

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Dianne Rush <ptl4harmony@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2020 3:32 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:** Public testimony to oppose sit-lie

Please do not pass the sit-lie ordinance!

Sit-lie is a status crime - targeting people who live in poverty at a level that they have no place to live.

Implementing sit-lie will result in expensive lawsuits. Is that how we want to spend our limited resources?

People staying downtown are in a public place. Public spaces are for sharing, as long as behaviors are appropriate and passage is clear for other people, strollers, wheelchairs.

Most people ARE connected to services, yet for those who are not, in a free country, we can't force people to accept help - the only path is to build connections, relationships, trust so that people might accept services over time.

Sit-lie would only kick the can yet again, scatter people to more places that also do not want to see people who are unsheltered, and make it HARDER for providers to offer and encourage services.

Our own actions led to the current situation - with repeated sweeps, the unintended yet predictable result is that people have nowhere to go, and with tents now being banned, people are seeking shelter under awnings, and close to services.

There is no evidence that sit-lie pushes people into shelters. Few shelters have space anyway.

Providers and others are already connecting with people on downtown sidewalks regularly. Most people are ALREADY connected to services. You can be VERY connected to services, and still be homeless for years.

Some people will need multiple offers before enough trust is built for them to accept offers and services. Sit-lie will scatter people so they are less able to connect to services.

While having people living on sidewalks is not ideal for anyone, the visibility and geography enables ongoing outreach that is the building block for people to grow trust, and to eventually accept more services. Sit-lie prevents the very progress we wish for, and causes more harm, more suffering, and costs more lives.