider Sidewalk Behavior ordinance details.  
Thank you for your consideration.

lynelle

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When some people asked me about who stays at the warming shelters, I tried to answer. There are some people who fit negative clichés. Sadly, those clichés miss the context and background that shows *\*why\** some people may sometimes reflect the negative clichés. And sadly, those clichés are often perceived as accurate representation of the majority of homeless people, when they are actually the minority in my limited experience.

So, who else stays at the shelters? A very put-together woman, probably my age, who is living in her car with her two cats. She gets up at 4:30 am each weekday morning to go to her caregiving job, working to earn and save enough money to get a place soon. Her past job experience includes executive assistant work, yet she thinks her age is working against her for getting that kind of higher paying work again. Her car needs to be parked somewhere.

A passionate 21 year old kid whose guitar is his lifeline. He aged out of the foster care system and he struggles with mental health being sporadic. He might be sleeping on my street. Possibly in a tent. I hope he has a tent.

A woman who lost her nursing job and used her savings and other resources to live when unemployment ran out. She has no addictions; just no money. She had a car but it stopped running. If it's not legal for her car to be anywhere, where *\*can\** she be?

A kid whose mom and grandmother died. He never knew his dad. He aged out of foster care. He works two part time minimum wage jobs. He usually sleeps in front of an office building and he keeps the storefront very tidy. The office people usually let him come inside to warm up a bit when they arrive to open shop. He sleeps for two shifts of the warming shelter hours, and then he wakes up and works as a volunteer for the third shift, where the hardest work happens. And then he goes to his two jobs.

A Vietnam veteran who shared his experience of the horrors of what "we leave no man behind" can mean. And how no human being, and especially no 18 year old kid can do what was required for that unless you had some escape. And 30 years later, he conquered his heroin addiction, yet the images visit him every night, and counselors do not know how to make that un-happen. So he lives trying to sleep, and trying not to sleep, forevermore. If I lived that horror, could I do any better than he has done?

Multiple women and some men who are homeless as a result of domestic violence. There ARE services for women in those situations, yet there are not enough resources and services to serve all who need those services and supports. And there are very few resources for men who experience domestic violence.

Multiple veterans with PTSD. Even when they are clean and sober, their PTSD can be a significant barrier to employment, and veteran services don't provide the level of mental health care and housing that many people (mis)believe exists.

Many formerly highly-paid professional people who experienced a decline in health, or a disability that resulted in them not being able to do work they used to do, and they have not been able to find another line of work. Living on the streets, trauma is likely to happen to them, so mental and/or physical health might decline and make it even harder for them to find alternate work.

Many people with criminal history who *\*already served their full sentence\**, yet their history remains a barrier to gainful employment and can also remain a barrier for renting a place. (Prompting my own circular ponderings ~ what do we want jail and prison to be? rehabilitation? punishment? both? and when full term has been served, when if ever, is a second chance at employment warranted? Also, "criminal" history includes so MANY things that do not reflect being a danger to others. And we want people to move forward in work and life, yet even when people serve their full sentences, their history so often remains a barrier to the very moving-forward-ness we want people to do. We create our own catch-22 escher loops.)

Women AND men who lost everything as a result of a divorce. Gay kids whose family disowned them because they love people with the same body parts.

Men and women who were dealt terrible terrible hands of both nature and nurture. People who experienced significant trauma that I imagined was the rare exception that movies show; not realizing that terrible nature and terrible nurturing happens way more often than I used to believe. If who we are is hugely determined by some blend of nature and nurture, could I do any better if I had terrible hands of both? Could you? How can we ever know?

People who experienced trauma, and did not have the services, supports, or tools via nature and/or nurture to know how to deal with the traumas in healthy ways. People who might or might not now know of better ways, yet new habits

are hard to build, and the times of dealing/avoiding/escaping in unhealthy ways has changed their brains, making it a harder challenge to shift. And still... so very many get up every morning and try again to be clean, to be sober, to do that again and again for longer than the last time. And many make it, and many others keep trying.

The man who had a house, a savings account, a car, a good job. And cancer happened, and health declined, and medical bills cost more than he had. So he traded his home and security for his life. The many, many men and women who are also in those shoes.

The widows and widowers whose deceased partner was the main breadwinner and money manager. And the living person either doesn't have health and/or marketable job skills, and/or doesn't believe that anything they know or do is marketable. And/or maybe for any number of preventable and/or unpreventable reasons, there wasn't much money left to manage anyway?

The woman whose landlord raised her rent by 50%, and her job and savings didn't enable that to be fiscally viable. And the eviction and lack of first, last, and security are a significant barrier for her to get a different place, even if she could find a place with lower rent, which is already almost as rare and hard to find as unicorns. ~~~~~ Who stays at warming shelters? The musician who writes songs and shares his love song lyrics and I fall in love with his heart. The kid who plays guitar badly, yet passionately, and you can see his anxiety melt as the music centers his being. The woman who hugs me and thanks me for being there as she gets up to go to work at 4:30 each morning. The guy who wants to stay up all night playing question games with me, because it's about who he is as a whole person; not about him being homeless. The men and women who ask me to wake them up at a specific time, so they can get up and get to work on time.

The people who struggle with addiction, yet will fight anyone if someone disrespects me as a warming shelter volunteer, and while that is heart-touching, it's not exactly desirable, and they \*so\* have your back, yet they honor your request not to fight on your behalf, even when their own honor codes would have them do just that.

The foster kids who are in limbo because we suck at preparing kids for life. The men and women who are starved for just being seen as an equitable human being, where a smile and a hello is a treasure worth almost everything. The trans kid who just needed someone to sit with her as she cried. The people who are in alternate reality and even though I cannot fix that, we can leave space for that reality to co-exist with our own.

People who are working to leave homelessness behind them, living on the streets or in cars or tents, and washing up in the bathrooms, leaving early for their jobs.

People who are not physically and/or mentally ready to work, who are struggling with basic survival every day, and might or might not get "there", yet they try again each day. Warriors. ~~~~~ Anyone can slay a dragon, he told me, but try waking up every morning & loving the world all over again. That's what takes a real hero. ~ brian andreas

At warming shelters and in life, I am so very often surrounded by heroes and angels.

And my heart melts and my heart bursts, and vivid-ness spills all over my days and my thoughts. <3 ~~~~~ Who might become homeless? And who might stay at warming shelters?

My past co-worker, whose husband's Alzheimer's developed to a point that she could no longer care for him at home. And putting him into a place that \*could\* care for him depleted their resources and life savings. And she visited him every day because even though he rarely knew who she was anymore, she knew who he was. And she loved him till death did they part. And if her own health was poor at the time that he died, she may not have been able to rebuild her life and savings from scratch after his death.

My neighbor, who lives on minimal retirement benefits and sometimes lives in an alternate reality. If his alternate reality becomes more detached from more common reality over time...?

My beloved friend when I was a teenager. His depression swallowed his life, and I was too young to know what to do or how to save him. And I still don't know how to save anyone. Yet now I know of some resources. And the resources still might not be enough to save a loved one from depression, addiction, homelessness, or death.

My own kid, if schizophrenia happened to him, and I am dead and he used his inheritance for basic food and shelter and to deal with or escape his mental illness, and the money ran out.

My own mom if my sister and I did not exist when her dementia happened.



My own dad, if he did not have kids who would offer him a place to live, and if he had opted to trade his assets, savings, and other resources for his life, by trying harder to beat cancer and kidney failure.

My own relative, if she spent all her resources to help her husband recover from a stroke, and if her own retail job ended because, Amazon.

Me, if I developed a traumatic brain injury, and didn't realize I wasn't making sensible fiscal decisions, and my family was not here to take over if necessary.

Anyone, who does all the right things, and saves money for emergencies or rainy days, and life hands them more emergencies and rainy days than their resources can support.

You, if physical and/or mental disabilities happened, if you didn't have family or friends or fiscal assets that were adequate to meet the health costs and support that might be needed.

~~~~~

When I believe homelessness can only happen to *other* people, I delude myself. There but for the grace of the universe go I.

Lynelle Wilcox
503-370-7300
lynellex@comcast.net

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Wings Catch Fire <wingscatchfire@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 2:37 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless and Our Community

Dear Council members:

Studies show that the cost of providing safe shelter and services that support rehabilitation and wellness to people who live on the streets is less than the cost of neglecting the problems that lead to homelessness. If homeless residents end up in emergency rooms because of preventable illnesses as the result of not having adequate shelter, or if they end up in the criminal justice system, the cost is much more than what could be expended to help them to recover and find stability. We have a moral obligation, certainly, and beyond that, there are sensible financial reasons to prevent the further decline of people who live on the streets. Many can be supported in becoming more self supporting. Some may go on to become fully contributing members of society. Those who are severely ill, need help to avoid more debilitating illness as their steady decline without care, impacts everyone in the community.

I think that it is important to ensure that people living in poverty, especially those who suffer with mental health conditions have a safe place to sleep and access to the services that they need to not only survive but to hopefully recover.

It is heartbreaking to see more and more people succumbing to homelessness as affordable housing becomes increasingly difficult to find. Mental health services and shelters with long-term rehabilitation services are difficult (if not impossible) for most people to access. Family wage jobs are difficult to secure if people do not have then ability to afford college or vocational training. Physical disability and medical conditions are also difficult to manage when medical care is not affordable. Many people's health declines rapidly once they become homeless and addictions, severe mental health emergencies and grave illness often manifest after one if forced to live on the streets due to poverty. **Many factors contribute to homelessness.**

We, as a community need to find ways to at minimum, provide safe places where people who are homeless can sleep, bath and use restroom facilities.

To ban camping in any area of the city is to force people in desperate situations to cross into even more dangerous and dire circumstances. If we do not provide warming centers and safe places for homeless people to sleep, our community will fall into even greater risk of deterioration.

The City of Salem should not ban camping on sidewalks/public rights of way when adequate programs for safe shelter, medical care, long-term mental health rehabilitation, and employment are not accessible. Sitting or lying on the sidewalk should not be banned unless people have safe alternatives for housing.

Please reconsider ways to improve the health and safety of everyone who resides in Salem.

Thank You,
Lisa Arana