



**CITY COUNCIL** 345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100, Bremerton, WA 98337 - Phone (360) 473-5280

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**  
**CITY COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING AGENDA**

Most Council Members and staff will be participating in the meeting in-person, and the public is invited to attend. Or beginning at 5:30 PM, the public may participate remotely through one of the following options:

- To stream online only (via BKAT Feed, with no interaction possible):  
<https://bremerton.vod.castus.tv/vod/?live=ch1&nav=live>
- **Members of the public** are invited to join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the link below:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89694813320?pwd=Z0JvSXNhSFp1c0xhL1NxUjRhN20xUT09>
- Or One tap mobile:  
US: +12532050468,,89694813320#,,,,\*173061# or +12532158782,,89694813320#,,,,\*173061#
- Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):  
US: +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 669 900 6833  
  
Webinar ID: 896 9481 3320  
Passcode: 173061  
  
Public questions or comments may be submitted ahead of time to [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

1. **BRIEFING**: 5:00 – 5:30 P.M. in **COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM 603**

- A. Review of Agenda
- B. General Council Business (*Only as necessary...*)

2. **CALL TO ORDER**: 5:30 P.M. in **FIRST FLOOR CHAMBERS**

3. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- [A.](#) Claims & Check Register
- [B.](#) Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2023
- [C.](#) Minutes of Study Session – September 13, 2023
- [D.](#) Confirm Reappointment of Andre Henderson to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- [E.](#) Acceptance of Local Records Grant Agreement with WA Office of the Secretary of State, Archives and Records Management Division
- [F.](#) Ordinance No. [5483](#) to add BMC Section 9A.36.020 entitled “Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft Tools”

5. **PUBLIC RECOGNITION** – *To address the Council on any issues not already on the Agenda.*

*Please state your name for the record, and limit your comments to under 3-minutes...*

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- [A.](#) Request for Budget Adjustment to provide additional security services for Bremerton Municipal Court
- [B.](#) Ordinance No. [5482](#) to update BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled “Unauthorized Camping”

7. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

8. **ADJOURNMENT OF CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING**



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations provided upon request. Those requiring special accommodations please contact the City Clerk at (360) 473-5323 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**4A**

**SUBJECT:**

Claims & Check Register

Study Session Date: N/A

COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023

Department: Legal Services

Presenter: Angela Hoover

Phone: (360) 473-5323

**SUMMARY:**

Approval of the following checks and electronic fund transfers:

1. Check Numbers 404222-404379 and EFT Numbers V38254-V38347 in the grand total amount of \$2,983,062.75
2. Regular Payroll for pay period ending August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$1,152,104.40
3. Regular Payroll payout for pay period ending August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$2,777.09

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**FISCAL IMPACTS (Include Budgeted Amount):**

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**

Limited Presentation

Full Presentation

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**

Consent Agenda

General Business

Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

Approve

Deny

Table

Continue

No Action

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**4B**

---

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of Meeting –  
September 6, 2023

Study Session Date: N/A  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023  
Department: City Council  
Presenter: Council President  
Phone: (360) 473-5280

**SUMMARY:** The Minutes of Meeting held on September 6, 2023 are attached.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Meeting Minutes

**FISCAL IMPACTS** (Include Budgeted Amount): None

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**      N/A

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**    Consent Agenda      General Business      Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to approve the September 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**    Approve      Deny      Table      Continue      No Action

CITY COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

The weekly meeting of the City Council of the City of Bremerton was called to order Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 5:09 PM in Council Conference Room 603 of the NORM DICKS GOVERNMENT CENTER, 345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Bremerton, Washington, with Council President Jeff Coughlin presiding. Council Members present were Jennifer Chamberlin, Denise Frey, Michael Goodnow, Anna Mockler, and Eric Younger. Council Member Quinn Dennehy was absent. Also present were City Attorney Kylie Finnell; Acting City Clerk Mike Riley; Legislative Assistant Christine Grenier; and IT Systems Engineer Hans Nilsson. At 5:30 PM, the meeting moved to the First Floor Meeting Chambers.

**President Coughlin** announced the City Council is conducting the Council Meeting in-person with an option for the public to join in person, participate via Zoom, or view on BKAT, because Community involvement is encouraged; and lastly, provided a reminder that now that it is election season, to refrain from any comments on political campaigns or ballot measures; and announced the following changes to tonight's Agenda 1) General Business Item 6A will be heard as Consent Agenda Item 4G; and 2) General Business Item 6B will be for "Information Only" to accept public comment, but no action will be taken, and the item will be scheduled for the next Study Session on September 13 for continued discussion by the Council.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – *Mayor Wheeler highlighted...*

- The "Poem Box" inspired by Poet Laureate Tia Hudson
- Washington Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street Project
- Kitsap Lake Aquatic Management Project
- Gorst Creek Fish Passage Project
- Accolades from an Applicant for a City position
- Next Sinclair Inlet Clean-Up on September 30 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 4A** – Check Numbers 403961 through 404221 and Electronic Fund Transfers V38112 through V38253 in the grand total amount of \$5,256,660.92; Regular Payroll for pay period August 15, 2023 in the amount of \$1,108,499.88; and Retiree Payroll for pay period ending August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$36,820.17
- 4B** – Minutes of Meeting – August 16, 2023
- 4C** – Minutes of Study Session – August 23, 2023
- 4D** – Confirm Appointment of Ken Riley to the Bremerton Parks & Recreation Commission
- 4E** – Confirm Appointment of Law Offices of Alex Sidles PLLC as the City of Bremerton's Administrative Hearing Examiner; and Approve associated Professional Services Agreement
- 4F** – Contract Modification Agreement No. 2 with Merchant Patrol Security Services, Inc .
- 4G** – Resolution No. 3365 to authorize Local Parks Maintenance Grant Application with WA STATE Recreation & Conservation Office to fund the Evergreen Rotary Park Accessible Playground Surfacing Replacement

*There were no questions or comments from the public...*

**05:42 PM** M/S/C/U (Chamberlin/Frey) Move to approve the CONSENT AGENDA as presented.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION** – *Comments from the public were submitted by Mary Lou Long, Eric Morley, Erinn Hale, Alison Slow Loris, Dianne Iverson, Anonymous (2 women displayed signs re: Suicide Prevention & House the Homeless), James Cline, Aljollynn Sperber, Ed, Martitha May, Duane, Roy Runyon, Adrian Wright, Robert Caires, Robert Parker, Marwan Cameron, and Mike Simpson; with a response provided by Mayor Wheeler...*

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **6A – RESOLUTION NO. 3365 TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL PARKS MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION WITH WA STATE RECREATION & CONSERVATION OFFICE TO FUND THE EVERGREEN ROTARY PARK ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND SURFACING REPLACEMENT**

*Moved up to Consent Agenda Item 4G...*

#### **6B – ORDINANCE NO. 5482 TO AMEND BMC CHAPTER 9.32 ENTITLED “UNAUTHORIZED**

**CAMPING”:** City Attorney Kylie Finnell explained that the City Council included an update to BMC Chapter 9.32 “Unauthorized Camping” in the Council’s 2023 Goals and Priorities. Council discussed this issue at the Study Sessions on June 26, July 12, July 26, and August 9. Public comment was received at the Council Meetings on July 5, July 19, and August 2. Council has also received numerous written comments related to this issue. The August 23 Study Session then continued the discussion regarding how the Council would like to amend the ordinance. Ms. Finnell described possible locations for camping when shelter space is not available. City Engineer Ned Lever was available to provide additional input.

*President Coughlin announced that due to the number of people planning to speak tonight, comments would be limited to 2-minutes...*

*Questions and comments from the public were provided by Mayor Wheeler, Anonymous, Joslyn, Tiffany Haigh with responses provided by Ms. Finnell and President Coughlin, Connie Smith, Dale Sperling, Alison Slow Loris, Norma Pratt, Donna Robinson, Adrian Wright, Kelsey Stedman, Jackie, Pastor Floyd Ussin, Brad Chapman, Dave Hood, Angela Varin, Joey Hayes, Molly Brooks, Robert Caires with a response provided by President Coughlin, Josh Elsworth, Anonymous, Amy Randall, Karna Peck, Patty Morris, Anonymous, Dee, Ed Cunningham, Marvin Williams Center Board Member, Robert Parker, Jo Walter, Amanda Thomas, C. Jones, Roy Runyon, Dan Herron, Richard Bucholtz, Barbara Jones, Taisha, Deborah Moore-Jackson, Mike Simpson, Mary Lou Long, Gloria Crane, Victoria Hilt, Shane, Kimmy Siebens, Christi Lyson, and Marwan Cameron.*

*No action was taken and this item will be scheduled for continued discussion at the September 13 Study Session...*

### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Jennifer Chamberlin acknowledged comments made about institutional racism, pooling resources, and improving impacted streets; thanked “Rock the Block” for their efforts; and recognized the impact of homelessness on mental health.

Denise Frey thanked those who spoke tonight about the impact of the encampment on the Marvin Williams Center; asked for law enforcement’s perspective on this issue; and established that with the information provided, the issue needs to be given the consideration it needs before a decision can be made.

Michael Goodnow also thanked those who gave public comments tonight; recognized that even the part of this discussion where camping could be allowed is complex. He announced the Grand Opening of event space Moments in Bremerton on September 15 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at 330 Callow Avenue.

**Anna Mockler** echoed appreciation of public comments made tonight; stated that before camping was brought up, surplus properties were originally considered for affordable housing options; had worked in the North Tower and will be attending memorial service on 9/11; and invited everyone to attend the next District 6 Town Hall Meeting on Monday, September 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Public Works Facility.

**Eric Younger** emphasized the proposed ordinance is a compromise, and that Council respected the rights of homeowners and the unhoused; hoped that the solution will include shelter space and a camping location with services; and thanked those who spoke tonight and stayed through the long meeting.

**Jeff Coughlin** acknowledged the frustration from the community; this issue is part of the Council's Goals and Priorities; extended huge thanks to those helping out the homeless in the community; encouraged people to write our representatives; thanked the Mayor for his letter and input; and thanked everyone for coming tonight.

**President Coughlin** announced the next Study Session on Wednesday, September 13 beginning at 5:00 PM will be held in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Council Conference Room of the Norm Dicks Government Center, and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

With no further business, **President Coughlin** adjourned the Council Meeting at 8:42 PM.

Prepared and Submitted by:

*Christine Grenier*

---

CHRISTINE GRENIER  
Legislative Assistant

APPROVED by the City Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

---

JEFF COUGHLIN, City Council President

Attest:

---

ANGELA HOOVER, City Clerk

JC:AH:ls:cg

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**4C**

---

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of Study Session –  
September 13, 2023

Study Session Date: N/A  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023  
Department: City Council  
Presenter: Council President  
Phone: (360) 473-5280

**SUMMARY:** The Minutes of Study Session held on September 13, 2023 are attached.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Meeting Minutes

**FISCAL IMPACTS** (Include Budgeted Amount): None

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**      N/A

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**    Consent Agenda      General Business      Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to approve the September 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**    Approve      Deny      Table      Continue      No Action

## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

A Study Session of the City Council of the City of Bremerton was called to order on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the First Floor Meeting Chambers located in the Norm Dicks Government Center at 345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, with Council President Jeff Coughlin presiding. Other Council Members present were Eric Younger (remotely at 5:30 PM), Anna Mockler, Michael Goodnow, Quinn Dennehy, Denise Frey, and Jennifer Chamberlin. Legislative Office Manager Lori Smith provided staff support.

**President Coughlin** made a special announcement to explain that the Study Session was relocated from the smaller Council Conference Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor to the First Floor Meeting Chambers due to the anticipated number of in-person attendees tonight because unfortunately misinformation was spread that the Council was going to take action tonight on the proposed Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping", which is not true. The Council will continue discussing this item under Item A5 on the Agenda tonight and will likely then decide if the item will move forward for action at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

He acknowledged that many emails with Public Comment are still being received and processed, as well as a large number of voicemail messages, so if an email or letter is not in the current Council packet tonight, it will be included by the time the next Council packet is issued. In the meantime, all emails are continuing to be forwarded to each of the Council Members for advanced review and consideration, and in the end, they will all be included in the record...

It was further established that Study Sessions are always open for the public to attend in-person or view remotely, but there will be no opportunities for input, the content of these items is subject to change, and no action is anticipated; that any items approved for action by the Council tonight, will be placed on the September 20, 2023 City Council Meeting Agenda (or as otherwise determined); and Zoom recordings of Study Sessions will also be available online within a few days following the meeting... Lastly, he announced the Agenda was amended a 2<sup>nd</sup> time to add Item A8.

**Council Member Mockler** requested that Item A3 be removed from the Agenda; but per Council Rules & Procedures, two Council Members requested that the item be put back on, so the item remained... Engineering Project Manager **Vicki Grover** also explained that this item would be presented at a second Study Session on September 27 before action would be requested...

### A. **BRIEFINGS on AGENDA BILL ITEMS**

1. Confirm Reappointment of Andre Henderson to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners **Consent Agenda**
2. Acceptance of Local Records Grant Agreement with WA Office of Secretary of State, Archives & Records Management Division **Consent Agenda**
3. Consultant Contract for the 2024 Updates to the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan & Non-Motorized Plan – By Managing Engineer Gunnar Fridriksson and Engineering Project Manager Vicki Grover **Information Only; Second presentation will be provided at the September 27 Study Session**
4. Ordinance to add BMC Section 9A.36.020 entitled "Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft Tools" **Consent Agenda**
5. Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping" **General Business**



**President Coughlin** called a break from 7:45 to 7:55 PM...

**Council Member Younger** exited the Study Session at 8:28 PM and did not return...

8. Request for Budget Adjustment to provide additional security services for Bremerton Municipal Court **General Business**

**President Coughlin** went back to the original order...

6. Proposal to update BMC Section 20.02.040 (a) entitled "Project Permitting Processing Procedures, Type I Project Permits" – By Council Member Anna Mockler **Information Only; the item will not move forward at this time**
7. ~~Resolution to repeal Resolution No. 3349; and adopt updated Council Rules & Procedures~~  
**No discussion was held due to the late hour; Item to be rescheduled to a future Study Session**

**B. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

1. Audit Committee Briefing (*Last Meeting 8/28/2023*) – Chair Anna Mockler
2. Public Safety Committee Briefing (*Last Meeting 9/5/2023*) – Chair Denise Frey
3. Regional and Other Committee/Board Briefings
4. Other General Council Business was also briefly discussed.

**President Coughlin** established that the next Council Meeting would be on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 beginning at 5:30 PM in the First Floor Meeting Chambers of the Norm Dicks Government Center, and that the public is invited to attend in person or remotely.

With no further business, the Study Session was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Prepared and Submitted by:



---

LORI SMITH, Legislative Office Manager

APPROVED by the City Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

---

JEFF COUGHLIN, Council President

ATTEST:

---

ANGELA HOOVER, City Clerk

JC:AH:ls:cg

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**4D**

**SUBJECT:** Reappointment of Andre Henderson to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Study Session Date: September 13, 2023  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023  
Department: Executive  
Presenter: Mayor Wheeler  
Phone: (360) 473-5266

**SUMMARY:** The Mayor is seeking confirmation for the reappointment of Andre Henderson as a Resident Board Commissioner to the Bremerton Housing Authority. The term begins October 1, 2023 and expires September 30, 2025.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Application available in the Mayor's office.

**FISCAL IMPACTS (Include Budgeted Amount):** None

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**  Limited Presentation  Full Presentation

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**  Consent Agenda  General Business  Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to confirm the reappointment of Andre Henderson on the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners with a term expiring on September 30, 2025.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**  Approve  Deny  Table  Continue  No Action

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**4E**

**SUBJECT:**

Acceptance of Local Records Grant Agreement with WA Office of the Secretary of State, Archives and Records Management Division

Study Session Date:	<u>September 13, 2023</u>
COUNCIL MEETING Date:	<u>September 20, 2023</u>
Department:	<u>IT / City Clerk</u>
Presenter:	<u>H. Nilsson / A. Hoover</u>
Phone:	<u>(360) 473-5477</u>

**SUMMARY:**

Information Technology Department together with City Clerk's Office applied and received a grant from the Washington State Office of the Secretary of State, Archives and Records Management Division for \$30,000.00 to add the Laserfiche Records Management Edition module and expand the number of Laserfiche licenses

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) 1 CDI City of Bremerton - SOW – 5152023.pdf
- 2) 2 G-7869 City of Bremerton LRGP Agreement.pdf
- 3) 2.1 G-7869 City of Bremerton Exhibit A.docx

**FISCAL IMPACTS (Include Budgeted Amount):**

This project is included in the General Information Technology Funds improvements plan and \$30,000 of the project is grant funded, leaving 4,644.60 + taxes to be paid from IT

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**

Limited Presentation       Full Presentation

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**

Consent Agenda       General Business       Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to accept the Grant Agreement between The State of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State, Archives and Records Management Division, and the City of Bremerton for the Laserfiche Records Management Edition module and expansion of Laserfiche licenses and amend the IT budget the amount of \$34,645 and authorize the Mayor to finalize and execute the agreement with substantially the same terms and conditions as presented.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**     Approve     Deny     Table     Continue     No Action

# Statement of Work

City of Bremerton

Records Management Implementation

Main Contact:  
Hans Nilsson  
Hans.Nilsson@ci.bremerton.wa.us  
(360) 473-5477

Prepared by: Bee Dishman  
Date of Draft: 5/15/2023



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
PROJECT SCHEDULE .....	3
PROJECT COST ESTIMATE.....	3
PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	3
PROJECT GOALS .....	3
PROJECT DELIVERABLES .....	4
PROJECT EXCLUSIONS .....	4
PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS .....	4
PROJECT CONTACTS .....	5
Client Team .....	5
CDI Team.....	5
CDI SERVICE QUOTE.....	6

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Estimated Finish	Deliverable Name
TBD	Implement Records Management
TBD	Expand Laserfiche Access

## PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

*Time spent is billed per employee, per hour.*

Task	Time estimated
Implement Records Management	120.00
<b>**TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>120.00</b>

\* Development services not covered by a flat-fee are billed at a rate of \$300/hr. Estimates shown for these services are prorated at the client's non-development hourly rate of \$180/hr.

\*\*If a client has an active Professional Services Package, billable time will be consumed from it. Otherwise, all time will be billed at a rate of \$180/hr. for consulting services and \$300/hr. for Development services.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Bremerton utilizes the Laserfiche Document Management system as a central and secure repository for multiple departments throughout the City. In addition to this, the City uses Laserfiche's Weblink Public Portal to enable citizens to access public Agenda and Minutes through the City's Website, and integrates Laserfiche with other applications such as ArcGIS, DocuSign, and the Administrative Office of the Court's JIS System.

The City is looking expand access to the Laserfiche system and apply WA ST Retention Schedules to documents in the City's repository and automate the disposition logs.

## PROJECT GOALS

1. Expand Laserfiche Access
2. Apply WA ST Retention Schedules to all documents in a phased department roll out.
3. Automate disposition logs.

## PROJECT DELIVERABLES

<b>Implement Records Management</b>  Requirements Gathering Deliverable Requirements Apply WA ST Retention Schedules to all documents. - Record mapping and Indexing - Building Records Retention Properties - Applying Records Retention Properties - Automating Disposition Logs Project Management Training	Work Category: Consulting  Billing Type: Billable  Estimated Time: 120.00 hours  Estimated Finish: TBD
<b>Expand Laserfiche Access</b>  Add 10 Full Named Users	Work Category: New Installation  Billing Type: Non – Billable  Estimated Finish: TBD

## PROJECT EXCLUSIONS

1. This is not a fixed fee project. Final SOW and Hours Estimate will be provided after Requirements Gathering.

## PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS

1. CDI assumes that communications will be responded to in a timely fashion by all parties.
2. CDI assumes that hardware and system architecture required for installation will be ready and available at the start of the project.
3. CDI assumes that sample documents, flow charts, process information and the like, will be provided by the client during the planning phase of the project.
4. CDI assumes that any data cleanup, pertaining to conversions, or migrations, will be performed by the client.

## PROJECT CONTACTS

### Client Team

Name	Title	Project Role	Contact Info.
Hans Nilsson	Lead PC Technician	Main Contact	Hans.Nilsson@ci.bremerton.wa.us (360) 473-5477

### CDI Team

Name	Title	Project Role	Contact Info.
Bee Dishman	Account Manager	Account Manager	Bee.Dishman@citiesdigital.com 855-714-2800 ext. 129





# CDI SERVICE QUOTE

Bee Dishman  
CDI  
192 Nickerson St. Suite 201  
Seattle, WA 98109

Prepared for: City of Bremerton  
Quote #: 390759v.1  
Quote Date: 5/15/2023

## Annual Breakdown

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>Total Software</b>	\$16,870.50	-	-	-
<b>Total Maintenance</b>	\$3,374.10	\$3,374.10	\$3,374.10	\$3,374.10
<b>Total Services</b>	\$14,400.00	\$ .00	\$ .00	\$ .00
<b>*TOTAL</b>	\$34,644.60	\$3,374.10	\$3,374.10	\$3,374.10
<i>*Tax not included</i>				

## Software & Annual Maintenance

Product	Software Quantity	Soft. Unit Cost	Maint. Unit Cost	Total
Laserfiche Rio Named Full User 25-49 (ENF20-25-49)	10.00	\$1,035.00	\$207.00	\$12,420.00
Laserfiche Rio Records Management Edition 25-49 (ERM-25-49)	48.00	\$103.50	\$20.70	\$5,961.60
Laserfiche Rio Forms Professional 25-49 (EFRM-25-49)	10.00	\$103.50	\$20.70	\$1,242.00
Laserfiche Rio Connector 25-49 (ECN-25-49)	10.00	\$51.75	\$10.35	\$621.00
			Software:	\$16,870.50
			Maintenance:	\$3,374.10
			Tax:	\$1,862.50
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$22,107.10</b>

## Services

Service	Service Quantity	Service Unit Cost	Total
Platinum Support Package (80 hours) (CD7000)	1.00	\$14,400.00	\$14,400.00
		Service:	\$14,400.00
		Tax:	\$1,324.80
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$15,724.80</b>



**GRANT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION,  
AND  
CITY OF BREMERTON**

This Grant Agreement (this "Agreement") is entered into between the state of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State, Division of Archives and Records Management (hereinafter referred to as "OSOS"), and **City of Bremerton** (hereinafter referred to as "Grantee").

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, a local government grants program was authorized and funded by Chapter 303, State of Washington Laws of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this program is to help local governments use technology to improve their records retention, management and disclosure of public records processes, as authorized under RCW 40.14.026, through the Archives and Records Management Division's Local Records Grant Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program");and

WHEREAS, the Program was established to provide funds to local entities to accomplish the Program's purposes; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of a competitive process, Grantee was conditionally identified for award of the Grant Amount (as hereinafter defined); and

WHEREAS, OSOS and Grantee desire to set forth in detail the terms and conditions governing the award and disbursement of the Grant Amount to Grantee.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms and conditions contained herein, or attached and incorporated and made a part hereof, OSOS and Grantee mutually agree as follows:

**1. STATEMENT OF WORK**

Grantee will provide services and staff, and otherwise do all things necessary for or incidental to the performance of the work. Grantee will perform the work as described in the Award Determination attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

The Program requires both the narrative and financial components of Program progress reports be completed during the project period. Documentation of expenditures is required. Grantee shall submit reports to:

Bonnie Hood, Coordinator  
Local Records Grant Program  
Washington State Archives  
1129 Washington St SE  
Olympia, WA 90504-0238

Upon completion of the project work and prior to disbursement of the Grant Amount, Grantee shall participate in a survey conducted by OSOS.

**2. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

Subject to the other provisions of this Agreement, the period of performance of this Agreement shall commence on date of execution and be completed no later than **5/31/2024** unless terminated sooner as provided herein.

**3. PAYMENT**

No grant funds will be disbursed in advance to Grantee. All grant funds will be held by OSOS. In consideration for the work conducted as described in Exhibit A, and Grantee's compliance with the other terms and conditions of this Agreement, Grantee shall submit invoices for completed work to the OSOS Project Manager for processing by OSOS. Subject to the other provisions of this Agreement, this grant is not to exceed the amount of **\$30,000** (the "Grant Amount") as set forth on Exhibit A.

Payment for approved and completed work will be made by warrant or account transfer by OSOS within 30 calendar days of a satisfactorily completed invoice and Grantee's compliance with all other terms and conditions of this Agreement. Satisfactorily completed is defined as having all the information required for processing by OSOS Financial Services. In addition to a Federal Tax ID number, Grantee must provide OSOS a Statewide Vendor Number (SWV#). Payment cannot be made without these numbers on file. **The Contract number G-7869 and Statewide Vendor number must be referenced on each reimbursement claim in order for the claim to be processed.**

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this Agreement shall be disallowed. Should Grantee incur costs prior to the effective date of this Agreement, it does so at its own risk. WAC 434-670-020.

#### **4. RECORDS MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING PROJECTS FOR PROGRAM AND FISCAL COMPLIANCE**

Specific accounting requirements for the Program include but are not limited to:

- All changes to the approved project (project scope, budget, personnel), must be requested in writing to, and approved by, the State Archivist.
- Imaging completed as a result of this grant must meet the Washington State Standards for Production and Use of Microfilm.
- Grant work must be monitored in progress. OSOS staff may visit the work site for review at any time during the project.
- Grantee is responsible to adhere to its own applicable purchasing policies and requirements.
- Grantee must participate in a survey conducted by OSOS following completion of the project work.

#### **5. GRANT MANAGEMENT**

The Project Manager for each of the parties identified below shall be the contact person for communications regarding the performance of this Agreement. Invoices shall be sent to the OSOS Project Manager. Should questions arise during the processing of invoices, send inquiries to [payables@sos.wa.gov](mailto:payables@sos.wa.gov).

##### **Hans Nilsson**

City of Bremerton  
345 6th Street Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
Phone: (360) 473-5477  
E-mail address: [hans.nilsson@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:hans.nilsson@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

##### **Bonnie Hood**

Office of the Secretary of State  
Washington State Archives and Records Management  
1129 Washington St. SE  
Post Office Box 40238  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0238  
Phone: 360-586-7810  
E-mail address: [bonnie.hood@sos.wa.gov](mailto:bonnie.hood@sos.wa.gov)

#### **6. INDEPENDENT CAPACITY**

The employees or agents of each party who are engaged in the performance of this Agreement shall continue to be employees or agents of that party and shall not be considered for any purpose to be employees or agents of

the other party. Each party to this Agreement shall be responsible for its own acts and/or omissions and those of its officers, employees and agents.

**7. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of exceptional circumstances as determined by OSOS in its sole discretion, the funds available for the work to be performed under this Agreement may be increased by an amount not to exceed 10% of the original Grant Amount, and the period of performance may be extended by up to 30 days beyond the original period of performance stated in this Agreement. The parties agree that such an increase in available funds or extension of time due to exceptional circumstances shall not require a formal amendment to this Agreement, but instead may be effectuated by OSOS after notice to Grantee.

**8. TERMINATION**

Either party may terminate this Agreement upon 30 days' prior written notification to the other party. If this Agreement is so terminated, the parties shall be liable for performance rendered or costs incurred in accordance with the terms of this Agreement prior to the effective date of termination.

**9. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE**

If for any cause, either party does not fulfill in a timely and proper manner its obligations under this Agreement, or if either party violates any of these terms and conditions, the aggrieved party will give the other party written notice of such failure or violation. The responsible party will be given the opportunity to correct the violation or failure within 15 working days. If the failure or violation is not corrected, this Agreement may be terminated immediately by written notice of the aggrieved party to the other.

The rights and remedies of OSOS provided in this section shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Agreement. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, when a dispute arises between the parties and it cannot be resolved by direct negotiation, either party may request a dispute hearing with the Secretary of State. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the parties' choice of a mutually acceptable Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) method in addition to the dispute resolution procedure outlined above.

**10. GOVERNANCE**

In the event of any inconsistency in the terms of this Agreement, or between its terms and any applicable statute or rule, the inconsistency shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:

- A. Applicable state and federal statutes and rules; and
- B. This Agreement and any and all attached exhibits

**11. GOVERNING LAW**

This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state of Washington, and the venue of any action brought hereunder shall be in the Superior Court for Thurston County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Agreement.

**CITY OF BREMERTON**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signatory                      Date  
Print Name:  
Title: City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Bolerjack                      Date  
Deputy Secretary of State

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Attorney General's Office

## EXHIBIT A

**AWARD DETERMINATION**  
CITY OF BREMERTON

The following table illustrates the grant budget as proposed by your agency - with the items that were funded, and the items that were awarded with conditions.

Budget Item	Amount Requested	Amount Funded	Stipulations/Conditions
Software	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laserfiche Rio Records Management Edition module for ALL 48 users in the city</li> <li>• Qty 10 Laserfiche Rio Named User licenses</li> <li>• Qty 10 Laserfiche Rio Forms Professional licenses</li> <li>• Qty 10 Laserfiche Rio Connector licenses</li> <li>• 80 hours of their platinum support package for necessary vendor-provided consultation/training costs</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Only one year of annual maintenance fees can be funded by the grant.</i></p> <p><b>All reimbursement requests to be submitted by May 31, 2024.</b></p>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>	Not to exceed amount listed.

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**4F**

---

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance No. 5483 to add BMC Section 9A.36.020 entitled "Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft Tools"

Study Session Date: September 13, 2023  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023  
Department: City Attorney  
Presenter: Kylie Finnell  
Phone: (360) 473-2345

**SUMMARY:** The City Council desires to add provisions to the Bremerton Municipal Code relating to theft in order to allow local prosecution of existing state laws.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Ordinance No. 5483

**FISCAL IMPACTS (Include Budgeted Amount):** None

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**             Limited Presentation         Full Presentation

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**    Consent Agenda         General Business         Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to approve Ordinance No. 5483 adding Section 9A.36.020 of the Bremerton Municipal Code entitled "Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft Tools."

**COUNCIL ACTION:**    Approve         Deny         Table         Continue         No Action

**ORDINANCE NO. 5483**

**AN ORDINANCE** of the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington, adding Section 9A.36.020 of the Bremerton Municipal Code entitled "Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft Tools."

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to add provisions relating to theft to Chapter 9A.36 of the Bremerton Municipal Code in order to allow local prosecution of existing state laws; NOW THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREMERTON, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Section 9A.36.020 of the Bremerton Municipal Code entitled "Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft Tools" is hereby added to read as follows:

**9A.36.020 MAKING OR POSSESSING MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT TOOLS.**  
RCW 9A.56.063 is adopted by reference as currently enacted and as hereinafter amended from time to time, and shall be given the same force and effect as if set forth herein in full.

**SECTION 2. Corrections.** The City Clerk and codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener, clerical, typographical, and spelling errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this ordinance are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force ten (10) days from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF COUGHLIN, Council President

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.



\_\_\_\_\_  
GREG WHEELER, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANGELA HOOVER, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
KYLIE J. FINNELL, City Attorney

PUBLISHED the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.  
EFFECTIVE the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_.

R:\Legal\Legal\Ordinances\Legal\2023.09.01 Ordinance - BMC 9A.36.260 - Making or Possessing Motor Vehicle Theft  
Tools.docx

AGENDA BILL  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

6A

**SUBJECT:**

Request for Budget Adjustment to  
provide additional security services for  
Bremerton Municipal Court

Study Session Date: September 13, 2023  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023  
Department: Municipal Court  
Presenter: Judge Tracy Flood  
Phone: (360) 473- 5215

**SUMMARY:**

The Bremerton Municipal Court has been experiencing an increase in security incidents beginning in August 2023. The current security budget line item includes one guard; an additional guard with Law Enforcement Officer status is estimated to be \$60,000 through the end of 2023.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1) Incident Reports and summary from the court 2) Draft Court Security Services Agreement *Added*

**FISCAL IMPACTS (Include Budgeted Amount):** Addition of \$60,000 to 2023 Municipal Court operations budget

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**  Limited Presentation  Full Presentation

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**  Consent Agenda  General Business  Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to approve a budget adjustment to the Bremerton Municipal Court 2023 budget for the purpose of providing additional security services in the amount of \$60,000 from existing reserves.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**  Approve  Deny  Table  Continue  No Action

Timeline summary:

Court 1<sup>st</sup> floor offices windows busted out- BPD police report 2/2022. Additional Camera added to parking lot after this incident.

06/2022-12/2022 Defendants calling threatening Judge and Staff

Contracted Security was told by previous CA not to submit reports

Court has to call 911 to have defendants taken into custody. No armed officer onsite to detain. 911 called for defendant near death in parking lot (December 2022)

Less foot traffic as the court maintained the mask policy through December 2022.

2023 No mask policy and increase in defendants back in person for hearings.

Foot traffic increasing for clerks office and in person hearings.

June 2023-present see below timeline of reports.

Missing incident from first floor public bathroom covered with feces. The June incident did injure the contract security. 911 call because dumpster on fire in parking lot area. 911 called because individual laying by the courts back doors curled up crying out for help in a mental health crisis. Since June 2023 incidents are more frequent and in August multiple incidents.

SAR 10.13.22 security system unarmed; malfunction 10/13/2022

SAR 06.14.23 forced entry, physical confrontation 6/14/2023

SAR 08.15.23 Aggressive client interaction 8/15/2023

SAR 07.18.23 Possible drug use in BMC public restroom 8/18/2023

SAR 08.22.23 Aggressive client interaction 8/22/2023

SAR 08.23.23 Security System triggered 8/23/2023

SAR 08.30.23 Security System triggered 8/30/2023

SAR 09.06.23 Illicit substance use on property 9/6/2023

# Security Action Report

**Where/when did the Incident Occur?**

Bremerton Court Clerk's office @ approximately 1455-1510

**Who was Involved?**

Security, multiple patrons, Clerk Carrissa

**Incident Details:**

Two individuals approached BMC front doors, one individual was obviously intoxicated. The other person was here to check in with probation as they were released from custody. The intoxicated individual did not have court business but pushed their way past security and where redirected back through the checkpoint. Subject then became loud and boisterous at the clerk's window until they were redirected by security again. When the other patron concluded their business, both walked out the front exit. At this point the intoxicated individual confronted three other patrons entering the building. Security seperated and all parties continued on. No physical contact except between security and intoxicated subject. Nothing further to report.

**Actions Taken:**

Verbal redirection and minor physical redirection. Security is familiar with intoxicated subject.

**Reported By:**

S/O Skurk

## BREMERTON MUNICIPAL COURT SECURITY SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into between the City of Bremerton, a Washington Municipal Corporation ("City"), and Seattle's Finest Security & Traffic Control, LLC ("Vendor"), whose mailing address is: 11500 Belton Point Rd, West Glacier, MT 59936.

The parties agree as follows:

**I. VENDOR SERVICES.** The Vendor shall provide the following goods and materials and/or perform the following services for the City: Municipal Court Security Services as outlined in Exhibit A.

**II. TIME OF COMPLETION.** Vendor shall complete the work and provide all goods, materials, and services as effective from the date all parties have signed this Agreement to December 31, 2023.

**III. COMPENSATION.** The City shall pay the Vendor the total amount of \$94.00/ hour including sales tax with as outlined in Exhibit B of this agreement and not to exceed amount of sixty-thousand Dollars \$60,000.00, including applicable Washington State Sales Tax, for the goods, materials and services contemplated in this Agreement. The City shall pay the Vendor monthly the following receipt of appropriate invoicing.

A. Defective or Unauthorized Work. The City reserves its right to withhold payment from Vendor for any defective or unauthorized goods, materials, or services. If Vendor is unable, for any reason, to complete any part of this Agreement, the City may obtain the goods, materials or services on its own or from a third party, and Vendor shall be liable to the City for any additional costs incurred by the City. "Additional costs" shall mean all reasonable costs, including legal costs and attorney fees, incurred by the City beyond the maximum Agreement price specified above. The City further reserves its right to deduct the cost to complete this Agreement, including any Additional Costs, from any and all amounts due or to become due the Vendor.

**IV. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** Vendor is and shall be at all times acting as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the City. The Vendor shall secure at its expense and shall be responsible for all payments of income tax, social security, state disability insurance compensation, unemployment compensation, and all other payroll deductions for the Vendor, officer, agents, employees and subcontractors. The Vendor shall also secure all applicable business licenses, if required, in connection with the contract services, including all required licenses for Vendor's officers, agents, employees and subcontractors.

**V. TERMINATION.** The City may terminate this Agreement for good cause. "Good cause" shall include, without limitation, any one or more of the following events:

A. The Vendor's refusal or failure to supply a sufficient number of properly skilled workers or proper materials for completion of this Agreement.

B. The Vendor's failure to complete this Agreement within the time specified in this Agreement.

C. The Vendor's failure to make full and prompt payment to subcontractors or for material or labor.

D. The Vendor's failure to comply with federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations.

E. The Vendor's filing for bankruptcy or becoming adjudged bankrupt.

If the City terminates this Agreement for good cause, the Vendor shall not receive any further monies due under this Agreement until the goods, materials, and services required by this Agreement are completed and fully performed by the City or a third party of the City's choosing.

**VI. CHANGES.** The City may issue a written change order for any change in the goods, materials or services to be provided during the performance of this Agreement. If the Vendor determines, for any reason, that a change order is necessary, Vendor must submit a written change order request to an authorized agent of the City within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date Vendor knew or should have known of the facts and events giving rise to the requested change. If the City determines that the change increases or decreases the Vendor's costs or time for performance, the City will make an equitable adjustment. The City will attempt, in good faith, to reach agreement with the Vendor on all equitable adjustments. However, if the parties are unable to agree, the City will determine the equitable adjustment as it deems appropriate. The Vendor shall proceed with the change order work upon receiving either a written change order from the City or an oral order from the City before actually receiving the written change order. If the Vendor fails to require a change order within the time allowed, the Vendor waives its right to make any claim or submit subsequent change order requests for that portion of the contract work. If the Vendor disagrees with the equitable adjustment the Vendor must complete the change order work; however, the Vendor may elect to protest the adjustment as provided below:

A. Procedure and Protest by the Vendor. If the Vendor disagrees with anything required by a change order, another written order, or an oral order from the City, including any direction, instruction, interpretation, or determination by the City, the Vendor shall:

1. Immediately give a signed written notice of protest to the City;
2. Supplement the written protest within fourteen (14) calendar days with a written statement that provides the following information:
  - a. The date of the Vendor's protest.
  - b. The nature and circumstances that caused the protest.
  - c. The provisions in this Agreement that support the protest.
  - d. The estimated dollar cost, if any, of the protested work and how that estimate was determined.
  - e. An analysis of the progress schedule showing the schedule change or disruption if the Vendor is asserting a schedule change or disruption.

3. The Vendor shall keep complete records of extra costs and time incurred as a result of the protested work. The City shall have access to any of the Vendor's records needed for evaluating the protest.

The City will evaluate all protests, provided the procedures in this section are followed. If the City determines that a protest is valid, the City will adjust payment for work or time by an equitable adjustment. No adjustment will be made for an invalid protest.

B. Vendor's Duty to Complete Protested Work. In spite of any protest, the Vendor shall proceed promptly to provide the goods, materials and services required by the City under this Agreement.

C. Vendor's Acceptance of Changes. The Vendor accepts all requirements of a change order by: (1) endorsing it, (2) writing a separate acceptance, or (3) not protesting in the way this section provides. A change order that is accepted by Vendor as provided in this section shall constitute full payment and final settlement of all claims for contract time and for direct, indirect and consequential costs, including costs of delays related to any work, either covered or affected by the change.

D. Failure to Protest Constitutes Waiver. By not protesting as this section provides, the Vendor also waives any additional entitlement and accepts from the City any written or oral order (including directions, instructions, interpretations, and determination).

E. Failure to Follow Procedures Constitutes Waiver. By failing to follow the procedures of this section, the Vendor completely waives any claims for protested work and accepts from the City any written or oral order (including directions, instructions, interpretations, and determination).

**VII. CLAIMS.** The Vendor shall give written notice to the City of all claims other than change orders within fourteen (14) calendar days of the occurrence of the events giving rise to the claims. Any claim for damages, additional payment for any reason, or extension of time, whether under this Agreement or otherwise, shall be conclusively deemed to have been waived by the Vendor unless a timely written claim is made in strict accordance with the applicable provisions of this Agreement; or, if (and only if) no such provision is applicable, unless that claim is set forth in detail in writing and received by the City within seven (7) calendar days from the date Vendor knew, or should have known, of the facts giving rise to the claim. At a minimum, a Vendor's written claim must include the information set forth regarding protests in Section VI(A)(2)(a)-(e).

**FAILURE TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE, WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF CLAIM WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED SHALL BE AN ABSOLUTE WAIVER OF ANY CLAIMS ARISING IN ANY WAY FROM THE FACTS OR EVENTS SURROUNDING THAT CLAIM OR CAUSED BY THAT DELAY.**

Vendor must, in any event, file any claim or bring any suit arising from or connected with this Agreement within 120 calendar days from the date the contract work is complete.

**VIII. WARRANTY.** The Vendor shall correct all defects in workmanship and materials within one year from the date of the City's acceptance of the contract work. When defects are corrected, the warranty for that portion of the work shall extend for one year from the date such correction is completed and accepted by the City. The Vendor shall begin to correct any defects within seven (7) calendar days of its receipt of notice from the City of the defect. If the Vendor does not accomplish the corrections within a reasonable time, the City may complete the corrections and the Vendor shall pay all costs incurred by the City in order to accomplish the correction.

**IX. INDEMNIFICATION.** Vendor shall defend, indemnify and hold the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents and volunteers harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses or suits, including all legal costs and attorney fees, arising out of or in connection with the performance of this Agreement. Vendor's obligation to indemnify shall not extend to that portion of damages caused by the City's sole negligence.

The City's inspection or acceptance of any of Vendor's work when completed shall not be grounds to avoid any of these covenants of indemnification.

Should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this Agreement is subject to RCW 4.24.115, then, in the event of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damages to property caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of the Vendor and the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents and volunteers, the Vendor's liability hereunder shall be only to the extent of the Vendor's negligence.

IT IS FURTHER SPECIFICALLY AND EXPRESSLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS INDEMNIFICATION CONSTITUTES THE VENDOR'S WAIVER OF IMMUNITY UNDER INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE, TITLE 51 RCW, SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS INDEMNIFICATION. THE PARTIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE MUTUALLY NEGOTIATED THIS WAIVER.

The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

**X. INSURANCE.** The Vendor shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Agreement, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damage to property that may arise from or in connection with the performance of the contract work by the Vendor, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

Before beginning work on the project described in this Agreement, the Vendor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance evidencing:

A. **Automobile Liability** insurance with limits no less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per accident for bodily injury and property damage; and

B. **Commercial General Liability** insurance written on an occurrence basis with limits no less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate for personal injury, bodily injury and property damage. Coverage shall include but not be limited to: blanket contractual; products/completed operations/broad form property damage; and employer's



liability.

C. **Excess Liability** insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000 limit per occurrence and aggregate.

D. **Professional Liability** insurance with limits no less than \$1,000,000 limit per occurrence/claim.

E. **Workers Compensation** insurance as statutorily required by the Industrial Insurance Act of the State of Washington, Title 51, Revised Code of Washington and employer's liability with limits not less than \$1,000,000.

Any payment of deductible or self-insured retention shall be the sole responsibility of the Vendor.

All required policies shall be provided on an "occurrence" basis except professional liability insurance (if required), which shall be provided on a "claims-made" basis.

The City shall be named as an additional insured on the Commercial General Liability insurance policy, as respects work performed by or on behalf of the Vendor and a copy of the endorsement naming the City as additional insured shall be attached to the Certificate of Insurance. The City reserves the right to receive a certified copy of all the required insurance policies.

The Vendor's Commercial General Liability insurance shall contain a clause stating that coverage shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought, except with respects to the limits of the insurer's liability.

The Vendor's insurance shall be primary and non-contributory insurance as respects the City and shall contain a waiver of subrogation against the City for claims arising out of any operations, liabilities and obligations to which coverage applies. It shall be an affirmative obligation upon Vendor to advise the City's Risk Manager by fax at (360) 473-5161, or by certified mail, return receipt requested to City of Bremerton, Attn: Risk Management, 345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100, Bremerton, WA 98337 within two days of the cancellation, suspension or substantive change of any insurance policy required herein, and failure to do so shall be construed to be a breach of this Agreement.

The City also reserves its unqualified right to require at any time and for any reason, proof of coverage in the form of a duplicate of the insurance policy with all endorsements as evidence of coverage.

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS.**

A. **Licenses and Taxes.** Vendor shall possess a current Bremerton Business License and any regulatory license required to fulfill Vendor's obligations under this Agreement. B&O taxes shall be paid when due, and Vendor, by this Agreement, assigns any payments due under this Agreement to the City Clerk for payment of such taxes which have been declared delinquent.

B. Conflict and Precedence. In the event of a conflict between the contract documents, the document which rates higher on the following list shall take precedence:

1. Amendments / Change Orders to Goods and Services Agreement
2. Goods and Services Agreement
3. Specifications
4. Terms and Conditions
5. Vendor's Proposal

C. Documents Incorporated by Reference. The following documents are incorporated by reference, including but not limited to:

1. Terms and Conditions,
2. Specifications,
3. Proposal, and
4. Non-Collusion Affidavit.

D. Use of Photographs and Images. Vendor shall not use or distribute photographs or images depicting City officials, personnel, property, or equipment whether prepared by Vendor or provided by City without prior written consent of the City. The City will not unreasonably withhold its consent.

E. Equal Employment Opportunity Statement. In the hiring of employees for the performance of work under this Agreement, the Vendor, its subcontractors, or any person acting on behalf of Vendor shall not discriminate in any employment practice on the basis of age (40+), sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation/gender identity, marital status, military status, or the presence of any physical, mental or sensory disability.

F. ADA Statement. The City of Bremerton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in programs and activities, which it operates pursuant to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act. This policy extends to both employment and admission to participation in the programs, services, and activities of the City of Bremerton. Reasonable accommodation for employees or applicants for employment will be provided.

G. Compliance with Laws. Vendor shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations throughout every aspect in the performance of this Agreement.

H. Prevailing Wages. Vendor shall file a "Statement of Intent to Pay Prevailing Wages" with the State of Washington Department of Labor & Industries prior to commencing the contract work. Vendor shall pay prevailing wages and comply with Chapter 39.12 of the Revised Code of Washington, as well as any other applicable prevailing wage rate provisions. The latest prevailing wage rate revision issued by the Department of Labor and Industries is attached.

I. Work Performed at Vendor's Risk. Vendor shall take all precautions necessary and shall be responsible for the safety of its employees, agents, and subcontractors in the performance of this Agreement. All work shall be done at Vendor's own risk, and Vendor shall be responsible for any loss of or damage to materials, tools, or other articles used or held for use in connection

with the work.

J. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington. If any dispute arises between the City and Vendor under any of the provisions of this Agreement, resolution of that dispute shall be available exclusively under the jurisdiction, venue and rules of the Kitsap County Superior Court, Kitsap County, Washington.

K. Attorney's Fees. In any claim or lawsuit for damages arising from the parties' performance of this Agreement, each party shall be responsible for payment of its own legal costs and attorney's fees incurred in defending or bringing such claim or lawsuit; however, nothing in this subsection shall limit the City's right to indemnification under Section IX of this Agreement.

L. Written Notice. All communications regarding this Agreement shall be sent to the parties at the addresses listed below, unless otherwise notified. Any written notice shall become effective upon delivery, but in any event three (3) calendar days after the date of mailing by registered or certified mail, and shall be deemed sufficiently given if sent to the addressee at the address stated in this Agreement.

Notices to be sent to:

Notices to be sent to:

CITY:

VENDOR:

Attn: Court Administrator  
City of Bremerton  
550 Park Avenue  
Bremerton, WA 98337-1891

Attn: Pam Peloquin  
Seattle's Finest Security and Traffic Control, LLC  
11500 Belton Point Rd,  
West Glacier, MT 59936

M. Assignment. Any assignment of this Agreement by the Vendor without the written consent of the City shall be void.

N. Modification. No waiver, alteration, or modification of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be binding unless in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative of the City and Vendor.

O. Severability. If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this Agreement are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Agreement and the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

P. Entire Agreement. The written provisions and terms of this Agreement, together with any attached Exhibits, supersede all prior verbal statements by any representative of the City, and those statements shall not be construed as forming a part of or altering in any manner this Agreement. This Agreement and any attached Exhibits contain the entire Agreement between the parties. Should any language in any Exhibit to this Agreement conflict with any language contained in this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties below have executed this Agreement.

CITY:

VENDOR:

City of Bremerton

Seattle's Finest Security and Traffic Control, LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

KYLIE J. FINNELL, Bremerton City Attorney

ANGELA HOOVER, City Clerk

R:\Legal\Legal\Forms\FORMS ON COBWEB\Goods and Services Agreement Rev 06 2020.docx

DRAFT

## Exhibit A: Scope of Work

### **Security Services Summary:**

1. Assigned personnel must be trained in both weapons screening and security services.
2. Assigned personnel must be able to stand for long periods of time.
3. Vendor will supply 1 part-time persons for three and one-half (3-1/2) hours per week. The agency shall have sufficient staffing to have a backup officer available and at the site in the absence of the main officer. Officer must be a sworn off-duty law enforcement officer in the State of Washington.
4. Within 24-48 hours of request, the vendor shall provide the City additional service coverage as needed to meet the Municipal Court hours of operation.

### **Locations:**

Bremerton Municipal Court  
550 Park Ave  
Bremerton, WA 98337

### **Invoicing - Billing Requirements:**

Invoicing should be monthly and display hours worked, labor rates, applicable taxes, and any additional charges as separate line items.

### **The contractor shall provide the following services where applicable:**

- A. Provide a part-time Security Officer (SO) to provide courthouse roving armed security services with law enforcement officer status, for the Bremerton Municipal Court (Court). For purposed of this Contract, “part-time” means between four and eight hours per day, three and one-half days per week, excluding court holidays and closures.
- B. Shall be responsible for arranging and providing a back-up officer in the event the main officer is off or has to leave his/her station for any reason.
- C. Have all security personnel wear uniform apparel while on duty.
- D. Possess professional liability insurance of \$1,000,000.00 and provide certificates of continued coverage. City of Bremerton to be named on all certificates of insurance to ensure validity.
- E. Provide the city representatives with phone number and instructions for contacting supervisor staff to report misconduct, non-performance, or un-kept appearance of assigned security personnel.

**SEATTLE'S FINEST**  
SECURITY & TRAFFIC CONTROL



## **Off Duty Law Enforcement Security Proposal for City Of Bremerton**

Seattle's Finest  
Security & Traffic Control, LLC  
President: Raleigh Evans  
Mobile phone: (253) 225-1056  
E-mail: [rjevans@seafinest.com](mailto:rjevans@seafinest.com)  
Website: [www.seafinest.com](http://www.seafinest.com)

This is an official proposal, with the current rates and terms to provide Off Duty Law Enforcement Officers for security purposes. Seattle's Finest operates as an employer, with all Officers on our payroll as employees, and covered by L&I, Employment Security, and a \$6,000,000 / \$7,000,000 General Liability Insurance policy.

Seattle's Finest has been in business for 20 years, and has extensive experience in providing off-duty police officers for security, traffic control, executive protection, etc. We have provided over 1,500,000 hours of off-duty services since we have been in business, and have handled some of the largest and most demanding jobs during that time.

### Rates and terms:

#### **Off Duty Officer Security**

Our rates are inclusive and cover the Officer's pay and all overhead costs. Our rates are as follows:

- Straight Rate- \$94.00/hr, for all hours except holidays.
- **Holiday / Overtime / Last Minute Rate (Less than 24-hour notice)- \$145.00/hr**
- New Year's Eve and 4<sup>th</sup> of July- \$160.00/hr

- There are 11 holidays that require holiday pay. This is based on the paid holidays recognized by the largest Law Enforcement Agencies in Washington State. The holidays are:

New Year's Eve  
New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Presidents Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day / 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Labor Day  
Veteran's Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Day following Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

- Cancellations require 24-hour notice; otherwise a 4-hour minimum show-up applies at that day's standard rate. A 4-hour minimum show-up applies at all times.

We will bill weekly, and payment is due upon receipt. Payment is expected within 15 business days or a 1% late fee per month will be applied.

I am always available to you at the number below, and we look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Raleigh J Evans  
President / Co-Owner  
Direct: 253-225-1056 Web: [www.seafinest.com](http://www.seafinest.com)



**Published for  
September 20  
Council Meeting**

**ITEM 6A – Public Comments**



**From:** Roy Runyon <[sealance2449@gmail.com](mailto:sealance2449@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 6:47 PM

**To:** [City.council@bremerton.ci.wa.us](mailto:City.council@bremerton.ci.wa.us); City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** WASHINGTON STATE COURTHOUSE PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARDS

To Whom It May Concern,

Please see the link to the document "WASHINGTON STATE COURTHOUSE PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARDS" established by Washington Courts.

<https://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/content/pdf/Courthouse%20Public%20Safety%20Standards.pdf>

Regards,

Roy Runyon  
Citizen and Taxpayer

**From:** james docter <jamesdocter@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 3:48 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Armed Security Officer at BMC

Judge Flood appeared last week before Council requesting funding for additional courthouse security, citing [ostensibly new] safety concerns. According to her, these "new" concerns warrant an armed security guard for three days a week, at a price of \$60,000 for the remainder of the year. I was requested to comment on her proposal, since the Bremerton Municipal Court has never before deemed it necessary or appropriate to have armed security.

It's important to keep Judge Flood's comments in perspective. I agree the area near 6<sup>th</sup> and Park is a "high crime" area. This is not anything new or surprising. The crimes that historically have occurred in that area with regularity are not serious crimes. Generally there is a high incidence of trespassing, shoplifting, use of drug paraphernalia and controlled substances and public intoxication. Most of the perpetrators of these crimes are relatively harmless substance abusers and sufferers of mental health illness(es). I did not hear Judge Flood tell council that any of these individuals have ever threatened her staff, or committed any acts of violence in or around her court. That these perpetrators find it convenient to use the municipal court restrooms during the day, and occasionally mess them up, or self administer drugs there also is not surprising.

What is surprising is that the judge believes the appropriate response to these low level crimes is armed security. I believe Chief Wolfe and those who work in his department would agree that firearms are not the preferred response to such activity. Further, no one should ever use a firearm to keep a fleeing suspect from exiting the courthouse. Not only is armed security unnecessary in a courthouse, it's dangerous. Under my administration, and that of many judges across the state, we deliberately chose to prohibit any firearms inside the courthouse (except unloaded, as evidence during a trial), including by security guards. This was to eliminate the risk that any member of the public might come into possession of a firearm, either by force or by neglect. This is why most, if not all court security officers in this county remain unarmed. Currently it's impossible for firearms to be present inside the courthouse because their admission is prohibited and they're easily identifiable by metal detector. Deliberately introducing a firearm into the courthouse could certainly expose the city to liability (in my opinion) should anyone get shot, accidentally or intentionally.

I ask the City Council to carefully weigh the utility of having a guard with a firearm inside the courthouse against the gravity/danger to the staff and public of having any firearms in the courthouse. City Council would be far better situated to address and respond to this proposal if Judge Flood convened a **Court Security Committee** as outlined in detail in **GR-36**. The role of this committee is to *"coordinate the adoption of court security policies and make recommendations regarding security protocols, policies and procedures necessary to protect the public, court personnel and users, and court facilities"* **GR 36(d)** and to create a **"Court Security**

**Plan" GR 36(e)**. This should be accomplished before the City Council acts on the judge's request. Since Judge Flood is particularly concerned about courthouse security and safety, she should also adopt and abide by the ***Washington State Courthouse Public Safety Standards*** (authored by the Board for Judicial Administration Court Security Committee), before requesting the City Council to grant her instant request.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

James Docter, Judge (retired)

AGENDA BILL  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

6B

Amended...

---

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance No. 5482 to update BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping"

Study Session Date: September 13, 2023

COUNCIL MEETING Date: September 20, 2023

Department: Legal

Presenter: Kylie Finnell, City Attorney

Phone: (360) 473-2345

**SUMMARY:**

The City Council included an update to BMC Chapter 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping", last updated in 2004, in the Council's 2023 Goals and Priorities.

Council discussed this issue at the Study Sessions on June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and September 13<sup>th</sup>. Public comment was received at the Council Meetings on July 5<sup>th</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, and September 6<sup>th</sup>. Council has also received numerous written comments and voicemails related to this issue. Several draft ordinances were presented for consideration as Council discussed the many options available and accounted for public input.

The new draft ordinance below has the following updates to BMC Chapter 9.32 compared to the 2004 version.

- Adds a clause that enforcement of the unauthorized camping ordinance is suspended when there is no shelter space available to comply with recent federal case law.
  - **There is no map or list of areas, or any differentiation between areas that are enforced at all times versus those only enforced when there is no shelter space available. Enforcement is either possible city-wide, or suspended when there is no available shelter space.**
- Provides a definition of available shelter space that includes public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment, located either in the City, or in Kitsap County if free transportation is available.
  - Shelter is not considered available if there is discrimination against an individual or family based on sex, familial or marital status, religious beliefs, disability, or length-of-stay restrictions.
  - Shelter is considered available if a person is unable to utilize an available overnight shelter due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, assaultive behavior, or violation of shelter rules.
- Updates the penalty for violation to be a misdemeanor upon the first offense.

Note: Other sections of the BMC unrelated to this ordinance prohibit conduct at locations within the City which may also prohibit camping on certain properties at certain times (e.g., City Parks when they are closed and certain environmental areas) and these ordinances will remain in effect at all times and are not amended by this ordinance.

Continued on next page...

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1) Draft Ordinance No. 5482

**FISCAL IMPACTS (Include Budgeted Amount):**

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA:**             Limited Presentation         Full Presentation

**STUDY SESSION ACTION:**    Consent Agenda         General Business         Public Hearing

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to pass Ordinance No. 5482 to update Bremerton Municipal Code Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping."

**COUNCIL ACTION:**    Approve         Deny         Table         Continue         No Action

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE** of the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington, amending Chapter 9.32 of the Bremerton Municipal Code entitled “Unauthorized Camping” to set forth the circumstances under which unauthorized camping is enforced.

WHEREAS, despite City and regional efforts to provide housing, shelter, and related services in the City, including but not limited to Pendleton Place, the Kitsap Rescue Mission shelter at the Quality Inn, and the seasonal shelter at the Salvation Army, the preliminary data from the Kitsap 2023 Point-in-Time count indicates a growing number of unsheltered community members; and

WHEREAS, while Point-in-Time counts are considered to be an undercount of the actual number of people experiencing homelessness, preliminary data shows 245 unsheltered individuals in Kitsap County which is a 34% increase from 2022 with 58% of the 245 unsheltered individuals surveyed in Bremerton; and

WHEREAS, a majority of unsheltered individuals surveyed indicated they lived outside in places not meant for human habitation such as tents; and

WHEREAS, when no overnight shelter is available, some unsheltered individuals have no other option but to sleep on public property and protect themselves from the elements with tarps, tents, blankets, sleeping bags, and similar items; and

WHEREAS, in *Martin v City of Boise*, 920 F. 3d 584 (9th Cir. 2019), the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits cities from enforcing ordinances criminalizing camping on all public property when there is no available shelter; and

WHEREAS, in *Johnson v City of Grants Pass, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, Nos. 20-35752, 20-35881 decided September 28, 2022, amended July 5, 2023*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that ordinances that operate to make it “nearly impossible” to sleep outside with any form of bedding or shelter, or in a vehicle, on public land violate the Cruel and Unusual Punishment clause of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the City’s “Unauthorized Camping” code was drafted in 2004 and prohibits camping in all parks and public places without taking into consideration available shelter space and must be updated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI, Section 11 of the Washington Constitution and RCW 35.22, and the Charter of the City of Bremerton, the City of Bremerton is authorized to regulate public property; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the regulatory requirements within this ordinance are necessary to promote public health, safety and welfare by preserving public use of public spaces for which they are intended while balancing the needs and rights of unwillingly unsheltered individuals; NOW THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREMERTON, WASHINGTON,  
DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 9.32 of the Bremerton Municipal Code entitled "Unauthorized Camping" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Chapter 9.32  
UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING**

**9.32.010 DEFINITIONS.**

The following definitions are applicable in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “Available overnight shelter” means a public or private shelter, transitional housing, or outdoor encampment operated by or permitted by the city, located within the city of Bremerton, that offers overnight shelter or camping space to persons experiencing homelessness and shelter staff confirms to a city employee that it has an available overnight space at no cost for that person; or if no such available overnight shelter is available within the city of Bremerton, public or private shelter, transitional housing, or an outdoor encampment operated or permitted by a public entity within Kitsap County provided shelter staff confirms to a city employee that it has an available overnight space at no cost for that person and that it is accessible to the person by public transportation or vehicle for hire at no cost for that person.

If an individual or family unit cannot use an available accommodation because of the individual or family member’s sex, familial or marital status, religious beliefs, disability, or length-of-stay restrictions, the accommodation is not considered available. If the person is unable to utilize an available overnight shelter due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, assaultive behavior, or violation of shelter rules, the overnight shelter space shall still be considered available for the purposes of this section.

(ba) "Camp" means (1) to dwell, reside within or use camping facilities for temporary or permanent habitation or housing; and/or (2) to use camping paraphernalia.

(cb) "Camping facilities" include, but are not limited to, recreational vehicles, motor vehicles, trailers, tents, huts, or temporary shelters.

(de) "Camping paraphernalia" includes, but is not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, hammocks, or non-City-designated cooking facilities and similar equipment.

(ed) "Director" means any Director of a City of Bremerton department having authority over a public place or any other person authorized by the Mayor to exercise such authority or their ~~his or her~~ designee.

(fe) "Park" means and includes all City parks, public squares, park drives, parkways, boulevards, golf courses, park museums, zoos, bathing beaches, and play and recreation grounds under the jurisdiction of the City of Bremerton Parks and Recreation Department.

(gf) "Public place" means and includes streets, ways, boulevards, sidewalks, planting or parking strips, shoulders, squares, triangles, rights-of-way, publicly owned parking lot or

publicly owned area, improved or unimproved, and other public places appropriated to the public for public use, including buildings, structures and appurtenances situated thereon.

(hg) "Recreational vehicle" means a travel trailer, motor home, truck camper, or camping trailer that is primarily designed and used as temporary living quarters, is either self-propelled or mounted on or drawn by another vehicle, is transient and is not immobilized or permanently affixed to a mobile home lot.

(ih) "Store" means to put aside or accumulate for use when needed, to put for safekeeping, to place or leave in a location.

(ji) "Street" means any highway, avenue, lane, road, street, drive, place, boulevard, alley, right-of-way, and every way or place in the City of Bremerton open as a matter of right to public vehicular travel.

#### **9.32.020 UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING IN PUBLIC PLACES.**

Except as permitted by permit pursuant to BMC 9.32.040 or as otherwise provided by City Code or ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to camp in any park or other public place. This prohibition does not include the use of camping paraphernalia and camping facilities consistent with park rules established by the Parks Director at times parks are open to the public pursuant to BMC 13.04.150. The authority to arrest and file charges for a violation of this section shall be suspended when there is no available overnight shelter for the individual camping.

#### **9.32.030 UNAUTHORIZED STORAGE IN PUBLIC PLACES.**

Except as permitted by permit pursuant to BMC 9.32.040, BMC 10.10, or as otherwise provided by City Code or ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to store, pitch or park camping facilities or to store or pitch camping paraphernalia in any park or other public place. This prohibition does not include the use of camping paraphernalia and camping facilities consistent with park rules established by the Parks Director at times parks are open to the public pursuant to BMC 13.04.150. Enforcement of BMC 9.32.030 is suspended when overnight shelter is not available to the individual camping.

~~Recreational vehicles may be parked in authorized parking spaces within City public rights-of-way subject to the provisions of Chapter 10.11 BMC.~~

#### **9.32.040 PERMIT.**

(a) The Director is authorized, by permit, to allow persons to camp, occupy camping facilities, or use or store camping paraphernalia within or on any park or other public place that may be designated by the City for such use in the City of Bremerton subject to other applicable codes or ordinances.

(b) The Director may approve a permit as provided under this section if the Director determines that:

- (1) Adequate trash receptacles, trash collection and sanitary facilities are available;
- (2) The camping activity will not unreasonably disturb or interfere with the peace, comfort, and repose of property owners in the area; and
- (3) The camping activity is not reasonably likely to provoke disorderly conduct or create a disturbance.



(c) The Director may place terms and conditions on any permit as the Director ~~he or she~~ finds appropriate for the conditions considering the use and impacts of such use. (Ord. 4898 §1, 2004)

**9.32.050 PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.**

(a) ~~Misdemeanor. A violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a misdemeanor pursuant to BMC 1.12.020(2). Civil Infraction. A violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a civil infraction subject to a monetary penalty of one hundred five dollars (\$125.00). Each day, or a portion thereof, during which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.~~

~~(b) Habitual Violators—Misdemeanor. Any person, after receiving three or more infractions, singularly or in combination, for prior violations of this chapter within a two (2) year period found to be committed by the Municipal Court shall be guilty of a misdemeanor pursuant to BMC 1.12.020(2) upon a subsequent violation within said two (2) year period. A conviction of a misdemeanor under this subsection shall be considered and counted as an infraction for the purpose of determining whether or not a violator is a habitual violator.~~

**9.32.060 RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

The Director may promulgate rules and regulations the Director ~~he or she~~ deems necessary and appropriate to implement, administer and enforce this chapter.

**SECTION 2. Corrections.** The City Clerk and codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener, clerical, typographical, and spelling errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this ordinance are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force ten (10) days from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF COUGHLIN, Council President

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

GREG WHEELER, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

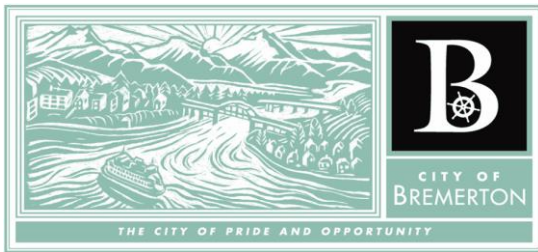
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANGELA HOOVER, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
KYLIE J. FINNELL, City Attorney

PUBLISHED the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.  
EFFECTIVE the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Published for  
September 20  
Council Meeting**

**6B – Public Comments**



Mayor Greg Wheeler

greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us  
Tel 360-473-5266  
Fax 360-473-5883  
345 6th Street, Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337-1873

September 19, 2023

Dear Council,

I am asking that the Council not vote on the “Unauthorized Camping” ordinance tomorrow and instead take additional public comment after an explanation of the latest draft ordinance. I have received hundreds of emails since last Wednesday. Our community does not have a clear understanding about what the Council will be voting on tomorrow. This confusion is understandable due to some irregularities with how this ordinance is coming to a vote tomorrow.

First, the draft ordinance that was in the study session packet for 09/13 included prohibitions on camping at all times in the right-of-way, at parks, at developed City properties and City properties closed to the public. The 09/13 packet also included maps of undeveloped City properties where enforcement would be suspended if there was no available shelter space. As you know, the usual course of action is that the item at study session moves forward to the consent agenda or general business agenda at the following Council meeting in mostly the same form as discussed at study session. At the study session last week, however, Council made significant changes to the draft ordinance that is on for a vote tomorrow. The Council wanted a new draft ordinance for a vote at this week’s meeting that has no specific prohibitions on camping and no maps showing where enforcement is suspended if there is no available shelter space. Making a big change of that nature between a study session and a Council meeting vote is unusual and seems to have contributed to confusion on this issue.

Second, our local newspaper, the Kitsap Sun, initially reported that the Council was not voting on this ordinance on 09/20. While there was a later correction in the newspaper on that point, the initial misstatement should give the Council pause in going forward.

And finally, the packet for the 09/20 meeting was initially uploaded last Thursday evening with the 09/13 draft ordinance that included the suspended enforcement maps. This error was corrected on Friday when the packet was reposted with the 09/20 draft ordinance but for a portion of last week, it appeared the upcoming vote at the 09/20 Council meeting would be on the 09/13 draft ordinance that the Council was no longer considering.

This combination of irregularities has created confusion on an issue that is important to this community and warrants additional time so the Council and public can understand and discuss the latest draft.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Wheeler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:25 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Irregularities have Caused Confusion - Delay Vote on "Unauthorized Camping" Ordinance  
**Importance:** High

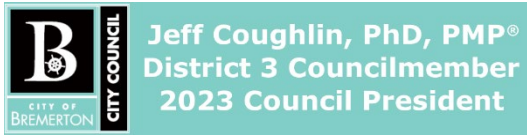
Council,

I want to give information regarding issues raised by the Mayor in his letter for your awareness prior to our 5pm briefing and discussion. Please do not reply and we'll discuss at 5pm.

- I worked with Legal on the Agenda Bill summary to make it clear exactly what is in the draft ordinance and the exact changes from the 2004 version. An image is attached of the Agenda Bill in the packet.
- As you've seen in your inbox, I wrote an e-mail that went out to every individual that has e-mailed Council regarding the ordinance since June. The e-mail notified that a significant change had occurred, and included a copy of that Agenda Bill summary.
- I have explained the changes and the content of this new draft ordinance via my own Council social media, and assume Councilmembers have been talking to their constituents who have questions.
- As soon as I saw the incorrect Kitsap Sun headline by Mr. Uyehara that said the vote was postponed (about an hour after it was published), I called the editor, David Nelson, who took prompt action to update it online and issue a clear correction.
- I also talked extensively with Mr. Nelson for the subsequent Sun article he then authored, published Sept. 15, that lays out the new draft ordinance and makes it clear the old draft is off the table.
- While the packet was accidentally uploaded with the old supplementary materials late Thurs. evening, it was completely taken down Friday morning when noticed. Once the final draft of the ordinance was provided by Legal on Fri. afternoon, a new packet was made available with the correct Agenda Bill and supplemental material.
- While I agree it is not standard, there have been many times in the past where Council has asked for modifications at a Study Session and it goes for a vote at the next meeting. One very recent example is the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan.

This is clearly a complex topic that, no matter when and in what form it is passed, will require continued public education for a long time to come. I will utilize all available avenues to continue to get accurate information to the public. Public Safety Committee will also have this as a standing agenda item.

Thanks all,



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:26 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** An Update on City Council's Amendment to BMC 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"

Dear Bremerton Neighbor,

I am sending this to you because you submitted a comment by e-mail regarding or related to the update to BMC Chapter 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping" (a.k.a., the camping ordinance), and wanted to give you an update.

1. Thank you for your civic engagement. One of the Bremerton City Council's top goals is soliciting public input, and we are glad to have had such robust engagement and spent many meetings on this difficult and complex topic.
2. I wanted to make sure you knew Council has a modified draft of the ordinance that is on the agenda for the Council Meeting this Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> — there are significant differences from the draft presented at the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The full text of the ordinance can be found in the Council Packet (<https://www.bremertonwa.gov/706/Agenda-Packet>) and at the end of this e-mail is a snapshot of the agenda bill summary that describes the differences between this draft ordinance and the last update to this code from 2004.
3. The Council's Public Safety Committee will additionally be exploring a separate ordinance, hopefully with the assistance of the Mayor and his Administration, that could give property owners the legal authority to trespass people who are congregating in the planting strip adjacent to their property, based on this model from Eugene, OR: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4236/Planting-Strip-Ordinance>
4. It should be clear that the ordinance to update BMC 9.32 only addresses Unauthorized Camping. It does not address the creation of shelter space and the myriad of needs for those experiencing homelessness, for which we rely on the Mayor working in concert with non-profits, community groups, non-governmental organizations, and county, state, and federal government to provide, and to request from the Council any needed city resources.

Finally, personally speaking, I encourage you to contact your county commissioners and state and federal legislators to address the growing issues of poverty, affordable housing, homelessness/houselessness, drug addiction, healthcare access, including mental health, and the many other issues that face our community and impact our neighborhoods. Bremerton is the poorest per-capita city in Kitsap, with only 16% of the county's population, and yet is the identified residence of nearly 60% of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Council has been bold to have frank conversations on these issues, but Bremerton does not have the resources to solve these complex regional issues alone.

Thanks for speaking up,





## SUMMARY:

The City Council included an update to BMC Chapter 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping", last updated in 2004, in the Council's 2023 Goals and Priorities.

Council discussed this issue at the Study Sessions on June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and September 13<sup>th</sup>. Public comment was received at the Council Meetings on July 5<sup>th</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, and September 6<sup>th</sup>. Council has also received numerous written comments and voicemails related to this issue. Several draft ordinances were presented for consideration as Council discussed the many options available and accounted for public input.

The new draft ordinance below has the following updates to BMC Chapter 9.32 compared to the 2004 version.

- Adds a clause that enforcement of the unauthorized camping ordinance is suspended when there is no shelter space available to comply with recent federal case law.
  - **There is no map or list of areas, or any differentiation between areas that are enforced at all times versus those only enforced when there is no shelter space available. Enforcement is either possible city-wide, or suspended when there is no available shelter space.**
- Provides a definition of available shelter space that includes public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment, located either in the City, or in Kitsap County if free transportation is available.
  - Shelter is not considered available if there is discrimination against an individual or family based on sex, familial or marital status, religious beliefs, disability, or length-of-stay restrictions.
  - Shelter is considered available if a person is unable to utilize an available overnight shelter due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, assaultive behavior, or violation of shelter rules.
- Updates the penalty for violation to be a misdemeanor upon the first offense.

Note: Other sections of the BMC unrelated to this ordinance prohibit conduct at locations within the City which may also prohibit camping on certain properties at certain times (e.g., City Parks when they are closed and certain environmental areas) and these ordinances will remain in effect at all times and are not amended by this ordinance.

*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

**From:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:46 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Angela Hoover <Angela.Hoover@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PLEASE READ! Clarification on Camping Ordinance (Message from President Coughlin)  
**Importance:** High

Attn: Council Members

**\*\*For informational purposes only. Do not reply to this email\*\***

---

**From:** Jeff Coughlin [Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:36 AM  
**To:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Clarification on Camping Ordinance

Hi Council and Mayor,

The packet for the 9/20 Council meeting was accidentally posted last night with the old draft ordinance still included. This has understandably caused some confusion.

The packet has been taken down for now until the new draft ordinance can replace it.

For clarity, Council's decision was that, compared to the existing 2004 ordinance regarding camping on city property, the new draft will:

- Provide a definition of available shelter space that includes public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment, located either in the City, or in Kitsap County if free transportation is available. As well:
  - Language we've had in drafts for a while that shelter is not considered available if there is discrimination against an individual or family based on sex, familial or marital status, religious beliefs, disability, or length-of-stay restrictions.
  - New language that if the person is unable to utilize an available overnight shelter due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, assaultive behavior, or violation of shelter rules, the overnight shelter space shall still be considered available.
- Update the penalty for violation to be a simple misdemeanor.
- Add a clause that enforcement is suspended when there is no available shelter space.

The new draft does not call out specific areas that are enforced at all times versus areas that are only enforced when shelter space is available, i.e., no more map.

Thanks all for your hard work.

Jeff

--



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

**From:** Roy Runyon <[sealance2449@gmail.com](mailto:sealance2449@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:27 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

To Whom It May Concern,

Kitsap County has an entire division within its Human Services Dept. dedicated to addressing homelessness. Here is the county web page for that division

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Housing-and-Homelessness-Landing.aspx>

BTW, it appears the "Housing for All" program is defunct despite the construction of a dozen shelters. Please learn the lessons of this failure to avoid mistakes in provision of shelter space.

-Roy Runyon  
Citizen and Taxpayer

On Wed, Sep 13, 2023, 15:11 Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Daniel,

Thank you for your email. I really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me. Not only am I grateful to hear your concerns but it is extremely important that you shared your sentiments with the City Council also as they are the ones ultimately responsible for creating laws in our city. As you are probably already aware, the city currently does not have a legal camping ordinance due to recent 9th circuit court rulings. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance and will continue deliberations on this subject Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I just want to reinforce that creating laws in Bremerton belongs to the legislative branch (City Council) and ensuring those laws are enforced is administrations (Mayor's) responsibility. That is an important distinction as I always appreciate being included in correspondence from the community; but when it comes to this new proposed city legislation, it is extremely important that comments, questions, and concerns regarding the camping ordinance be shared with the city council since they are the ones crafting this new law. As a side note, the city currently has no shelter capacity since the Salvation Army (SA) closed in May. You may have noticed the problem was exacerbated by the SA's closure. I am working on standing up another shelter in the city. This will require funding and partners. In my role as Mayor, I have briefed the council and public at large (Community Meetings, City Council Meetings, Kitsap Daily News and Kitsap Sun interviews/articles) on several occasions that I am working on multiple scenarios that involve a shelter, tiny home transitional housing, and regulated outdoor shelters. The next Kitsap Sun article coming out soon will most likely reinforce my efforts. I have established the partnerships and will be meeting with team members this week and next to discuss funding, development, acquisition, and operations strategies. I would also like to share that am also currently working on moving up the reopening of the Salvation Army winter shelter to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This effort would also increase their hours of operation to 24 hours a day versus overnight only. Thank you again for taking the time to voice your concerns. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler

Mayor

City of Bremerton

(360) 473-5266

From: Alma Singleton <chip55munk@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:09 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Apology

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Well, ok, the suggestion to allow homeowners to bring trespass charges on campers... god help us.

Thank you for all your work on this sad mess. I hear each county ships homeless around.

I am praying for relief, but our federal government allowing corporations to control congress seems to be gutting America. I'm almost ashamed to be here. I served honorable military, I followed orders, and I worked hard as a kid, and all my life, but today's young people are a mess.

Thanks again,  
Singleton

Sent from my iPad

---

From: Alma Singleton <chip55munk@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 2:53 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Concerning Comment re Residents taking care of homeless camped in front of our Properties Discussion of Public Safety Committee

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The the City Council's next public safety meeting will be discussing !

"At the council's next public safety committee meeting, representatives will be discussing adopting an Ordinance to allow residents responsible for maintaining planting strips to trespass campers setting up on the sidewalk-adjacent locations."

Ok, this means I as a resident have to take personal responsibility for something I pay tax dollars to city to care for and take chance to be retaliated against by the camper I have removed!

PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT WE CITIZENS ALREADY PAY FOR AND REMOVE THEM BY LAW.  
LAWS ALREADY HAVE THIS TRESPASS IN PLACE.

Thank you,  
Seriously concerned  
Marj Singleton

**From:** A Hammond <[arthammond2020@gmail.com](mailto:arthammond2020@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 10:37 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Pinewood Neighborhood (A. Hammond)

I was reading an article this morning that with the new ordinance, that maps would not be handed out to show the possible camping locations. However, it is already public knowledge which ones were being considered, so they already know the locations. Therefore, I think the housing communities should be completely removed from the running for possible camp sights. I do agree with the one, that it should be taken down to one location. The location that best fits, is the lot behind Chevron off of Kitsap Way. It puts them near stores, restaurants, medical facilities, and public transportation. Also, it is less residential in that area. Most importantly, it is wide open to where it would be easier controlled, patrolled, etc. This, hopefully making it safer for the residents of Bremerton as well as residents of the encampment.

Regards,

A. Hammond

**From:** Allie Malenfant <[alliemalenfant@gmail.com](mailto:alliemalenfant@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:39 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I wanted to share my worries about the idea of having a homeless camp close to our schools and homes. One of these spots is really close to Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, and I'm concerned about how it might affect our neighborhood, especially our kids' safety.

Having a camp here might help temporarily, but it doesn't really deal with the bigger problems like people struggling with substance use and mental health issues. I hope the folks in charge think about different ways to help with these important issues and keep all of us safe.

Thanks for listening to what I have to say.

Sincerely,

Allie Malenfant  
1520 7th St  
Bremerton, WA 98337



**From:** Allie Malenfant <alliemalenfant@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:40 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council Members,

I wanted to share my worries about the idea of having a homeless camp close to our schools and homes. One of these spots is really close to Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, and I'm concerned about how it might affect our neighborhood, especially our kids' safety.

Having a camp here might help temporarily, but it doesn't really deal with the bigger problems like people struggling with substance use and mental health issues. I hope the folks in charge think about different ways to help with these important issues and keep all of us safe.

Thanks for listening to what I have to say.

Sincerely,

Allie Malenfant  
1520 7th St  
Bremerton, WA 98337

From: alvin-melanie guzman <[theguzmans@hotmail.com](mailto:theguzmans@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:39 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alvin & Melanie Guzman  
2050 Taft Ave  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Amber Holland <[amber.n.holland@gmail.com](mailto:amber.n.holland@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:31 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council  
<[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Comments on Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I'm writing to share the concerns I have about the proposed homeless encampment near Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School. I strongly believe this would create serious safety challenges for the families who bring their children here for either church or school activities, without actually bringing any true benefit to our local homeless population.

The majority of homeless encampments, such as what is being proposed, do not adequately address the needs of the homeless, but rather produce a concentration of at-risk individuals who themselves either contribute to or become targets for drug deals and other crimes. This proposed solution often doesn't even include some of the homeless most at-risk, the children and those with severe mental health issues. This is because it doesn't provide the stable and caring environment that these groups need. Encampments are not appropriate places for children and they do not help manage the paranoia that those with mental health issues can struggle with, in part because individuals with severe mental health issues often prefer to avoid crowds of other people. I know this very personally from a friend and a family member, both in this particular situation.

Encampments themselves offer at best a temporary solution, but carry risks too. These risks do not belong next to churches and schools where large groups of children are regularly present. Having an encampment near either of these locations can place children in particular at greater risk of exposure to drug use and drug paraphernalia, crime, and more. Encampments don't address these issues and it doesn't even home anyone, it just pushes the "problem" into someone else's backyard. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety and care for the homeless and the rest of our community, particularly the children.

I realize I do not live in Bremerton, but I am regularly at Holy Trinity Church with my young children and know many other families in the same situation. Thank you for your consideration and may God bless your efforts.

Sincerely,

Amber Holland  
12350 Lindi Ln SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

**From:** Amber Holland <amber.n.holland@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:31 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council  
<City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Comments on Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I'm writing to share the concerns I have about the proposed homeless encampment near Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School. I strongly believe this would create serious safety challenges for the families who bring their children here for either church or school activities, without actually bringing any true benefit to our local homeless population.

The majority of homeless encampments, such as what is being proposed, do not adequately address the needs of the homeless, but rather produce a concentration of at-risk individuals who themselves either contribute to or become targets for drug deals and other crimes. This proposed solution often doesn't even include some of the homeless most at-risk, the children and those with severe mental health issues. This is because it doesn't provide the stable and caring environment that these groups need. Encampments are not appropriate places for children and they do not help manage the paranoia that those with mental health issues can struggle with, in part because individuals with severe mental health issues often prefer to avoid crowds of other people. I know this very personally from a friend and a family member, both in this particular situation.

Encampments themselves offer at best a temporary solution, but carry risks too. These risks do not belong next to churches and schools where large groups of children are regularly present. Having an encampment near either of these locations can place children in particular at greater risk of exposure to drug use and drug paraphernalia, crime, and more. Encampments don't address these issues and it doesn't even home anyone, it just pushes the "problem" into someone else's backyard. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety and care for the homeless and the rest of our community, particularly the children.

I realize I do not live in Bremerton, but I am regularly at Holy Trinity Church with my young children and know many other families in the same situation. Thank you for your consideration and may God bless your efforts.

Sincerely,

Amber Holland  
12350 Lindi Ln SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

**From:** Amber Smith <ambertheresemariesmith@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:03 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** URGENT Regarding Proposed Camping Ordinance

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Smith (Lee)  
4550 Bay Vista Blvd F303  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Andrew St.Hilaire <[andrew.sthilaire@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.sthilaire@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:52 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Encampments

Greetings Mayor Wheeler and Brem City Council,

As a business owner in Bremerton, and someone who drives thru the city on nearly a daily basis, it saddens and frustrates me to see the situation with people on the streets worsen. While there are surely those who are down on their luck, and struggling to make ends meet in today's tough economy, it seems many have put themselves in this state either by refusing help and services and/or falling into drug and alcohol addiction. It's a vicious cycle. They need help and being left on the streets is not good for them and it's not good for our community. The trash is unsightly and the people are often in rags and in a drug induced state of mind. It makes members of our community feel unsafe and shows a lack of self respect that we allow this to go on in Bremerton.

I know we're not alone in this struggle. Cities are grappling with it nationwide. A common denominator is fentanyl, but also decriminalization of drug possession. There is heated debate about the answer to all of this, and I won't pretend to know exactly how to solve it as we most likely need a multi-faceted approach.

**Setting up an encampment on city owned property is NOT the answer.** The city supposedly has its hands tied with a court decision saying unless you have a shelter space available for a person on the streets, you cannot take down their tent. There must be another way. Allowing encampments does nothing to help these people, and it can further impose serious safety risks on children and families. They should not be allowed, but most certainly should not be placed near residences, schools, or businesses.

I urge you to find another solution that involves temporary shelters with drug and mental health treatment options and pathways to get people rehabilitated.

Thank you,

Andrew St.Hilaire

**From:** Ann Richardson <ann.b.richardson@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:20 AM

**To:** Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Scott Richardson <sronmi@hotmail.com>; er4674@aol.com

**Subject:** The straw that will break the camel's back

Good morning gentlemen,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. I urge you to consider how your actions are going to impact your voters. They are going to have people who desperately need help near their private property. Who is going to enforce the boundaries between privately owned property and public land? Who is going to come when something goes wrong? The police are already overwhelmed. The common citizen is not equipped to help or handle homeless individuals. As a nurse I can tell you these people need medical attention, and some are not in their right mind. I have personally experienced the violence, sadness, desperation, and unsanitary states many homeless people bring with them. Someone is going to get hurt. When something happens, it will be on your hands.

Thank you so much,

Ann Richardson  
7394 Clover Blossom Lane NE  
Bremerton, Washington 98311

**From:** AnnaLee Baglio <annalee.todd@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:22 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unauthorized Camping

To whom it May Concern,

Please do not allow homeless individuals to put tents up and pollute our streets with garbage, feces, drug paraphernalia and other items/behavior I have witnessed. Businesses, Starbucks on 6th and Warren for example, have had to close their doors and only allow drive thru "because it's unsafe". Drug induced people coming in and out of the tented areas walk straight out into traffic. I nearly hit one with clients in tow. It is time to clean up Bremerton. It is also my understanding many of these people are not from our county.

Where is the available mental health and rehabilitation centers? How do we create more and stop enabling?

Why is it when I go camping, and many of my friends, that we pack in and pack out any foreign items and leave literally no trace.....and the residents on our streets destroy and leaving heaping piles of garbage?

Regards,  
AnnaLee Todd-Baglio  
Broker  
John L Scott Real Estate  
(360)340-2104  
[annalee.todd@me.com](mailto:annalee.todd@me.com)



ARE WE PEOPLE, OR JUST SHEEP ???

Protest Bremerton's city-run homeless encampment

As most of you are aware of, by now, the city of Bremerton plans to use a city owned parcel of land, located at 11th st & Warren ave as a City-run homeless encampment.

The homeless population from around MLK Way, will be moved to this new location, against the will of near by property owners in the neighborhood, surrounding this new encampment.

One way to push back against the city of Bremerton is to erect large protest signs on your property, becoming such an eyesore the city can't ignore.

The protest signs could be, using this example like, "No city-run homeless encampment at 11th st & Warren ave", the bigger the better. You can use many materials, bed sheets, pillow cases, plastic tarps, house wrap, paper or cardboard, or even 4X8 foot sheets of plywood. If these protest signs become such an eyesore, it may attract local and national media coverage, causing great embarrassment to the city about what they are trying to push on the neighborhood and the taxpayers !!!

To be fair, if you place a protest sign in your yard, there could be some push-back from some members of the homeless community and/or their supporters/advocates.

This is all pale compared to the constant disorder, crime, open drug use and the hazard to public health, if this encampment is moved here, not to mention the drop in property values and neighborhood livability over the near and long term.

The question is are we a people and/or homeowners who stand up for our rights, or are we just so many SHEEP ???

**From:** Anton Preisinger <[anton@nwhospitality.org](mailto:anton@nwhospitality.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:27 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Maggie Brassil <[maggie@nwhospitality.org](mailto:maggie@nwhospitality.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Anti-camping ordinance updates

Response to the Bremerton City Council Study session held on 9/13/2023. Please note, this is solely a response to the ordinance adjustments proposed on 9/13, the list of concerning issues with the rest of the ordinance has not diminished. It is not illegal to be homeless but it should be illegal to continue failing to act in the best interest of people experiencing homelessness.

The first proposed update simply brings part of the ordinance back into compliance with established federal case law. Well done.

The second proposed update, summarized in the meeting packet as providing “a definition of available shelter space that includes public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment, located either in the City, or in Kitsap County if free transportation is available,” is superficially very reasonable and hypothetically could open the door to more shelter choices for people. However, there are some glaring problems that do not appear to have been addressed.

To start, none of the shelters or transitional housing currently operating or planned within the county are set up to conduct intakes on a whim. They’re all coordinated through referrals and procedures which make them unable to accept drop-offs or walk-ins. The one exception is the Salvation Army which does not have capacity for the number of people needing shelter, and their plans keep changing as to what kinds of services they’ll be able to provide (largely because the city has failed to adequately support this service which they now cling to as a life preserver). Anticipating the Mayor’s insistence that more is coming, we need to see that progress first. It has taken several years to make incremental progress on the Pacific Building shelter project in Port Orchard. Anything the Mayor claims to have in the works is years away from realization and should not be included in any calculations of what is available to people today.

Shelter should not be considered available if the person needing help has been banned from utilizing the available shelter. The ordinance puts forth that “Shelter is considered available [even] if a person is...in violation of shelter rules.” Essentially, by counting a shelter “available” even when a person is unable to check in there, the ordinance as currently written, is making it a misdemeanor to violate shelter rules. There are many, many reasons that people end up on the wrong side of shelter rules. The shelters have every right to protect their guests and staff as they see fit with the rules they deem necessary, but if a person breaks those rules and is no longer able to access said shelter, how is it acceptable to count that shelter as available when determining whether or not to meter out enforcement? I have seen legitimate mental healthcare challenges and physical healthcare barriers result in countless people being turned away from many shelters. We can’t let those limitations of the services available close more doors than they already do.

The third proposed adjustment to the ordinance makes the insinuation that intoxication and drug use are “voluntary actions” which is in direct conflict with the current medical understanding of addiction. The most recent revision of the International Classification of Diseases includes many

entries for different types of diseases involving addiction. I didn't read through them all, but none of them even began to hint that addiction is a voluntary disease, the very concept is an oxymoron. Shelters will not accept a person who is actively intoxicated by any substance, yet the consequence of the ordinance you are putting forth is that those people will have a misdemeanor added to their list of challenges.

They will go to jail, lose most of their belongings, lose touch with resources, lose what remnants of hope they had remaining or were beginning to reconstruct with help from local outreach services, get released with a new charge on their records, and have no choice but to go back to exactly what they were doing again until someone else calls to complain that they exist.

In addition to the whack-a-mole of sweeps this ordinance is doomed to inject into our community, now the Mayor (this adjustment was included based on his direct request) wants to build a brand new revolving door in and out of our judicial system which will tax resources and result in absolutely zero positive outcomes for the community or the people being charged: It's not a deterrent because people can't choose their way out of these circumstances and it doesn't offset the cost of anything because most won't be able to pay and any fines that do get paid will be insignificant as a municipal funding source. Whatever problem this is supposed to address, the only actual outcome will be more harm to vulnerable people and a less healthy community.

Speaking of harming vulnerable people, there is abundant research showing that adding misdemeanors to a person's criminal record makes it take longer for them to get into housing. What is our goal here? Do we want to punish these people endlessly or would we like to create an environment in which they can succeed? For just one example, according to [Success in Housing: How Much Does Criminal Background Matter?](#) A Research Project Initiated by Aeon, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, CommonBond Communities, and Project for Pride in Living (the Research Collaborative), Conducted in Partnership with Wilder Research, authored by Cael Warren and released in January 2019, the impact of a single misdemeanor can make it harder for a household to find housing for 2-7 years after a conviction. And this ordinance is proposing to impose this on someone who is already vulnerable simply because that person doesn't accept what the city decides to be adequate shelter for a single night. People have animals, they have community, they have jobs, they have family, they have a trauma-induced fear of shelter systems and authority, they have countless reasons not to accept the shelter being offered them and they are being given very little reason to trust that anything will be different if they do accept.

Should the Mayor and Bremerton City Council be struck with inspiration to focus on something that will produce positive results, I urge that attention be focused on actually providing those resources listed in the proposed ordinance as being essential, "public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment." Table this 5482 garbage ordinance for ten years and come back to it once you've successfully stood up an inclusive shelter with wraparound services, or sufficient transitional housing options, or a permitted outdoor encampment with services, or all of the above because we need a full toolbelt in order to properly serve our community. Start with the services and your camping problem will take care of itself or, at the very least, you'll finally be able to arrest some people without compromising the Constitution of the United States of America.

Anton Preisinger  
Founding Executive Director  
Northwest Hospitality

888-222-5240

[www.nwhospitality.org](http://www.nwhospitality.org)



**From:** Barbara Mascarin <[barbmascarin@gmail.com](mailto:barbmascarin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:47 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment on Lakehurst Drive

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the potential for hosting homeless encampments on Lakehurst Drive NW. While I sympathize with the difficulties involved with managing this problem, I do not believe using property in wetlands that run into Kitsap Lake is appropriate. Not only is it not feasible to pitch a tent on this muddy ground, the potential for harming the lake is at issue.

This is a quiet residential street used by walkers, many with young children. We also have young children residing on this street and Kitsap Lake Elementary school is a five minute walk away.

I urge you and the Bremerton City Council reconsider this option.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mascarin

**From:** Sherlock Bill <[sherlockbill@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockbill@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:02 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Cc:** Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; David Nelson <[david.nelson@kitsapsun.com](mailto:david.nelson@kitsapsun.com)>; Dana.Walters@usw.salvationarmy.org

**Subject:** Fw: HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS SOLUTIONS- SEPTEMBER 13TH STUDY SESSION

Dear Council members:

I read the article in today's edition of the Kitsap Sun about Wednesday's Council meeting. I don't believe any neighborhood would accept an encampment unless they were assured of round the clock security and monitoring. I still think a gated community is the best format. In the mean time, temporarily leasing a place like the old Harrison Hospital before it's demolition might be the way to go. The south end of the building is newer construction with plenty of room, restrooms, showers, a fully equipped cafeteria, and ample open and covered parking. It is on a bus line and is close and easily accessible to our police force on all sides for monitoring. Of course there should be an inside security team like the Salvation Army has for 24/7 monitoring.

I had lunch today at the Salvation Army with a group of homeless people. We discussed solutions and one woman said the most important thing to her for a shelter is "security". Some of the people who wind up in a shelter can be a threat to peace and safety. Another didn't like the idea of a monitored camp. If he wants to be taken care of on the taxpayer dime then he will have to accept what is offered. I encourage Council members to visit SA for their noon lunch. I find their food very good and it is a good opportunity to talk with the clients. It will make you even

more thankful for what you have. The SA has been great for years standing in the gap providing shelter for the homeless. They shouldn't be expected to carry the whole load endlessly. Time to spread the load. If it has to be a large fenced parking lot on a bus line with portable shelters, portable mess hall, restroom and shower trailers, and first aid trailer, it can be done. Thank you.



William L. Rieger  
3321 Almira Drive NE  
PO Box 2423  
Bremerton, Wa 98310-0317  
Phone 360-377-8443  
Cell 360-471-7250  
Email: [sherlockbill@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockbill@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/william.rieger.9659>

**From:** Bob Warcup <[b.warcup@comcast.net](mailto:b.warcup@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:17 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments

Sept. 15, 2023

Dear Mayor Wheeler/Bremerton City Council

I'm writing to express my concern about your proposal to allow homeless camps to be established in various city-own locations. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for their children.

The homeless situation in our community calls for an immediate and serious response that addresses the real causes of homelessness and offers well-staffed, thoughtful, and effective remedies, including adequate shelters and mental health aid. Setting up long-term or even temporary legal homeless encampments is in no way a solution to the problem of homelessness.

Allowing these camps will only kick the problem down the road and not fix anything – except moving the problem out of sight. We, as a community, and you, our leaders, can and should do much better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Warcup  
1610 Hayward Avenue  
Bremerton, WA. 98310



**From:** Bob Warcup <b.warcup@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:08 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments

Sept. 15, 2023

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concern about your proposal to allow homeless camps to be established in various city-own locations. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community and especially its children.

The homeless situation in our community calls for an immediate and serious response that addresses the real cause of homelessness and offers well-staffed, thoughtful and effective remedies, including adequate shelters and mental health aid. Setting up long-term or even temporary legal homeless encampments is in no way a solution to the serious problem of homelessness.

Allowing these camps will only kick the problem down the road and not fix anything – except moving the problem out of sight. We, as a community, and you, our leaders, can and should do much better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Warcup  
1610 Hayward Avenue  
Bremerton, WA. 98310

**From:** Brandon McCormick <[brandon.mccormick311@gmail.com](mailto:brandon.mccormick311@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:11 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council  
<[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Pope Francis prayer intention for this month is directly relevant to this issue, please meditate on it in your decision making on this matter:

**We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Brandon McCormick  
413 Chester Avenue  
Bremerton, WA, 98337

September 19, 2023

Councilmembers,

We do not envy your task of amending the No Camping Ordinance to comply with the ruling of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. We're confident that your team looked at all public lands and developed criteria to screen them for suitable locations for a use that was always going to be difficult to site.

Our main question is why critical areas were not screened out on the first pass. We live near the wetlands off of Lakehurst Dr NW. It is a wholly inappropriate location to allow camping for many reasons, primarily because it is a wetland ecosystem. We aren't attempting to classify it with a specific designation but a casual observer can see that it is wet year round and has all the hallmarks, like skunk cabbage.

It flows directly into Kitsap Lake. The City has spent a lot of money here over the years to combat toxic algae blooms and other public health hazards. Kitsap Lake outfalls into Chico Creek and the Puget Sound. Numerous government entities and many thousands of taxpayer dollars have nearly completed massive improvements to this watershed to improve water quality and salmon habitat.

It does not make sense to enable a circumstance that would inevitably pollute these water bodies and counter all recent investments to reduce the amount of fecal coliform. This would not align with the City's obligation and stated goal to protect these waters of statewide significance. Wetlands are not a place where you can "simply" (at great expense) scrape several inches of soil to clean up after a homeless camp. Once this environment is destroyed, it is not possible to return to its natural state.

Lakehurst Dr is also not an appropriate place to allow for camping. It is narrow and unmarked, with no space for parking for car campers and RVs, which would also leach pollutants into the water system. There are no services nearby and it does not have access to high-capacity transit. The public facility that is nearby is an elementary school. It does not make sense to consider this area for camping because of access and public health and safety issues, which are responsibilities of City government and stated priorities.

*For these reasons, we ask that all wetland areas and options in proximity to Lakehurst Dr be removed from consideration as places where the No Camping Ordinance would not be enforced. But we also want to amplify the concerns of every resident who has expressed similar reasons why the area near their home should not be considered, whether this is because it is a wetland or other critical component of the natural stormwater system, is on a steep slope, or near a school.*

Any time the Council debates an issue that involves people's homes, it is always contentious. Any time a local jurisdiction tries to confront a national problem, which is already overwhelming the region, it's inherently controversial.

It is also worth acknowledging that a significant part of the frustration that is being directed towards the Council during this particular conversation is related to the lack of enforcement of the current No Camping Ordinance. Long-time Bremertonians are seeing the area they have loved and felt safe in changing rapidly. Newer residents who moved across the water to escape the escalating crisis of homelessness in Seattle and other cities are watching a familiar story, and they do not like where the

plot line is headed. All are scared for the safety of their families, worried about their primary investments, and mourning the potential loss of the natural beauty that makes this place so special.

One of our friends recently posted about an incident at the Burger King near Warren Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> St where a man was masturbating in full view of the drive-through. One of our neighbors talked to a woman in that area who had to abandon her home because, as an elderly widow who has custody of a young girl, she did not feel safe. The realtor won't list the house until the tents on the sidewalk by her front yard are gone. What happens to that woman and that child if their vacant home becomes occupied and destroyed and she cannot access the equity her and her (recently deceased) husband put into it?

At some point, insurance companies and attorneys may debate whether this kind of loss is an act of God or a "taking" for which the City is culpable because it didn't enforce its regulations, but there are a host of reasons that it seems inadvisable to neglect the duties of government. Sidewalks obstructed by tents are not ADA compliant and unsanitary conditions put public health at risk.

So we implore the Council to consider a comprehensive suite of options for how to combat the crisis of persons experiencing homelessness, especially those who experience it chronically. If the City can provide sufficient shelter beds to comply with the Circuit Court decision, this takes pressure off of the neighborhoods that are concerned about the official lack of enforcement of the No Camping Ordinance. But this does not address the issue of those that do not accept housing because they are suffering from addiction and/or mental illness. The City will need to invest in services and facilities for these people rather than neglecting to enforce the ordinances already in place.

There are no easy or affordable solutions to any of these problems, but the residents of this community are asking our leaders to be creative and proactive about addressing complex societal issues at the local level. We need you to do this in a way that is humane to those suffering from addiction and mental illness or who just can't keep up with rising costs of living, but also in a way that respects the natural environment and those that love and have invested in this community.

Sincerely and respectfully,

---

Brandon and Miranda Redinger  
6033 Harlow Dr, Bremerton

From: Brenna Lopez <brenna.lopez@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 9:54 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless camping

Hello,

First of all thank you for reading this message. I hope that you will take into consideration the best interest of the greater well being of our community. While I know there is no easy answer to helping those living on the streets, I do believe a quick answer is to remove them from living next to the Marvin Williams Center.

I also believe relocating them to camping on city property throughout our neighborhoods is also not a good choice. That poses threats, danger and retaliation from local residents.

I feel if you want to set up a legal encampment it must be monitored, with enforced rules, have running water, bathrooms and dumpsters. It should also be fenced in, with a parking lot for vehicles.

I propose the far east side of Evergreen Park. Still not ideal, but it's one location that can be fenced in, with a parking lot. There you can put the toilets and set up water stations. These must be serviced daily. Police can patrol through there easily to keep the area safe.

If they are located together, help will come to them. Those who want help will take it. Hand outs and weak laws will only be taken advantage of, and we as a community will suffer instead.

Please help clean up this mess and set up a legitimate plan to enforce those unhoused to make better choices that will not impact the well being and safety of community.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.

Brenna Uzcategui  
360-393-0364

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Brian Burwell <brian.g.burwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:57 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Camping Sites

I would appreciate a response, even if just to acknowledge my email was received and reviewed. Thank you. Brian

On Wed, Sep 13, 2023, 7:39 AM Brian Burwell <[brian.g.burwell@gmail.com](mailto:brian.g.burwell@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Hello,

I have concerns about your proposed camping sites in the Navy Yard City / Charleston area. Broadly - these sites would have direct impact on community members outside of city limits and who have no political recourse regarding Municipal policies. I have significant concerns about an initiative that is so close to home for my neighborhood, where I have no representation.

Specifically, though, I hope the site at Constitution & Farragut listed in the Kitsap Sun article is somehow in error. That site is within yards of West Hills STEM Academy. The path you can see in attached image is used by neighborhood children to access the school. My kids walk that path every afternoon. There is also vulnerable wetland adjacent to the path that would almost certainly be impacted. If this site is indeed being proposed, it needs to be reconsidered. Presumably the adjacency to the school was an oversight - otherwise I would encourage you to walk the path and decide for yourself. It is simply too close to the school.

Personally, I disagree with the whole endeavor. But it seems to have enough momentum to go forward. There are likely more practical sites in the area. If the city was willing to make commitments to insuring the safety of campers and residents and sanitation of the site, I would be willing to work within the neighborhood to find a civil and humane response. Specifically, the Viewpoint Park at the end of McCall Blvd or a large vacant lot off of Arsenal Way. These are outside of the city, but the proposed site off of Charleston Beach Rd seems to be as well. With regularly serviced Porta Potties, water delivery, and safety patrols one of these sites could likely create a contained and safe space, although those nearest the area would need to be consulted and assured.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brian Burwell  
Navy Yard City resident

**From:** Brian Yandell <[bdyandell@gmail.com](mailto:bdyandell@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 12:10 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed camping in Bremerton

9/21/23

Dear Jennifer Chamberlin and City Council,

Obviously homelessness is a vastly complex issue, and I know that this is such a difficult decision for not only yourself, but for the entire City Council to make. I do not know what the right solution is for this issue, but I at least know that the Tracyton 40-acre site is absolutely **not** the correct solution. I attended both the study session on 9/13 and the city council meeting on 9/20, and based on what I heard at the study session it sounds like the Tracyton site is being considered as not a viable option. I wholeheartedly agree, and here's a few reasons why:

1. There is a large community of young kids who play outside *every day* in the area. Introducing homeless and legal camping into their backyard will strip these kids of their way of life as they know it. They'll be exposed to drugs, alcohol, and behavior that a minor should not be exposed to. These kids have a safe community and that would exponentially change for the worse if the Tracyton 40-acre site is approved. Furthermore, the community as a whole is very safe and very quiet. This site would negatively impact not only the youth, but the adults and elderly as well. It would flip our community upside down.
2. The homeless need resources available. They need public transportation, easy access to Salvation Army, entry-level positions nearby, food, water, and more. The Tracyton 40-acre lot does not provide the homeless easy access to any of these listed resources. It is an hour walk to Salvation Army from this location. This is simply not an acceptable location to be providing the homeless with a place to live. This Tracyton 40-acre site will only continue their plight.
3. The Tracyton area has beautiful nature. The trees and plants would absolutely suffer from the camping, and the amount of garbage would absolutely destroy this beautiful foliage, both aesthetically and physically. We must protect all of the nature we have left. We as humans are not the only living species in Bremerton. Inviting the homeless to camp here is unacceptable and irresponsible to our ecosystem.

I respect the work that you and the rest of City Council are doing. This ordinance alone is not an easy task, and I thank you for your dedication to our district, our city, our state, and our country. Working in government is extremely noble, and you are appreciated. I know that it is impossible to please everybody, but the community around the Tracyton 40-acre site is begging you to please not choose this site. This community is not the solution.

Thanks,  
Brian Yandell

**From:** BRUCE THOMAS <bncthomas@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 6:44 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless sites

I am writing to discourage the establishment of homeless sites at Price Road and Lakehurst Dr.

Locating at the end of Price Road, across the street from Kitsap Lake Park, will place visitors, including children, in peril and likely decreased use of the park. Also, encourage the break-in of cars in the parking lot and surrounding area.

To place a homeless camp on Lakehurst Drive will eliminate a safe, serene, quiet area for families to walk and enjoy the environment, besides diminishing those home's values. This would also negatively affect the Dockside community and its residents.

Please, I ask that you remove these two prospective sites from your consideration.

Thank you,

Bruce Thomas



**From:** scpearl12 <[scpearl12@aol.com](mailto:scpearl12@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:10 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** No homeless encampment near church or school

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Jackson  
6011 Bowwood cir Ne  
Bremerton Wa 98310

**From:** Charles Ballew <[mj\\_6920@outlook.com](mailto:mj_6920@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:11 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Camping Ordinance

***15 September 2023***

**Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools**

**Dear Bremerton City Council and Mayor Wheeler**

**I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.**

**Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Charles & Maria Ballew  
1606 Gregory Way  
Bremerton, WA 98337**

From: Charles Bray <[charlesbray2007@comcast.net](mailto:charlesbray2007@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 9:01 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns over proposed homeless encampment near schools

Dear, Mayor Greg Wheeler

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residencies. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Bray  
575 Bridle View CT NW  
Bremerton, WA 98386

**From:** Chelsea Davis <csdavis1988.cd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 6:08 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unhoused issue

Dear city council,

I'm writing to you today because I believe the problems with our homeless neighbors has gotten far beyond control. I was born and raised in Bremerton, but I have never been afraid to walk any neighborhood in Bremerton before. But the last several months, I'm wary to even park in a grocery store parking lot and walk into the store during the day. It seems every other time I go shopping, I'm aggressively attacked by someone wanting cigarettes, money, a ride, or even sexual attention. Most of these interactions aren't a request where "no" is an acceptable answer. If I explain I'm unable to help, I've been threatened, followed, physically assaulted, and my car nearly broken into as I try to drive away. I live in union Hill neighborhood, and I wake almost every day to human feces, liquor bottles, burnt foil, and used needles littering my driveway. I'm frustrated and scared of what my community has become. I cannot raise my toddler in a city where I can't bring him to a public park intended for children to play, because tents filled with drug smoke are all over the playgrounds. It feels that our city has been given over to homeless drug addicts. I feel that Bremerton no longer cares what home owners and tax payers want or need, because our safety and health is not as important as felons and druggies comfort and convenience. I understand there is currently a camping ordinance being discussed and I hope that if it's a question between the safety of an average family, or the desires of a homeless drug addled criminal, the safety of family come 1st.

Thank you for considering my opinion  
Chelsea Davis

From: Chelsie Rae Stewart <[chelsierae@hotmail.com](mailto:chelsierae@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:21 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Proposed camping in Bremerton

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment at this site or any of the map sites, which is not available to me as a resident, is not solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. It simply moves them to another camping site. I am unaware of any examples of this approach working in anywhere. I urge you, as Mayor of all Bremerton residents, to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chelsie Stewart  
2009 Nipsic Ave  
Bremerton, WA  
98310

**From:** Chris Miller <[chris@millersheetmetal.com](mailto:chris@millersheetmetal.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:23 AM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**Importance:** High

Dear City Council & Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Miller  
1903 Corbet Dr NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
Cell 360-731-1121

**From:** Chris Miller <chris@millersheetmetal.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:23 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Importance:** High

Dear City Council & Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Miller  
1903 Corbet Dr NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
Cell 360-731-1121

**From:** Christina Ryan <[craftymommy33@gmail.com](mailto:craftymommy33@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:20 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christina Ryan  
5301 Beach Dr. Apt K  
Bremerton, WA 98312



**From:** Christina Ryan <craftymommy33@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christina Ryan  
5301 Beach Dr. Apt K  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Christine Daniel <[tcdaniel@protonmail.com](mailto:tcdaniel@protonmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

This letter is in regards to my adamant opposition to the proposal of a homeless encampment area to be allowed near Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Many of you may not be aware, but the church has now dually become a private Catholic High School for approximately 100 students. It has continued to grow exponentially each year by 25-30% since it began three years ago.

Aside from my concern for the students, my other concerns are obvious. Lessons learned from the disastrous affects of such encampments allowed in the City of Seattle, Portland and other areas should be an obvious wake up call for each council member and acknowledgment that encampments are not a solution, but are a band aide on a wound that continues to bleed.

Creating an enabling environment for increased drug use, prostitution, violence, rape, theft, unsanitary conditions (human waste, and garbage), should absolutely not be permitted on any level in Bremerton, let alone near a church, school or residential neighborhood area.

Once this prescient is set, you will open the Pandora's box enticing more homeless to populate our beautiful Kitsap Peninsula, creating an even heavier financial burden on the city. Allowing this to happen is not only fiducially irresponsible in the short term, but will have a grave impact long term which will be difficult to reign in once allowed. Further, the impact on homeowner's safety and the consequential decrease in their properties home values as well as resale will be substantial.

I suggest if there is an over population problem here, the homeless are shipped to Olympia for the Governor to sort out in his neighborhood. The cost of a bus would be far cheaper. As well, EBT food vouchers, housing assistance and any other free aide should be incentivized and given out only if a person is tested and has drug free results. This will actually work towards getting individuals off of drugs and to become productive citizens who contribute to the tax base.

Allowing for a homeless zone where rules will be broken will only exacerbate the drug use and homeless problem. As Bremerton's Mayor you must think outside of the box, be fiducially responsible to your constituents and do the right thing keeping peace and safety for tax paying residents your HIGHEST concern. Imagine if the proposed camp were allowed in your neighborhood. Seriously! You do not have the right to negatively impact our community by such a disastrous decision. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Respectfully,

Christine Daniel  
360-204-3352

**From:** Chuck DeCosta <rondochuck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 10:19 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless camps are a bad idea

Council Members:

We are told daily by the news that our economy is booming, and all is going great. Why is our homeless population massively growing? Is someone lying to us? Is it our City and County policies, that are bad, causing the problems?

It appears that providing free food, housing, camping areas and healthcare plus needles and drug paraphernalia are not solving the problem, but exasperating the problem. If the people are vagrants follow the law for vagrancy. Do not facilitate their vagrancy. Do not continue to let them out of jail on their own recognizance and never come back to court. Setting up homeless camps facilitate the problem and fosters more crime in the area, as they steal to survive and get what they want. This soft on crime idea is just wrong. We need a tough on crime policies and enforce the laws on the books and prosecute the vagrants to the fullest extent of the law, to make it uncomfortable in Bremerton for them to be here, then they will either leave or join society, their choice.

Chuck DeCosta  
360-830-3559  
Kitsap County concerned citizen

**From:** CORP ,GOLDLEAF GOLDLEAF <goldleafcorp@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:19 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Homeless Camps

I live in a condo next to the Manette Bridge and recently heard about a proposal to put a homeless camp at Winfield and Wheaton Way in Manette I am shocked that you would attempt to destroy a cute nice community. If you pass this proposal our city will look like Seattle. Have you seen what that looks like? People are moving out of Seattle trying to find a place to live where you can walk around town and feel safe. This proposal would bring massive crime to this area. After working as a police officer for almost 25 years I have dealt with the homeless community and I know what chaos and misery it would bring to Bremerton.

Please vote against placing homeless camps in the city and pass an ordinance that does not allow camping on city property or sidewalks

Goldleaf Corporation  
Clinton Bergeron, President  
PH 360-271-6254

From: Colleen Johnson <[cmj131964@gmail.com](mailto:cmj131964@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:28 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Help!

Dear Mr Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children!!! Would you want this for your own children?

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen Johnson  
7032 Cadmar Lane NW  
Seabeck, Wa  
98380

From: Colleen Johnson <cmj131964@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 2:29 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Help!

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen Johnson  
7032 Cadmar Ln NW  
SEABECK, Wa  
98380

**From:** Connie Ding <[dingcochran668@gmail.com](mailto:dingcochran668@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:16 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** No homeless encampment near our school in Bremerton

Dear Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm extremely concerned about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for my children and their fellow students.

Placing an encampment in this area will only make deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health worse in our community. Please consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. Our safety is in your hands!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Connie

3063 Rocky Point Rd. NW  
Bremerton  
WA 98312

**From:** C Dümmel <[brittbran47@yahoo.com](mailto:brittbran47@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 3:07 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Fw: ENCAMPMENTS

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** C Dümmel <[brittbran47@yahoo.com](mailto:brittbran47@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** [GregWheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:GregWheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us) <[gregwheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:gregwheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 at 09:28:06 PM PDT  
**Subject:** Fw: ENCAMPMENTS

*I will try again to send this email since the email shown on your business card doesn't work. I drove by both encampments in downtown Bremerton today. Also, the beginning of one next to the library in East Bremerton and another in the Fred Meyer area. Amazingly some are located in front of homes! If any appear in front of my properties they won't last long. Would they if they were in front of your home?*

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** C Dümmel <[brittbran47@yahoo.com](mailto:brittbran47@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** [gregwheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:gregwheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us) <[gregwheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:gregwheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 at 12:03:03 AM PDT  
**Subject:** ENCAMPMENTS

*Mayor Wheeler- I am contacting you regarding the unsightly encampments which are growing in our city. I do not agree, along with numerous other residents, that as taxpayers we should be providing camping areas for the homeless/lawbreakers or any other group in our city or county. It enables the continuance of thieving, shoplifting, panhandling, property damage, drug use, etc. The financial impact on taxpayers is horrendous. I've noticed the rise in prices which I've been told is due to the shoplifting losses incurred by businesses. (Thankfully, one Assistant Manager told me they are having offenders arrested and banning them from their store.) Too bad other establishments are letting offenders walk out with armloads of merchandise.*

*If you saw the telecast "Seattle is Dying", one of the homeless admitted over 90% in the camps are using drugs*

*I have witnessed practically every time I frequent certain businesses, the homeless shoplifting cartloads of items and have had numerous conversations with management and loss prevention after my car was broken into. (I saw the man who appeared homeless and did the deed while I was in the store for less than 10 min.) I have had complaints from tenants who are considering moving due to the nuisance the homeless are causing and have had to install cameras and post No Trespassing signs. I wasn't raised in a world where offenders were rewarded. The city is enabling these people which will surely result in escalating this negative impact on our city/county. Over the years, I've noticed certain behaviors which were unacceptable now becoming acceptable. It's time to stop this insanity/bleeding heart mentality*

*I'm not privy to possible solutions various agencies may or may not be considering, however, those truly ready to become a viable member of society should certainly*



*receive help. Those choosing to continue being a burden on society should be institutionalized, imprisoned, etc. and not allowed to sully our area with encampments.*

*Please consider solving this problem rather than enabling. Connie DümmeI*

From: Cristin Nacht <[cristin.nacht@gmail.com](mailto:cristin.nacht@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:03 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Cc: City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Re: Please NO to encampments for unhoused from a concerned mother

Thank you for the prompt reply. I beg the City Council on behalf of local parents, please do NOT approve the camping ordinance. Our children living directly adjacent to the proposed encampments deserve at the very least a safe environment and this would be a direct threat to their future safety, and inherent right to grow and develop into healthy adults here in our shared community.

Sincerely,  
Cristin Nacht, Bremerton Mother to children ages 2 and 4

> On Sep 20, 2023, at 11:45 AM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:  
>  
> Good morning Cristin,  
>  
> Thank you for your timely email. The City Council has developed a camping ordinance and is now scheduled to vote on it this evening (September 20th). It is important for them to hear your comments, questions, and concerns, before they vote so I am including their office in my reply. Take care.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Greg Wheeler  
> Mayor  
> City of Bremerton  
> (360) 473-5266  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Cristin Nacht <[cristin.nacht@gmail.com](mailto:cristin.nacht@gmail.com)>  
> Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:36 AM  
> To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
> Subject: Please NO to encampments for unhoused from a concerned mother  
>  
> Dear Mayor Wheeler,  
>  
> The proposed encampments for unhoused individuals would be a terrible disservice to the youth of our community. As a parent of two young children (ages 2 and 4), I expect at the very least a safe environment for my children to learn and grow. The proposed sites are directly adjacent to neighborhoods where many families with young children reside. These encampments would undoubtedly increase drug use, unpredictable erratic behavior, and fire risk to wooded areas. Parents in Bremerton are terrified for the future should this be approved. We should not be forced to live in such fear and constant anxiety.  
>  
> Please do NOT allow this to be approved.  
>  
> Thank you,  
> Cristin Nacht  
>

**From:** WILLIAM ZIMSEN <z7z@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:51 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT

One of the locations proposed for a homeless encampment is adjacent to Holy Trinity Church and the Aquinas Academy High School.

A five hundred foot separation is I nothing to someone with time on their hands.

I write as one experienced with the jobless living in the woods, and victims of substance abuse. It is not a pretty picture. One of our close relatives was, for a long time addicted. She lived in the forest for a year or so at one stretch. Twice her encampment (tent, tarp, sleeping bag, gas stove, etc) which were set up in a remote location in the woods was burned down by a fellow homeless person. She never knew who. Other times her bike, her tools, other property, was stolen.

By other homeless people.

When I questioned about who did it, she said it could have been any of a dozen. Drug addicted, mental health issue, or just angry to the bone. Somebody she knew or a complete stranger.

Through her, we were introduced to a number of human wrecks. Not people you would want near YOUR children.

Before she moved to Bremerton, our daughter and her toddler - daughter lived in S Carolina. I visited there once. She was living in a large farm house along with five or six others. She was trading farm work for use of a leaky camping trailer.

A step up from tents in the woods. Some employed, some not. On one occasion she said to me, "Don't EVER leave the child alone with that one or this one. Not even for a minute."

One of the permanently jobless I met here in Bremerton, who lives in a basement, and whom we spent time trying to help, was sleeping with a 15 year old neighbor girl. When I made a few waves I learned "Her parents are druggies, dealers, and worse."

All of you know that among the homeless population are those who do not want to live under a roof. With a roof comes predictable location, accountability, rules. The encampments in Seattle are good previews of what will unfold here.

Yes, these folks are valuable human beings who have problems. Some would like to be helped, and others who are content to live in a tent on a parking strip next to Starbucks and Burger King. Rain, shine, or snow.

Because of their lifestyle, you don't want them in close proximity with your, or anybody's, children, especially not near high school kids who are vulnerable to experiments in rebellion against society's restraints.

I respectfully request that you cease consideration for any homeless encampment in all locations near places where children or teenagers gather.

Until the 20th, I remain,  
Sincerely yours,

Dan Zimsen

**From:** Daniel K <dkim312@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:05 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Diana Kim <chinndiana@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Issue Regarding Homeless Encampment Near Sugar Pine Drive

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler, Ms. Chamberlin, City Council,

I am writing to you about the potential change that will allow homeless to camp in the parcel near Sugar Pine Drive.

I understand that caring for the vulnerable and homeless is an important matter of social justice that has no easy solution. You and your staff have a very difficult problem on your hands for sure.

I read through the goals listed in the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update to try to better understand your stance on this matter. I heartily agree that making homelessness rare, brief, and a one time occurrence is a good goal to aim for.

However, I think this plan lacks the inclusion of the perspective of law-abiding citizens who also have as much of a right to safety and security as the homeless do. Compassion for the homeless is important, but the expression of compassion should not be at the expense of the safety and security of the law-abiding. To be more inclusive of both sides of this issue, I think a possible improvement to this vision statement would be to:

*Make homelessness rare, brief, and a one time occurrence, and protect the safety, health, physical security, and economic security of the rest of the community while doing so.*

I think the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan could benefit greatly by including a plan to increase the level of security, safety, and sanitation to the law-abiding citizens who live nearby these potential encampment areas as you seek to address the issue of homelessness. I think this could fit into goal #5 of the plan (expand community engagement) and could help win favor in the public to achieve your goals while respecting the valid concerns of hardworking families.

With that said, the questions I have if this change goes into effect are:

- Are there going to be increased security patrols to ensure that the safety and security of law-abiding citizens and children are not threatened by homeless people, especially those under the influence of drugs or who do exhibit criminal behavior?
- Is there going to be an increase in sanitation services to clean up the roads and sidewalks from needles, human feces, and the additional trash that homeless people are likely to bring in?
- In accordance with the plan goals #1-3, will this encampment area only be allowed for those who are trying to actively make their homeless situation a rare, one-time, brief occurrence? Or will it be available to those who have no concern for ending their homelessness and potential drug addiction?
- How will you mitigate the financial impact that this will have on homeowners whose houses and property may be unsellable if this change were to go into effect?

Without addressing these concerns, moving homeless people from one area to another will not solve anything, but will exacerbate an already bad situation.

I understand you and your staff are probably inundated with questions and emails from the community, and it is possible this email is too late. Nonetheless, I implore you reconsider this change as it is very much necessary to consider both sides of this situation.

Thank you,

Daniel Kim  
Cierra Court HOA President

From: Daniel J. Schlesener <schlesener@comcast.net>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:19 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences, as discussed in the relevant Kitsap Sun article dated September 14, 2023. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Please do not endanger our children for expediency on this issue.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

For example, I recommend further consideration be given to Council-member Eric Younger's suggestion to "select one area for a designated campground [in an appropriate area], rather than the council having to pick 'winners and losers' among the undeveloped parcels on the list. A designated camping area would require the city to provide amenities like restrooms and drinking water, and would actually qualify as an available overnight shelter under the draft ordinance." Of course, consideration would have to be given to the homeless campers' ability to access things like mental health services, hotels and shelter beds, grocery stores, restaurants, employment opportunities, and transportation. And it is not right to wait until the Salvation Army opens up for overnight shelter, forcing them to deal with the magnitude of this crisis on their own.

Finally, I strongly recommend the council delay the vote on the ordinance until a suitable solution can be formulated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Schlesener  
3215 View Dr NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Darcy Oliver <darcyoliverdesign@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** nwroerts@ecy.wa.gov  
**Subject:** Proposed Encampments in Bremerton

Hello,

I understand you all are meeting tonight to address the homeless crisis in Bremerton.

As a homeowner in Bremerton with a family living in The Reserve at West Hills, I am against allowing encampments in these "green areas". Please see photo attached.

There are too many families and children nearby and the last worry we need beyond the porch pirates and theft in our neighborhood is homeless encampments.

This would increase crime, drugs, drug paraphernalia, lack of safety, and lower our property values. The proposed areas that would allow encampments would also endanger the fish and wildlife that inhabit the naturally occurring creeks and streams that could become polluted with encampments nearby. Please see the additional photo. Our community is also next door to Pendergast Park and this would increase crime there, and endanger the lives of our community members.

We've signed a petition in our neighborhood community against encampments nearby. I empathize with the homeless, and some of them have fallen on hard times. This is up to you, the City Council, to help these people with shelter and resources to get back on their feet and rehabilitation. Allowing them to camp out near homes and near parks and schools is NOT the solution. This will only create a larger problem, and affect more than our community.

Please vote against allowing of homeless encampments near neighborhoods and parks. This type of vagrancy should not be allowed.

Thank you,

Darcy Oliver

[www.darcyoliverdesign.com](http://www.darcyoliverdesign.com)

(317) 509-0516



**SEASIDE WOODS**

**Search Options**

- Parcel No
- Site Address
- Mail Address

Zoom In Zoom Out Full Extent Prev Extent Next Extent

Zoom to Location >

**Manage Layers**

Layer List Legend

**Building Footprints**

**Roads**

Roads

- Local Roads
- State Highway
- Collector / Arterial
- Local Roads

**Streams**

Watercourse - DNR and Wildfish Cor

- (S) Designated Shoreline of tl
- (F) Fish Habitat
- (N) Non-fish Habitat
- (U) Unknown, unmodeled hyd feature
- \* \* No Channel as depicted by D?

**Parcels**

Tax Parcels Outlines

AA psearch.kitsapgov.com



From: Spooner's <[spoonerd@wavecable.com](mailto:spoonerd@wavecable.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 3:01 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless Encampments Near Schools (CONCERNS)

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. Monies collected for homeless need to be used for solutions not for temporary housing which merely “hides” the issue. You have already seen many cities try this and it DOES NOT WORK!

As Bremerton City Mayor, you are supposed to help create solutions, not just kick the bucket down the road. We urge you to please consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
David and Teresa Spooner  
10555 Lathrop Lane NW  
Silverdale WA. 98383

City Of Bremerton  
City Council Members

September 10, 2023

Subject: Homeless Crisis In Bremerton

Dear Bremerton City Council Members,

My name is Dean Peck. I am a resident of Bremerton and live in the downtown area. I am very concerned about the homeless problem our city is experiencing and the impact this problem is having on the population as a whole.

I was pleased to hear the city council was attempting to tackle this problem, finally. I attended the council meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>.

I am very disappointed with the current proposal on how to handle the homeless. It is a terrible idea to simply dump the homeless individuals onto various city owned properties and then walk away. This method will spread the homeless population and make matters worse for them, not to mention the impact this will have on honest, law abiding, tax paying property owners. The burden applied to emergency services, property values, welfare of our citizens, protection of our children, schools, etc., is too high of a risk.

Each person opposed to this proposal, no matter where they live in respect to a identified city parcel most likely will have the same concerns to the safety of their property and neighborhood as I do. In my case, the lot on the corner of Pacific Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> street is a grave problem that you as council members are willing to impose on the citizens. Here are some of the issues involving this parcel you should consider:

- 1.) It is on the newly beautified Pacific Avenue.
- 2.) It is a small lot with uneven terrain.
- 3.) Has a sidewalk running thru it.
- 4.) Close to two bus stops where men, women and children use daily.
- 5.) The lot is directly adjacent to homes on three sides.
- 6.) Across the street from two 16 unit apartment complexes housing family's.
- 7.) Two busy roads feeding traffic into the downtown corridor.

I strongly oppose the use of this lot for a homeless dumping spot.

Below is what I do support. The answer to this problem is housing.

This council needs to budget for, plan and implement workable housing on adequate city land that provides workable shelter for the homeless population.

There are several possible methods of implementation. Here are a few to investigate and possibly implement:

- 1.) The old Harrison Hospital property. It has adequate parking, rooms with a bath in each patient room, a cafeteria, space for nursing and pharmacy care and separation between the types of homeless, such as men, women, mentally ill, families, etc.
- 2.) Boxable Portable Housing - [www.boxabl.com](http://www.boxabl.com)

- 3.) Ironplanet.com - Temporary housing/restrooms, etc.
- 4.) Portablebuilding.com - Temporary housing for workers.
- 5.) Emergencytemporaryhousing.com - Specializing in inexpensive, collapsible housing units.
- 6.) Stewartsmobile.com - Specializing in inexpensive, collapsible Housing units.

There are almost unlimited sources of housing solutions the city should consider instead of following the current path being considered.

Thank you fo your time and I do appreciate all that you do!  
Looking forward to attending the study group meeting for this issue.

Sincerely,

Dean Peck  
360-801-6778

**From:** Dean Peck <[deanpeck57@gmail.com](mailto:deanpeck57@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:59 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Bremerton Homeless Crisis Discussion

**From:** [d4kauz@wavecable.com](mailto:d4kauz@wavecable.com) <[d4kauz@wavecable.com](mailto:d4kauz@wavecable.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:37 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Where is the leadership?

**Importance:** High

Mayor Wheeler –

When you were elected, we expected you to lead Bremerton with an invigorated agenda that looked beyond the stale “solutions” to the city’s problems. Then, we read in the Kitsap Sun about the city’s plan to use city property (owned by taxpayers) for encampments for homeless people. Where does it say in the city’s charter that this is legal or advisable or even common sense. There is simply NO WHERE within the city’s boundaries that such a proposal won’t impact residents, businesses and schools negatively. Besides, any city services provided these camps (toilets, garbage service, water?) divert funds that could be used more productively toward more permanent solutions.

Homelessness is primary a drug problem. It is a pandemic much like Covid—and needs a firm response. Hard drug use is a crime. The City of Bremerton must address the drug problem first. If this means a collaboration with county and state—fine. Drug addicts need treatment and measures that help them get out of the vicious cycle of drug abuse. Homeless camps (no matter where they are located or pop up) are not the answer. Being “soft” on drug use perpetuates the problem.

Government representatives can call the homeless situation by any fancy name they like, but the fact remains: there is a drug problem that needs a drug problem solution. If homeless folks who can prove they are not using drugs get swept up along the way, they can be rescued by the City of Bremerton and any number of charitable organizations—including my church. Unreasonable approaches like community encampments are giving aid and comfort to crime.

DeAnna and Bob Kieffer

**From:** Debbie Smith <houston777710@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:05 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Regarding the Encampment Situations

To all City Council Members –

At this time we are currently being bombarded with “people who are choosing” to live in tents and in their vehicles rather than traditional homes. In the areas that this has been allowed to happen the home values decrease, as well as the citizens overall safety. Drug paraphernalia, human excrement, animals not being cared for, garbage piled up, that is what you experience in these areas, the neighborhoods in these areas takes a nose dive. Most of these people make this choice based on a series of bad decisions, many starting with drug use that lead them to not being able to function in normal society. That being said it is still a “CHOICE” they choose to make. **There is assistance available** to those who choose to take advantage of it. **BUT** a majority of the people living on the streets, do so because they do not want to abide by the rules/regulations imposed at those facilities or by functioning in NORMAL society. **SO WAITING FOR BEDS TO BECOME AVAILABLE BECOMES IRRELEVANT!!**

In that case, the police need to be able to **ENFORCE LAW & ORDER** , and protect **us** who pay the taxes, buy the houses, **pay** for our groceries, our cars, our car tabs, our insurance, etc. It is very disheartening to walk into a store and watch these “people” walk in take whatever they want and just walk out. What message does that send to kids whose 1<sup>st</sup> job it is **WORKING** at these establishments making \$15-20 an hour, and they get to watch the same people walk in every night and take \$200 of tools, or \$100 of groceries. **THIS ALL HAS TO END, IT IS NOT OKAY.** The “losers” who do this every night are the same ones who then saunter over to their tents/rvs/encampments. While we hopelessly watch and are told the police and the employees, cant do anything about it. **SO NO MORE**, we the people who vote you into & out of office are sick of it. We are tired of going to work everyday and having to sidestep human POOP or needles, on the sidewalks we pay the taxes for...

At the last meeting, Judge Flood requested additional funding for more security for her building, as she doesn't feel safe down here. **WELL WE PEOPLE OF KITSAP COUNTY AGREE, WE DON'T FEEL SAFE EITHER,** Give the Mayor the time limit he is asking for or even less, I think 24 hours is more than enough & **PLEASE GIVE THE POLICE SOME TEETH TO FIGHT THIS WITH - PROTECT YOUR TAXPAYING CITIZENS....**

Thank you,  
Debbie Smith

**From:** Debra Keene Bergeron <debrakbproperties@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:46 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless Camps

I am grateful to live in Manette, but am very concerned about the rising crime rate here. Establishing homeless camps throughout Bremerton, including Manette, is NOT the answer. While it may be politically incorrect to say so, the truth is that homeless camps mean increased thefts and danger to property and person. Please vote NO.

*Debra KB*



**DEBRA KEENE BERGERON**

P [360-550-3395](tel:360-550-3395)

E [debrakb@kitsap.love](mailto:debrakb@kitsap.love)

W [kitsap.love/debrakb](https://kitsap.love/debrakb)

Founder, Love Kitsap

Broker, Debra KB Properties LLC



**From:** d4kauz@wavecable.com <d4kauz@wavecable.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:42 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Where is your leadership?

Dear Bremerton City Council –

We read in the Kitsap Sun about the city’s plan to use city property (owned by taxpayers) for encampments for homeless people. Where does it say in the city’s charter that this is legal or advisable or even common sense. There is simply NO WHERE within the city’s boundaries that such a proposal won’t impact residents, businesses and schools negatively. Besides, any city services provided these camps (toilets, garbage service, water?) divert funds that could be used more productively toward more permanent solutions.

Homelessness is primary a drug problem. It is a pandemic that needs a firm response. Hard drug use is a crime. The City of Bremerton must address the drug problem first. If this means a collaboration with county and state—fine. Drug addicts need treatment and measures that help them get out of the vicious cycle of drug abuse. Homeless camps (no matter where they are located or pop up) are not the answer. Being “soft” on drug use perpetuates the problem.

Government representatives can call the homeless situation by any fancy name they like, but the fact remains: there is a drug problem that needs a drug problem solution. If homeless folks who can prove they are not using drugs get swept up along the way, they can be rescued by the City of Bremerton and any number of charitable organizations—including my church. Unreasonable approaches like community encampments are giving aid and comfort to crime.

DeAnna and Bob Kieffer

**From:** Denise Peet <[denise@peet.io](mailto:denise@peet.io)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:07 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Encampments in Neighborhoods

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am extraordinarily concerned with the talk of using wooded areas and vacant parcels in neighborhoods to allow camping for unhoused people. These woods and lots provide no sanitation, no water, no shelter, and many have no transportation or services close by. The homes and families in these areas will be the ones to suffer the burden of unwanted incursions, potential fires, human waste, and an inevitable increase in crime, drugs, and violence. These are areas where children live, play, and go to school. Shifting the problem to a vulnerable area and trying to hide it from the public eye does nothing to solve it. Work on a **solution** please.

Sincerely,

Denise Peet  
3401 Sulphur Springs Ln  
Bremerton WA 98319



**From:** Diane Mary <dmtn5k@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed encampments in our communities

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Wheeler,

I am extremely concerned about the proposed homeless encampments in our city, especially near our schools, parks, businesses, and residences.

One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Homeless encampments offer, at best, a temporary solution, and, at worst, contributes to increasing homelessness in our area, environmental concerns, lawlessness, and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health.

I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that focus on the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents, including the homeless folks.

I would appreciate your time for a reply.

With respect for your hard work on this issue,

Diane Naples  
1907 Gregory Way  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** draevans@comcast.net <draevans@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:07 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless and Illegal Drug Encampments

20Sep23  
Bremerton City Council,  
(CC Mayor Greg Wheeler)

Dear Bremerton City Council Members,

As a resident of Bremerton since 1979, it appears city safety concerns are being done away with. Please do not permit our city officials to take a back seat on enforcing safety issues for our residents. Below are some strong concerns that may have adverse effects on our citizens.

Please do not ignore the negative consequences of suspending and or ignoring illegal camping ordinances in Bremerton. Especially consider what is happening in other cities that choose not to enforce illegal camping regulations. The increase in thefts, robberies, cars being stolen, and the spreading of illegal drug waste on our public properties, including public restrooms, parks, and sidewalk areas.

Specifically be concerned about the propagation and illegal use of opioids and extra especially about the use of Chinese and Mexican Cartels distribution of Fentanyl that is killing thousands and thousands of men, women and children in the United States.

A big consideration should be the consequences of allowing illegal camping without adequate sanitary facilities like running water, sewage disposal, garbage collection, and health inspections by the department of health.

Please do not vote for suspending or eliminating laws that are intended to protect our citizens. Homeless and drug encampments have not provided any benefits to our citizens and costs the tax payers their safety and security and should not be allowed.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this citizen's concerns about Bremerton.

Respectfully,  
Drake Evans  
1505 Marlow (Manette District 3)

Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** Emily Shurtz <[eshurtz@gmail.com](mailto:eshurtz@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:31 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Shurtz  
1619 Gregory Way  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** Emily Shurtz <eshurtz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:00 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Shurtz  
1619 Gregory Way  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** Eric Nelson <[ericpartsguy@gmail.com](mailto:ericpartsguy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless camps

I have read your newsletter for many years now and I feel I need to write you on this issue. We are the owners of the Bremerton mansion on Bayview drive. I have recently heard that the city council is planning on putting a homeless encampment behind us in the West hills. I must voice my opinion that this is a poor to unacceptable location for homeless camp. The environmental damage is well documented on these and this watershed needs to be protected. The cost of cleanup of these encampments is in the millions of dollars. From what I've seen of homeless and I have met a few, these people need medical assistance to get off of drugs, not a new camping site with the amount of taxes we pay in Bremerton we can find funds to help these people get off of drugs and if not get out of the community

The West hills issue as you know is a working class neighborhood with a good amount of retirees theft as well as violence in this area has been moderate. The last thing we want to do is introduce a lot of crime and potential loss of life into this community.

I asked you to please oppose the move of putting the homeless up in the hills behind our house. Sad to say but if this becomes true we will be leaving soon. We've been through this before and it's not pleasant.

Sincerely, Eric and Gina Nelson

**From:** ERIN PATTERSON <[erin.e.patterson@outlook.com](mailto:erin.e.patterson@outlook.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:58 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:**

Dear Mayor Wheeler:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the city council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety of all residents.

Thank-you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Erin Patterson

**From:** ERIN PATTERSON <erin.e.patterson@outlook.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:56 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Proposed Vacant Use of City Property

Dear City Council:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the city council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety of all residents.

Thank-you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Erin Patterson



**From:** Quebral, E F (Ernie - Code 244.4) CIV USN NAVSHIPYDIMF PGS WA (USA)  
<[errnell.f.quebral.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:errnell.f.quebral.civ@us.navy.mil)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:18 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Ordinance Concerns

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I have concerns about the proposed homeless encampment site near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, where my daughter is currently enrolled. I am concerned about the safety challenges this location presents for this community, especially for our children. I acknowledge that placing an encampment at this location offers a temporary solution. However, it does not address deeper root causes, such as substance abuse and mental health.

I strongly urge you and the city council to postpone the vote on the proposed camping ordinance and consider alternate strategies that tackle these and other root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety of all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ernie Quebral  
606 NE Conifer Dr  
Bremerton WA 98311

**From:** Quebral, E F (Ernie - Code 244.4) CIV USN NAVSHIPYDIMF PGS WA (USA)  
<errnell.f.quebral.civ@us.navy.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:16 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp Ordinance Concerns

Dear Members of the City Council,

I have concerns about the proposed homeless encampment site near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, where my daughter is currently enrolled. I am concerned about the safety challenges this location presents for this community, especially for our children. I acknowledge that placing an encampment at this location offers a temporary solution. However, it does not address deeper root causes, such as substance abuse and mental health.

I strongly urge you to postpone the vote on the proposed camping ordinance and consider alternate strategies that tackle these and other root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety of all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ernie Quebral  
606 NE Conifer Dr  
Bremerton WA 98311

From: Flor Cabalfin <[cabalfinflor1969@gmail.com](mailto:cabalfinflor1969@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 5:02 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for the community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Florencia V. Cabalfin  
2609 Trenton Avenue  
Bremerton, WA  
98310-5237

**From:** frank cruz <[Fottehapkido@hotmail.com](mailto:Fottehapkido@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:00 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I, writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and DOES NOT address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to PLEASE alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Frank Cruz  
1022 5th St.  
Bremerton, WA 98337

From: frank santos <[fsantos671@gmail.com](mailto:fsantos671@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:04 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Camping Ordinance

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Santos  
13188 Beech Ave NW,  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

**From:** Gabriel Crawford <[gabriel@saintgeorgecounseling.org](mailto:gabriel@saintgeorgecounseling.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 7:45 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampments Mental Health and Addictions Concerns

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

My name is Mr. Gabriel L.M. Crawford, LMHCA. I am the owner of the St. George Counseling Clinic, that is currently growing in it's focus in treating trauma among combat veterans, current service members, and the local Catholic and Christian community. All are welcome to receive care at our burgeoning clinic at 4th and Pacific. I myself am a Combat veteran, having served in the Military Police Corps of the United States Army.

In my volunteer time, I have spent many hours in service to the homeless on our streets in Bremerton and in Seattle. In Seattle for instance, I taught my twin boys to honor the dignity of the most vulnerable, as I took them with me in my service to those unhoused. Putting a large cooler in a wagon and several packs of cigarettes in my backpack, I simply walked the streets during the hot summer days and offered Gatorade or a simple cigarette to honor the dignity of my sisters and brothers in desperate situation. My heart has been broken as I've watched the increase of unhoused persons sleeping in filthy, desperate, unworthy tents and improvised structures and dismayed by the wafting smoke from pipes and foil. I've seen overdoses from fentanyl and meth here and in Minneapolis in public places and in sight of even the youngest children among us. I know that our hearts are aligned with compassion for this impossible situation and we all want to work together to do what is best for the common good and the vulnerable among us.

I am writing this email as a mental health counselor, veteran, Bremerton resident, father of five, and Catholic Christian because I've recently learned about the proposed legal homeless encampment site on a 40 acre lot next to Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

First, Holy Trinity is a significant Hispanic, Spanish speaking community. The local neighborhood around Holy Trinity houses many of our Hispanic and LatinX neighbors, as is shown by Armin Jahrs Spanish speaking pedagogical approach. I am concerned that this legal encampment merely pushes destitution and addiction into hidden corners and in the vicinity of a minority community that has experienced a long history of racism and xenophobia especially in the area of housing and land.

Second, this encampment is also next to a private high school. Our youth face a difficult future as is evident by teen suicide, rising housing and higher education costs, inflation, and political turmoil. By placing the destitute and underserved in hidden places by our children adds to their difficulties, makes drugs and prostitution more accessible, and puts them in immediate physical, psychological, and emotional danger. We must find better solutions than legal camping. We can do better. I believe in you.

I'm requesting that we table this upcoming vote on Sept. 20th, and find a better solution not only for the currently unhoused but also for our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Gabriel

**From:** Georgia Gatzke <georgiagatzke@outlook.com> **On Behalf Of** Georgia Gatzke  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:20 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Allowed camping sites

I am in favor of specified camping sites. I propose the following restrictions :

- The number of sites currently on the table are far too many.
- Keep it down to a number that can be properly monitored, policed, and maintained.
- Once we have sites, be absolutely strict about evicting anyone who tries to camp in a non-approved area.
- Keep records of who is in a location and where they came from. Don't allow our area to become a magnet for people who come here just to move into a camp site. WE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF EVERYONE. Not trying to be harsh - this is the reality.
- City, county, and state have to commit to put in showers and toilets and garbage collection, and policing.
- Campers MUST be part of the solution by engaging in site work details.
- Set out numbered camp sites . Campers must be in a designated site and must go thru camp management before moving spots OR moving from one designated campground to another.
- All campers must abide by camp rules for garbage, littering, drug paraphernalia, noise, fighting, theft, etc.
- If you don't build in a process for campers to progress to jobs and then into solid housing, this will be endless.
- Make sure property owners don't end up being punished, by having garbage-dump encampments, around them. The more the citizens of the area feel they aren't being protected by government, the more resentful they will be, and then less inclined to help.

Thank you for attempting to address all of this.

Georgia Gatzke

**From:** Gina Cruz <[cruzgm61@hotmail.com](mailto:cruzgm61@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 10:49 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near School

Dear Mayor Wheeler,  
I, writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and DOES NOT address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to PLEASE alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gina Cruz  
1022 5th St.  
Bremerton, WA 98337



**From:** Glenn Stockton <[glenn.stockton@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.stockton@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:11 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Drug/Mental Health/Homeless Encampments Near Schools & Homes

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near our schools and residences. For example, one such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Placing an encampment in this area and other areas of our city would only serve to exacerbate the problem. As such a "solution" does not address deeper issues such as substance abuse and mental health, such actions would only make matters worse in the long run. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Glenn Stockton

2405 E 16th St, Bremerton, WA 98310

360.621.8653

**From:** Glenn Stockton <glenn.stockton@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:19 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Drug/Mental Health/Homeless Encampments Near Schools & Homes

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near our schools and residences. For example, one such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Placing an encampment in this area and other areas of our city would only serve to exacerbate the problem. As such a "solution" does not address deeper issues such as substance abuse and mental health, such actions would only make matters worse in the long run. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Glenn Stockton

2405 E 16th St, Bremerton, WA 98310

360.621.8653

From: Glenn White <[aukaiiki@mac.com](mailto:aukaiiki@mac.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:34 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Glenn White  
2916 NW Bucklin Hill Road  
Silverdale, Washington 98383

**From:** GR Lau <[chamoru1@gmail.com](mailto:chamoru1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:27 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** GR Lau <[chamoru1@gmail.com](mailto:chamoru1@gmail.com)>; Mom <[joots922@gmail.com](mailto:joots922@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

As a resident of Bremerton, I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. My son attends Aquinas Classical Academy. I don't feel it is prudent nor safe to have an encampment so close to the church and school.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gordon Lau  
1928 NE Bentley Dr  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** GR Lau <chamoru1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:02 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** GR Lau <chamoru1@gmail.com>; Mom <joots922@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. My son attends Aquinas Classical Academy and I don't feel it is safe nor prudent to allow an encampment so close to the church and school. The students utilize the forested area for physical activity during the school day.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Lau  
1928 NE Bentley Dr  
Bremerton, WA 98311  
Gordon

**From:** Graham Gates <graham.gates.94@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council,

I'd like to voice my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One of the proposed locations is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Moving encampments to other locations like the one described above offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that focus on the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Graham Gates  
706 Melcher St.  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

From: Gretchen Gamradt <ggamra1@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:01 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless encampment/ proposed "legal camp sites"

In recent weeks, I have learned about the proposed "legal campsites" solution to offering the unhoused places to exist. I voiced my concern several months ago about the growing camps near Marvin Williams community center and have concerns about the lack of shelter beds in our community. "Legal camping" is simply a band aid and will not have the long term effect of safer communities or a community that is both kind and firm with what is acceptable on our public streets.

I have extensive experience as a social worker and have worked with the unhoused population for years. A few things that I can say is that we are working with a population that has likely experienced deep trauma, substance abuse issues, and physical and mental health difficulties. They are humans at the core who often do not have the capacity to care for or monitor their own boundaries. They sometimes need help with this. That is where the kind, but firm comes in. Treating people with dignity, yet being honest about behaviors that we can't allow in our communities is a core component of working with these populations. Boundaries such as: it's not ok to use drugs on the street out in the open and if you must do so, please go to the allocated location; do not use the toilet on the street, we will provide you with one to use; do not camp on residential neighborhood streets, here is a shelter where you can sleep or one allocated campsite to use (preferably not in residential neighborhoods).

Proposed solutions:

- the Salvation Army provides resources, but no beds creating a perfect scenario for the one that we have right now. I equate it to telling our teenage kid that we will feed them, but you have to sleep in the yard. There isn't any dignity in that. Can we revisit our relationship with the Salvation Army? Offer additional security resources?
- the city of Bremerton desperately needs a shelter or identified beds in a nearby community. I'm aware of a shelter in Port Orchard, but it is far and I'm not even sure that it's open yet.
- Bremerton has kitsap mental health, Benedict house, Peninsula health. These are all resources that the unhoused need access to daily and will likely remain in the area for.
- I'm happy to offer any assistance on a task force or the like to help our community.

I would like to acknowledge that I say all of this without knowing much about city funding sources and am not naive to the high cost of a shelter. I very much appreciate you acknowledging my thoughts on this and am available to help in any way that I can. Thank you for all that you do to continue to develop a community that we can be proud to call home.

Gretchen Gamradt

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Heidi Creekpaum <[heidi.creekpaum@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.creekpaum@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Against Encampments in Residential Areas

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'd like to voice my opinion against moving homeless encampments into residential areas. My neighborhood is comprised of young families (mine included) and retirees. People chose to live here due to its safe, peaceful location. Many of us have come from bigger cities and specifically moved here for peace and security.

I fear that allowing an encampment close to this, or any primarily residential area, will increase property crime, vandalism, drug related crime, and fire risk.

Will I need to be on the lookout for used needles in my yard? Are you planning to reimburse me for stolen Amazon packages and property damage? Will you be replacing my house if fire spreads from the encampment to the forested area around my house?

This is not what I signed up for when I moved here, or when I voted for you in the last election. It does not make any sense to have encampments so far from main roads, public transport, and social support resources.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Heidi Creekpaum



**From:** Heidi Creekpaum <[heidi.creekpaum@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.creekpaum@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Against Encampments in Residential Areas

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'd like to voice my opinion against moving homeless encampments into residential areas. My neighborhood is comprised of young families (mine included) and retirees. People chose to live here due to its safe, peaceful location. Many of us have come from bigger cities and specifically moved here for peace and security.

I fear that allowing an encampment close to this, or any primarily residential area, will increase property crime, vandalism, drug related crime, and fire risk.

Will I need to be on the lookout for used needles in my yard? Are you planning to reimburse me for stolen Amazon packages and property damage? Will you be replacing my house if fire spreads from the encampment to the forested area around my house?

This is not what I signed up for when I moved here, or when I voted for you in the last election. It does not make any sense to have encampments so far from main roads, public transport, and social support resources.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Heidi Creekpaum

From: Jason Ceralde <jasonceralde@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 2:22 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council  
<City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council / Mayor Wheeler,

I was recently contacted about proposed homeless encampments near schools. I have not seen any specific agenda item for this on the City Council Website, which is concerning. This is a matter of Public Health and Safety and should be made clear and available to the public prior to City Council action.

One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason

Jason J Ceralde  
1908 Burwell Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** Jason Shurtz <[jason.p.shurtz@gmail.com](mailto:jason.p.shurtz@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:27 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Homeless Encampments

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

**From:** Jason Shurtz <[jason.p.shurtz@gmail.com](mailto:jason.p.shurtz@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 17:24  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampments  
**To:** <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>, <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

Attached are some recent news articles from Seattle about homeless encampments near schools.

<https://komonews.com/amp/news/local/seattle-homeless-crisis-encampment-cleared-crime-fire-camp-aurora-avenue-signs-remove-all-property-tent-witness-fire-department-sfd-spd-unhoused-open-air-drug-activity-shooting>

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/bill-would-ban-homeless-camps-within-1000-feet-schools-statewide/7FV76YDOE5CGJBNDXGITS6FLTI/?outputType=amp>

<https://www.king5.com/amp/article/news/local/homeless-encampment-near-broadview-thomson-school-bitter-lake-seattle/281-9affac37-d961-43ba-a3e0-b79bd9c8645a>

<https://komonews.com/amp/news/local/seattle-homelessness-crisis-homeless-ship-canal-bridge-encampment-john-stanford-international-school-elementary-north-wallingford-university-district-protest-demonstration-violence-crime-fire-drugs-chinatown-international-district>

SOON TO BE ILLEGAL IF BILL 5332 PASSES

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Shurtz

**From:** J Chamberlain <[jchamberlain1998@gmail.com](mailto:jchamberlain1998@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:46 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffry L Chamberlain  
9145 Baird CT NW  
Bremerton, WA

**From:** Heather Lawton <[lawton.heatherp@gmail.com](mailto:lawton.heatherp@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:57 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

I work at the Naval Shipyard and drive a Worker/Driver bus. I have seen homeless in bus shelters and observe the city remove the shelters. I see how the homeless seek shelter nearest the mental health center. I know the anxiety created when homeless people congregate around the shipyard gates, where the anxiety may not have merit; but and I have experienced the anxiety myself of allowing a homeless person to board my bus (to deboard outside the Bremerton Gate) only to have them flip out in a tirade. Yes, it was a serious situation, with a fully occupied bus. We were all scared.

I agree the poor and the sick justly need help. They should not be abandoned or ostracized. The care they need is closer to mental health, grocery stores, bus routes, and rehabilitation, but not within 500 feet of school children as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Lawton  
6917 NW LOIS Dr  
Silverdale, WA 98383

**From:** Jenny Mulligan <[jleemulli17@hotmail.com](mailto:jleemulli17@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:56 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Proposal

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mulligan  
2716 NE Athens Way  
Bremerton WA 98311

**From:** Jessica Queenann <jymqueenann@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:10 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Queenann  
1707 North Callow Avenue  
Bremerton, Washington, 98312



**From:** Jessica Queenann <[jymqueenann@protonmail.com](mailto:jymqueenann@protonmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:13 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Queenann  
1707 North Callow Avenue  
Bremerton, Washington, 98312

**From:** Jessika Fish <Jessikafish@outlook.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:48 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Remove the 40 acres from the Ordinance

To the entire council,

I am writing in response to an ordinance that you will be voting on September 20th. I DO NOT want the ordinance to pass as it currently stands and strongly recommend removing the 40 acre plot of land from the ordinance entirely due to the following reasons:

- **Away from necessary facilities:** Homeless encampments are supposed to be transitional. What justice are we doing when we are recommending an encampment so far away from public services?
- **Access to public safety:** When my husband and I visited the growing encampments last week, we ran into two Bremerton police patrol cars within 5 minutes making rounds. The patrols had easy viewing access to the encampments to ensure public safety. There are no roads through the 40 acre lot and the majority of it is only accessible through my neighbor's backyards. What is the city's plan to ensure, that what could be presumably the largest encampment on this side of the sound, can stay safe for everyone? Are our patrols really able to make the necessary rounds to ensure public safety?
- **Fire safety concerns:** As the weather starts to cool and folks look for ways to stay warm, what will be the city's response to a fire in the middle of the wooded watershed? If I'm not mistaken there was a detrimental fire in a Seattle encampment on Mercer street so I know this is a real concern.
- **Large number of inhabitants:** Other local city officials remark they do not have the same facilities to offer the homeless as Bremerton. What is to stop them from sending their homeless over to this designated 40 acre lot? In the same vein, what is our plan to ensure that this potentially large encampment remains at a safe number of inhabitants? How will you track/enforce that?
- **Environmental safety concerns:** Regardless of if there is a porta potty and trash bins on site, with homeless encampments you will still have soil contamination and trash. Ive been in the watershed

there are seasonal streams that run west and south. Have we conducted an official environmental study on what this would mean for our community and our local wildlife?

In our community meeting this week, Jennifer Chamberlin tried to assure my neighbors that the city wasn't intending to relocate everyone into the 40 acres with this ordinance. Which I'm sure is a true statement. But that doesn't mean the city is not opening the door to what could potentially be a very large endless problem for our community, increasing homelessness in the area- which will only drive us all away.

*"City officials said the camp has become a safety hazard and is the cause of a high number of 911 calls, mostly for fires and shots fired."* -Kiro 7 article published this last year about an encampment in a Tacoma neighborhood that grew too large.

Jessika Fish  
Taxpayer and homeowner

**From:** Jillian Wasielewski <[jillian@jwsales.co](mailto:jillian@jwsales.co)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:42 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jillian Wasielewski**

7742 Chico Way NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Jillian Wasielewski <jillian@jwsales.co>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jillian Wasielewski**

7742 Chico Way NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Jo Walter <msjowalter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 2:56 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unhoused Camping Ordinance

Thanks again for all of your hard work on the homelessness crisis on MLK Way. Things are getting pretty wild. It's amazing to observe how misunderstandings spiral, and the task of education takes time and care in order to properly address misunderstandings. Again, I am for holding off on a vote until enough time has been allowed to hear from neighbors about the plans for approved camping properties when shelter space is not available, and for you to know you have done your best to achieve clear community understanding around the issue.

One of the misunderstandings seems to be that the present ordinance draft is unconstitutional and inequitable because there are some people who will, for whatever reason, never be able to accept shelter housing. I agree there will always be these folks, and the language in the draft seems to address them. With most folks using emergency shelter, the group needing camping space will be much smaller. I hope you will work on establishing a city job for someone to work on these issues, and that person could focus on safe and supported camping for those who can't accept shelter space.

From Pres. Coughlin's remarks on Fox News, it sounds like you held off on voting last week in order to allow folks to chime in on the mayor's proposal about ordinance violators being instantly charged with a misdemeanor. I hope you will have Chief Wolfe at an upcoming study session for his take on what the mayor's proposal will mean. With three minor citations to process through before it becomes a misdemeanor, and with the limited recent capacity of our municipal court, I appreciate how burdensome and time consuming the present draft's plan will be. We will all be reassured when the chief describes what it will look like when the BPD is authorized to arrest the homeless for the misdemeanor of living on unauthorized land. I'd like to hear what they will do when trusted to do their jobs, and to use their judgment about how and when to arrest.

Maybe organize a town hall type event with electeds and the BPD and service providers for a community conversation where meaningful dialogue can happen - questions and answers at the least. Some called for a community conversation to find solutions. Maybe invite them to help organize an event like this.

How will arrangements be made to move folks? I hope you will not leave them to do it on their own but will partner with helpers to get their possessions to a new location.

Please do nothing about moving folks out of our present tent city until we have a permanent shelter opened.

Thank you,

Jo Walter

From: Joanna Jovanovich <[jorows@gmail.com](mailto:jorows@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:12 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanna jovanovich  
1540 5th st  
Bremerton , wa 98337

From: Joe Keller <[jgc\\_jck@yahoo.com](mailto:jgc_jck@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:24 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless Encampment

> Dear Mayor Wheeler,

>

> I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

>

> Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Joe Keller  
7611 Orcas PI NW  
Bremerton, WA 98311



From: John J. Bial <jbial63@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 2:46 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Cc: John Bial <jbial63@gmail.com>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Camp

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

> I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

>

> Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Sincerely,

John J. Bial DDS, PS  
1736 NE Riddell Road  
#180  
Bremerton, WA 98310  
360-377-4700

**From:** John Boyle <[jboyle90@gmail.com](mailto:jboyle90@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:32 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUIRED - Homeless encampment proposal

Mayor Wheeler,

As a property owner in Bremerton and an active community member, I am concerned about the increase in homelessness and closely related drug addiction/mental health issues in our community. I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Boyle  
360.620.9622

**From:** JoNell Turner <adagirl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed placement of homeless encampments

Dear Members of the Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Your first obligation is protection of our CHILDREN. Allowing a homeless encampment so close to a school will expose our children to potential physical damages for which the city will be held responsible. Children from all over the county attend this school, thereby extending the effect of this plan well beyond Bremerton City Limits.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
JoNell Turner  
6970 Bayview Dr SE  
Port Orchard, WA

From: Jun B Dominguez <junbdominguez@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:56 AM

To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us

Subject: Homeless project

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jun B Dominguez

19533 Sirocco Cl, NW

Silverdale WA 98383

From: kmbaer <kmbaer@wavecable.com>  
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:51 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Cc: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: homeless encampments

Dear Councilman Mr. Eric Younger & Mayor Greg Wheeler,

As you well know, Bremerton, like most cities in our country, has major problems in dealing with the issues facing those who are homeless and we as residents are also mindful and sympathetic to this problem.

We would like to address that the Council is considering allowing homeless individuals to camp on two acres of wooded wetlands bordering NW Lakehurst Drive. To access this densely wooded land from Lakehurst Drive, one needs to walk through boot deep mud. The placement of portable toilets on Lakehurst Drive would impede traffic and increase the possibility of accidents. In addition, young children, living on this street, also ride their bikes and scooters on this road. Drainage of waste via a waterway on the property emptying into Kitsap Lake is also likely. This is a lake that has already been working on an expensive cleanup.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose this site as an approved area for a homeless encampment/shelter.

Sincerely,

Karl and Marcia Baer

Good afternoon, I am Karna Peck and I was a the homeless advocate for Mason County Wa. for 5 years. I am not the person who was homeless and got the job but rather went to a meeting after quitting a successful real estate career and was offered this job. I had a lot to learn.

While I was advocating for the homeless this young social services lady came to work in my area and she had the most profound advice. She said “ the soultion for homelessness is housing!”

I believe she is right and I have looked at this problem this way eversince.

I have some thoughts about homeless people.

Rather solutions that might work

This is a very complex problem that no solution is going to work for all but here are some ideas that might work for some.

Zoning and prejudice people in power:

I talked to Habitat for Humanities about building units that are like studio apt for low income persons that the homeless could purchase. Habitat was willing to try it but the city codes and city managers were not interested. This need to change, codes for cities to allow this kind of building to happen.

These units would be purchased by the persons so that they can be housed and able to make the payment to stay housed. Rendering them no longer homeless.

Propery:

I talked to Mason County about taking a property and dividing it into very small lots so people could purchase these, owe the lots and move on to them.

Again lots of resistance to this because the county rules, and zoning do not allow this.

The idea was:

If the owners were allowed to purchase the land then they could search for housing programs or build their own house/ dwelling to stay out of the weather. A place of theirs to work on.

I proposed a bath house be built simular to the ones in the state parks to accomidate the properties.

Each property would need to have power available, with a fee as normal business,

Water needs to be available to each property.

Access to each property for emergency vehicles need to be in the infastructer.

All owners would be held to the laws as any owner is held to.

These properties need bus access to the city.

Land Lord Rights:

The laws given by the states have hampered the availity for landlords to want to rent to anyone other than steller renters.

Apr 27, 2022 —Data from the city, analyzed by the Rental Housing Association of Washington, shows Seattle lost more than 3,400 properties in 2021,

Mar 23, 2023 —More than 11,000 rentable homes owned by small landlords left the market during that period, effectively erasing the gains from large buildings.

These need to be changed. Many landlord have left the state because of the new laws restricting the landlords rights. These need to be changed to allowing the land lords their right over their property.

If a person is being a bad tenant they need to have the power to remove them fast and without a lot of cost. I have talked to many landlords who are willing to rent if the laws allowed them more power over their property.

What can be rented as Housing:

The size of the rental is a question that the codes do not allow such things as garages and sheds as rentals but lots of people live in them. The codes need to be adjusted to allow property owners the right to their property as rental. I set up many a rentals in Shelton that were not “ real homes” so that people would be out of the weather. This helped the homeless and the land owners stay in their houses.

Speed of rehousing:

The faster the homeless person is housed the better for all. In the research it is proven the longer a person is homeless the harder they are to house.

Sharing the cost between cities:

A suggestion is if every city takes on 5% of their population and creates housing for the homeless. This would help the cities look more appealing and less crime ridden. The cost would probably be the same as all the infrastructure to maintain the street homeless are costing now according to a study done by CA University. It shares the problem equally and help with the homeless. With housing mental health should be added to the housing to help the mentally ill cope with life. This could be paid for in part or whole, by the clients income. This housing should not be free. I suggest a 50% of the persons income go to their housing. They will already get free food stamps and free phones. Most should be on some program such as SSI or Retirements to help with the cost. And if not they need to be directed to a program to help them with these issues.

I hope these ideas spark something to help with the problem.

If you would like to contact me please do.

**Karna Peck**

**360-801-0424**

**From:** Karna Peck <[karnapecck@gmail.com](mailto:karnapecck@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:53 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Homeless Issue Solutions

From: Kasandra Melencio <[kasy.melencio@gmail.com](mailto:kasy.melencio@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 2:51 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Who to contact - rising crime

Within one week, I witnessed a random woman attacking a customer at the Bremerton Goodwill, assaulting her, I then read an article about a man spitting and threatening to shoot a woman with her child in her presence at the library I frequently go to with my own young daughter.

I'm reading articles in the Kitsap Sun about public camping areas possibly being allowed, some far too close to grade schools and parks. Why?

There's countless acts of crime in our city now and it only seems to be getting worse off.

I try to live our lives in a place to not live in fear, yet I'm constantly looking over my shoulder every time I take my child out myself or go out alone.

What can be done? Can anything be done as a community to help with these issues? We as a family want to raise our child here, yet it's hard to accept the fact that rising crime in our city is a real thing. A scary thing.

People are arrested (taken into custody) and then released just to cause trouble again. Not okay. No one is held accountable anymore.

No one wants this and slight needs to be shed on this issue.

Mayor is the first thought of who to contact about these issues, but if there is elsewhere I should be sending my concerns to, please let me know how to contact them.

Thanks you,  
A concerned Bremerton resident.



Name:	address:	Signature:
Paunee Miller	5198 Sophie St	Paunee Miller
Katelyn Miller	5198 Sophie	KM
Elizabeth Miller	5176 Sinclair Way	Elizabeth Miller
Barton Slade	5172 Sinclair way	Barton Slade
Amy Appel	5160 Sinclair Way	Amy Appel
Victor Nguyen	5156 Sinclair	Victor Nguyen
Joshua Canduff	5148 SINCLAIR WAY	Joshua Canduff
Dallon Shin	5140 Sinclair Way	Dallon Shin
Luke Glaser	5124 Sinclair Way	Luke Glaser
Lindsay Edward	5129 Granger St	Lindsay Edward
Amber Crenshaw	5133 Granger St	Amber Crenshaw
DALE SCOTT	5137 GRANGER ST	Dale Scott
LAURYN REDD	5137 GRANGER ST	Lauryn Redd
ERNESTO ZARATE	5141 GRANGER ST	Ernesto Zarate
Angelique Neri	5145 Granger St	Angelique Neri
DANIEL NERI	5145 GRANGER ST	Daniel Neri
Jennifer Laskowski	5149 Granger St	Jennifer Laskowski
Devin Laskowski	5149 Granger St	Devin Laskowski
Ryan Vandersluis	5157 Granger St.	Ryan Vandersluis
Leslie Bailey	5177 Granger St	Leslie Bailey
Ryan Burton	5194 Sophie St.	Ryan Burton
Rowland Whiffyn	5174 Sophie St.	Rowland Whiffyn
BROWN OLIVER	5170 Sophie St	Brown Oliver
Sarah Soriano	5146 Sophie St	Sarah Soriano
Kate Calixterio	5138 Sophie St	Kate Calixterio
Karina Madrid	5134 Sophie St	Karina Madrid
Brittany Yarber	5122 Sophie St.	Brittany Yarber
Alexandra Falcker	5131 Sophie St.	Alexandra Falcker
Yoshino Hirahara	5147 Sophie St.	Yoshino Hirahara
Brodrick Hirai	5171 Sophie St	Brodrick Hirai
sarah Hirai	5171 Sophie St	Sarah Hirai
Erin Winger	5175 Sophie St.	Erin Winger
Carl Smith	5175 Sophie St	Carl Smith

Name:	address:	Signature:
Ivan Miller	5198 Sophie	
John Kunder <del>Retta</del>	5087 Granger	
Loretta Longsine	5087 Granger	
Victoria Reed	5188 Sinclair	
Sarah Carpenter	5127 Sophie	
Thel Dodge	5127 Sophie	
Catrina Valdez	5125 Granger	
James Valdez	5125 Granger	
SAMANTHA WALSH	10618 Rudder	
Randi Romanchuk	2530 Stevens Pass Dr	
Elizabeth Munk	2737 Keeleg Paul Rd	
Kelly Satowedel	6325 Sidney Rd SW	
Jessica Lopez	3220 Ridgeview Dr	
Rosa Quintero	2405 Sevinga Ave	
MARITES ANDERS	3810 MADRONA AVE	
Sarah Bullfant	704 NE Cabot Ln	

**From:** Katelyn Miller <Katelyn\_eevee@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:06 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** For today's counsel meeting

Please see attached document showing 50 otherwise who also support this statement I have sent to you.

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

First and foremost, (being formerly transient myself as a child & Teen) I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children.

Also, curiosity strikes me as to ask – wither this parcel cited has been afforded other potential opportunities?, such as – recreational hiking, recreational hunting, etc.?

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.
3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

The Citizens Of Bremerton

Also it may need more research, but I was told by a land surveyor but the spot near Sophie that was chosen for potential encampments is protected land as it holds the Bremerton water source.

From: Kathleen Bellefeuille <bellefeuillekathleen@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:20 AM

To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us

Subject: Concerns with Camping Ordinance

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. As the wife of a physician and warrior of social justice, I understand the need for safe housing and public health for our unhoused brothers and sisters. However, I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents and students in east Bremerton.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Bellefeuille

10367 Wilkes Ct NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

**From:** Kathleen Snider <[Ksnider31@outlook.com](mailto:Ksnider31@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:59 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** no to homelessness

I'm writing about moving homeless encampments into neighborhoods near our schools and family residences - as if this will solve or help Bremerton's homeless problem. These happy campers seem to enjoy not paying taxes and avoiding hard work and social responsibilities and using drugs and avoiding the police.

Instead, I'd recommend protecting your hard working homed-citizens from the dangers of crime and vagrancy and drugs that come with the homeless territory. Please don't let your compassion be an excuse to shove this mess into the backyards of hard working Bremertonians.

Thank you for your time.  
Kathleen Snider

9/18/23

To [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us) <greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the Mayor to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents and students.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Ron Karlberg

P.O. Box 4099

Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** PATRICIA MARZ <[peppermintpatty@comcast.net](mailto:peppermintpatty@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 11:40 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposal Concerns Over Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this arear offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I your you as Mayor to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Ron Karlberg  
P.O. 4099  
Bremerton, Wa 98312



Received by Bremerton City Council Office

Date 9/20/23

9/18/23

To: [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us) [city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge all the City Council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents and students.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Ron Karlberg

P.O. Box 4099

Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Kelly Shea <[sheakelly61@gmail.com](mailto:sheakelly61@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:41 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting

My name is Kelly Shea-Lider, I live on S Constitution Ave. It has been brought to my attention that the city council will be voting on allowing unhoused individuals to set up camps on city owned land. Two of these properties are on S Constitution Ave. One of which is right in my backyard! On the other side is a grade school. On the corner is a kindergarten and grade school bus stop, also there are preschools on both sides of the proposed site. That trail is used by many grade school children to get to and from school. My Husband and I are very concerned about the Human waste, garbage, broken glass and discarded needles soon to litter this area! This is not the proper way to deal with the homeless. It will not improve their quality of life. But it most definitely will impact this neighborhoods quality of life, in a very negative way! Thank you for your time, Kelly Shea-Lider

**From:** Kelly Shipley <[soldbykellyshipley@gmail.com](mailto:soldbykellyshipley@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:24 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm Regards,

*Kelly Shipley*



Kelly Shipley  
Broker, Realtor  
Coldwell Banker Bain  
Bainbridge Island and Silverdale  
2021 President's Elite Award Recipient  
2019, 2020, 2022 President's Circle Award Recipient  
360.271.9403  
[kelly.shipley@cbrealty.com](mailto:kelly.shipley@cbrealty.com)

**From:** Kelly Shipley <soldbykellyshipley@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:06 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm Regards,

*Kelly Shipley*



Kelly Shipley  
Broker, Realtor  
Coldwell Banker Bain  
Bainbridge Island and Silverdale  
2021 President's Elite Award Recipient  
2019,2020, 2022 President's Circle Award Recipient  
360.271.9403  
[kelly.shipley@cbrealty.com](mailto:kelly.shipley@cbrealty.com)

> On Sep 13, 2023, at 3:55 PM, Kenneth Buchanan <[kennyb628@gmail.com](mailto:kennyb628@gmail.com)> wrote:

>

I request the vote be to enforce Ordinance 5482 going forward tonight. I have worked in Seattle for 30 years and seen it devolve into the state it is now with the uncontrolled homelessness. I get my life threatened at least once a week, have had my crews assaulted, and one stepped on a needle and went through his boot and had to be treated and monitored for many diseases not knowing what could have possibly been exposed to. I should not have to face the same when I get home nor have the resale value of my property plummet as I approach retirement. This is nothing I signed up for. Please contact me if you need any specifics.

>

> Ken B

> (360)731-3711

>

> Sent from Ken's iPhone

**From:** Kevin Byrd <byrdk1001@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** No Designated Drug Addict Areas

Dear Bremerton City Council,

We do not have a homeless problem; we have a drug problem. Those who are homeless for reasons other than substance abuse seek out assistance. I have three friends who work as either a first responder, community advocate, or VA outreach, and they all say the same thing, "The ones on the street do not want shelter. They feel what the city and state provide is like a jail cell. They'd rather be free to do whatever they want."

Regarding the designated homeless encampments, councilmember Michael Goodnow said, "We have to find something and share that responsibility."

The community should not bear this responsibility because it is not our fault they chose to stick a needle in their arm. I live on Bertha Ave, and drug addicts frequently walk up and down the street. They also periodically set up camp in the woods at the end of the street. When they do, we notice a lot more trash thrown about, and things go missing in our yards. My neighbor had a \$500 boat motor stolen from his backyard last month. My significant other does not feel safe walking our dog without me present through our OWN neighborhood. She would rather drive 30 minutes to Gig Harbor to walk the dog.

This state has been plagued with overly compassionate elected leaders who coddle drug addicts and enact ridiculous laws that affect the lives of everyday people. The lenient laws are what's causing this issue and increased drug overdoses. As a parent, would you just let your teenage child do drugs in front of you? Of course not! So why do YOU let these people who clearly need tough love keep doing drugs and wreaking havoc on all those nearby? This proposed idea is asinine! No family should have to feel unsafe in their neighborhood and fear for the safety of their children.

Stop kicking the can down the road so that you can save face in your own political career and get these people the help they need. An addict is not going to seek out help themselves and damn sure is going to be resistant to any help. They need to be handheld the whole way until they are clean. FYI - my childhood friend died from an overdose, so this over compassionate/lenient system we have for drug addicts is doing them no good. We are just letting them slowly kill themselves. That is more inhumane than locking them up if need be and forcing them into care. My friend might still be alive if the system didn't fail him.

I can't wait to move out of this state.

On a different topic, get a 3rd fast ferry boat or contest the excessive wake ruling, which prevents us from using the larger boats. Only having two boats during peak rush hour times between Tuesday and Thursday requires everyone to get in line 15 to 20 minutes

before departure to secure a seat. Collectively, this adds 30 to 40 minutes to our commute times. This is a clear bottle neck and will only get worse as Bremerton grows.

Best,

Disgruntled Neighbor

**From:** Kimberly Pizanti <[kim.pizanti@gmail.com](mailto:kim.pizanti@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 8:27 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Aquinas Classical Academy (Pinewood Area)

Dear Mayor,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is a 40-acre lot owned by the city which is 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children, especially MY SON. Holy Trinity is no longer "just" a church. There are school children on the premises all day, every day. They use the back wooded area of the property for PE. They do not need to "discover" vagrants and needles while they exercise.

Placing an encampment in this area puts school children, MY FRESHMAN, at risk. You must absolutely not endanger school children with this temporary solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kim Pizanti  
Bremerton, WA 98312



**From:** Kristina Brown <kristinagolnik@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:05 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your time

Kristina Brown  
4117 W M St  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Lee M <[warachelsvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:warachelsvineyard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 3:56 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: campsites on public property

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am dismayed by the Bremerton City Council's proposal to permit the unsheltered members of our community to camp in public lands within the city of Bremerton.

One such camp site is close to the Thomas Aquinas Academy on Pine Road in Bremerton. There are family homes in the area as well. This is concerning as much of the camping sites have issues with drug abuse and mental health issues. There is also the issue of sanitation.

Those who live rough have burned through family relationships, refuse to seek help for their addictions and quite frankly should not be rewarded with public lands to camp on. The City of Bremerton is enabling and not helping with this proposal.

I am urging you, as Mayor of Bremerton, to steer the council away from continuing with this proposal. The council needs to address the homeless issue instead of enabling it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lee Anne Martinez

**From:** Len Psyk <len.psyk@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:39 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Homeless Camp Near Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Academy

Please reconsider the approximate 40 acre vacant city land near the Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Academy as a possible homeless camp. The inherent dangers and risk of populating this land with a camp for the homeless is a very long list. The history of homeless camps speaks for itself. They attract people suffering from addiction and the dealers who sell to them. They pay for their illegal drugs by stealing from homes and cars close to them. They create sanitation and trash nightmares. This location is surrounded by residential areas, the Holy Trinity Church, and the Aquinas Academy. It is far from the services homeless people need to survive. Things such as food banks and medical care. It is far from any law enforcement. Perhaps there are more appropriate locations in the downtown or commercial or industrial areas that should be considered. To destroy this area with a homeless encampment would be unconscionable.

Placing a homeless camp in this area is no more appropriate a location than any of the public parks throughout the city. The state liquor laws prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages near schools for a very good reason. It seems equally important to shield schools from the problems experienced at virtually every homeless camp whether "legal" or illegal. Law enforcement resources are already insufficient and underfunded to manage the other criminal activity in the city. There is no way the city can provide adequate protection and safety for the residents of the area and the children at the school. There is simply no defensible plan to ensure otherwise.

Enabling homeless activities and accommodating illegal camping does nothing to solve the problems of the homeless. Designating this area as a "legal" campground ignores existing zoning and land use regulations in place in this neighborhood. No jurisdiction in the country has been successful controlling the crime, sanitation issues, and trash that comes with virtually every homeless encampment. City funds would be far better utilized address the core cause of homelessness including substance abuse and mental health.

If your mission is to provide for care and support to the homeless please consider other options, and at a minimum do not impose the destruction of a residential area such as this one.

**From:** Passiko True <passiko12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:01 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Linda True  
P.O. Box 367  
Indianola, Wa, 98342

**From:** L <lagofarm@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 8:43 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Homeless encampments

To all members.

I've been following the discussion about the out of control encampments in Bremerton. First, it seems like you are pushing where these encampments will go on tax payers and home owners property. Second, don't you have empty rooms in the Norm Dicks building? There's bathrooms water for overnight stays. I emphasize OVERNIGHT because you all keep quoting satisfy the Martin vs. Boise Ninth Circuit Court ruling that prohibits cities from clearing encampments if no overnight shelter is available. Overnight shelter, not tent city! The encampments I see every day is NOT overnight it's every day and night the same tents. Third, the drug dealing by the Starbucks on 6th and Warren is totally unacceptable. If none of these LAWS are going to be enforced, why should I abide by the law? Police are not policing. How about inviting all the campers to your yard?

Thanks  
Linda

**From:** Loretta Trotter <trotter.loretta@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:35 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless Problem

I would also like to know why is it that people who have a vehicle must have current tags and insurance but the homeless does not have to abide by the laws. If the city keep allowing homeless people to do as they please what do you think will happen to my community. The city is supposed to make people feel safe in their community. I'm not feeling safe. Bremerton need to take these people and have them clean up behind themselves and to make them abide by the law. I don't want to hear anymore about mental illness. If you allow them to live anywhere in the city you are condoning this behavior. We teach our CHILDREN to be respectful and to clean up behind themselves. These are grown adults that are acting irresponsible. My solution is McNeil Island.

**From:** Lori Stockton <[loristockton@gmail.com](mailto:loristockton@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments in our City

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my views regarding the proposed changes to moving the tent communities in our city. I am absolutely opposed to positioning these communities near schools and neighborhoods where our families and children live in our city.

After reading the article in the Kitsap Sun, I agree with Councilmember Eric Younger who suggested the mayor's office select one area for a designated campground, rather than the council having to pick "winners and losers" among the undeveloped parcels on the list. A designated camping area would require the city to provide amenities like restrooms and drinking water, and would actually qualify as an available overnight shelter under the draft ordinance.

Further on in the article, Dennehy voiced the main concerns of these homeless campers to be the ability to easily access mental health services, hotels and shelter beds, grocery stores, restaurants, employment opportunities and transportation.

To me, it seems clear that the tent community should be located next to Kitsap Mental Health facility. As a community member I would forgo the use of part of the Illahee Preserve located across from Kitsap Mental Health for the use of the homeless. I would require that all campers be accountable to mental health counseling and required to be responsible for maintaining the beauty of the land they are given privilege to use for the time being.

If they can not follow the guidelines set before them, they should leave our city and find another area with less strict enforcement. We live in a beautiful city filled with wonderful, kind, and respectful people. It is our duty to help those who want to heal from drug addiction and mental illness and if we don't actually address the root causes of this problem, we are showing lack of respect for ourselves and the community at large.

Sincerely,  
Lori Stockton  
2405 E 16th St  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** Meg Collier <[meg@starofthesea.net](mailto:meg@starofthesea.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:02 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** proposed homeless encampment in East Bremerton

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm quite concerned about putting a homeless encampment so close to the High School that meets at Holy Trinity Church. I'm just really surprised that this would even be considered. Please regroup and consider another location NOT close to any school. Yes, we need some solutions for the homeless, but PLEASE do not compromise the safety of our children at the same time.

Thank you for listening...

Margaret Collier  
295 NW Paulson Rd.  
Poulsbo, WA 98370



**From:** Margaret LaPlante <[margaretlaplante@gmail.com](mailto:margaretlaplante@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:05 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** re-proposed camping ordinance

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret LaPlante

15375 Bethel Burley Rd SE

Port Orchard, WA 98367

**From:** Margaret LaPlante <margaretlaplante@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:03 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** re-proposed camping ordinance

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret LaPlante

15375 Bethel Burley Rd SE

Port Orchard, WA 98367

**From:** Marie Sinclair Bennett <mariesinclairbennett@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:26 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Do NOT allow homeless camps in Bremerton

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a homeowner in downtown Bremerton. I live and work out of my home. The homeless camps set up on the sidewalk easements surrounding the area around Burger King and Starbucks are out of control! We should not allow for this. The city needs to house the homeless or put them in jail or something else!

Theft, noise, drug use, all are easily witnessed from my front window at Evergreen Park. This is unacceptable.

Sincerely,  
Marie

**From:** Clemen-Jr (US), Mark J <mark.j.clemen-jr@boeing.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:59 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us

**Subject:** Proposed Camping Ordinance

Hello – I work in Seattle, but take the ferry from the West Sound every day.

I understand that the Bremerton City Council is wrestling with the location of – effectively – a homeless camp.

This should NOT be located ANYWHERE NEAR an Elementary School or a High School.

There IS a High School at Holy Trinity Church in East Bremerton.

Regards – Mark.

**From:** Mark Powell <[mark@starofthesea.net](mailto:mark@starofthesea.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:23 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, your neighbor and father of 4 Aquinas High School students,

Mark Powell  
612 High Ave.  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** Mark Powell <mark@starofthesea.net>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:25 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School where 4 of my children attend, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Powell  
612 High Ave.  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** Ms. Craig <maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:50 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>;  
City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless Camps Tolerated in Bremerton (MaryAnn Craig)

I strongly suggest you all view this telecast  
Thank you

On Wed, Sep 13, 2023, 8:35 AM Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good morning Mary Anne,

Even with a shelter opening, until there is an updated no camping ord. there is nothing to enforce. Conditions would remain just as they are although some would choose the shelter as an option. In addition, based on citizen expectations of encampment removal the council may be reconsidering their original proposed draft that would require months of police contact with campers prior to any removal of a camp. I have proposed an amendment calling for higher enforcement that would reduce the number of police contacts from 4 down to 1 speeding up the process. The council will be discussing this tonight also.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler

Mayor

City of Bremerton

(360) 473-5266

**From:** Ms. Craig <[maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org](mailto:maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:33 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Cc:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>;  
City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless Camps Tolerated in Bremerton (MaryAnn Craig)

Thank you Mayor Wheeler for your response. Safe to assume that once the Salvation Army shelter reopens, the city will be free to enforce the existing no camping ordinance?

On Tue, Sep 12, 2023, 4:42 PM Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you, Council President Coughlin, for including me in your response to Mary Anne and providing me the opportunity to add more information. Mary Anne, it is important for you to know that in my role as Mayor, I have briefed the council and public at large (Community Meetings, City Council Meetings, Kitsap Daily News and Kitsap Sun interviews/articles) on several occasions that I am working on multiple scenarios that involve a shelter, tiny home transitional housing, and regulated outdoor shelters. The next Kitsap Sun article coming out soon will most likely reinforce my efforts. I have established the partnerships and will be meeting with team members this week and next to discuss funding, development, acquisition, and operations strategies. I would also like to share that am also currently working on moving up the reopening of the Salvation Army winter shelter to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This effort would also increase their hours of operation to 24 hours a day versus overnight only. Thank you again Council President for the opportunity to provide more information. Mary Anne, thank you again for taking the time to voice your concerns. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler

Mayor

City of Bremerton

(360) 473-5266



**From:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:02 PM  
**To:** Ms. Craig <[maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org](mailto:maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org)>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless Camps Tolerated in Bremerton (MaryAnn Craig)

Hi Ms. Craig,

Since the Mayor included the Council in his reply, I wanted to thank you for writing in on this issue, and I know the Council understands your concerns. I want to give you a short history of what's been going on and what the future looks like.

The current ordinance, on the books since 2004, basically says no camping is allowed in the city, at any time, at any place. The Ninth Circuit Court has ruled that such ordinances cannot be enforced when there is not enough available shelter space. Unfortunately, Bremerton has not had enough shelter space for a while, and without shelter space, we cannot enforce the current ordinance.

The lack of shelter space is first and foremost a travesty for those who are unsheltered and desperately need that shelter, along with the lack of resources to treat many of the leading causes of homelessness such as poverty, drug addiction, and mental health issues. At the same time, folks who live, work, and learn next to the unregulated encampments that now exist in many parts of the city are experiencing all the negative side effects that come with these encampments, because of the lack of shelter space.

We rely on the Mayor to work with partner organizations, the county, and the state to ensure we have enough shelter space, but for over 6 months, this has not been the case.

The City Council made it a priority this year to craft a new ordinance — one that recognizes that legally there must be a place on city property for folks to go when there is no shelter space available, but also recognizes the effects that unregulated encampments have on those nearby. We knew this was going to be a hot button issue with no solution that would make everyone happy, but we decided to tackle it and take heat from many sides for the betterment of all Bremerton.

The Council has now spent about 3 months' worth of meetings researching what's possible, what other cities have done, and most importantly, gathering public feedback. And we've had to do it unfortunately without any input or proposal by the Mayor, except for a very recent suggestion to update the enforcement clause from 2004.

Based on the public feedback, a majority of Council converged on a draft ordinance that would ensure that at no time, regardless of shelter space or not, would camping be permissible on 1) streets, sidewalks, and the places in-between, 2) in public buildings like parking garages, 3) in city parks at night, and 4) in other city-owned locations normally off-limits, like culverts and the watershed.

So, what does that leave? Unimproved city-owned properties in a few locations throughout the city. Council asked for maps and a list of these properties at its August 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session. The Mayor, whose administration has the data and expertise to produce them, released the maps of these properties to the Public and Council the day of our last meeting on September 6th. Without enough time to review the maps, and the Mayor's last-minute call for updating the enforcement clause, Council decided to gather even more public feedback and spend yet more time working on this.

We'll be meeting again in study session this Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> to keep working on this ordinance, taking into account yours and everyone's public feedback. I recognize that no solution the Council comes up with will make everyone happy, but I do want you to know your Council has been working hard on this difficult and complex issue, and does listen.

In the meantime, I hope the Mayor can get shelter space available soon, and I encourage you to reach out to your county, state, and federal representatives to advocate for resources so that Bremerton, the poorest per capita city in Kitsap, with 17% of the county's population and the residence of 60% of those experiencing homelessness in the county, does not have to bear the burden alone.

Thanks for speaking up.

*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---



**From:** Mary Howell <mary.es.howell@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 6:54 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; happyhwest <happyhwest@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Please vote to protect our children and grandchildren!



**From:** Mary Jane Locquiao <[joots922@gmail.com](mailto:joots922@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:32 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear: Mayor Wheeler

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Locquiao  
1928 NE Bentley Dr.  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** Mary Lou Long <[maryloulong2515@gmail.com](mailto:maryloulong2515@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:35 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Park option.

The more I think about it the worse the fix looks. You are fooling yourself if you think moving a problem around will change or improve the situation. Once the word is out that there is no enforcement, which I believe is currently the case. More vagrants will come into our city looking for handouts. How many of these tent people are from Portland? Seattle? Tacoma? How many of these people have criminal records? Have you done an evaluation of what you are dealing with? Are you blindly accepting the argument that throwing out these people is unconstitutional? You need to grow a pair and fight for the taxpayers citizens that play by the rules and own property in the city.

**From:** MARY TRASK <[mtraskm@msn.com](mailto:mtraskm@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:07 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Homeless

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** MARY TRASK <[mtraskm@msn.com](mailto:mtraskm@msn.com)>  
**Date:** September 15, 2023 at 1:03:41 PM PDT  
**To:** MARY TRASK <[mtraskm@msn.com](mailto:mtraskm@msn.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless

Thank you for not responding to my email-City Council.  
I have questions for you prior to your vote on tent cities.  
Can you provide a copy of the law that states you can send homeless to our neighborhoods.  
Why did the Salvation Army close and why so long?  
Why have you not opened other shelters?  
Why are you moving the problem out of current areas(Broadway and Martin Luther King for example)  
and allowing them in to other neighborhoods?  
What buildings have you tried to secure for their housing?  
Has Harrison hospital management been contacted about leasing the empty east Bremerton  
hospital. Their plan is to tear it down so why not use it as housing?  
Have any other empty buildings been considered?  
Why is this issue taking so long? You've had years to find solutions.

Finally, I've noticed there are no tents downtown. Why have they been allowed to move in to  
neighborhoods?

I'd really appreciate a response to my questions as soon as possible.

Mary Trask  
360-340-6282  
[mtraskm@msn.com](mailto:mtraskm@msn.com)

**From:** JoAnn Duckworth <[navyducks4@comcast.net](mailto:navyducks4@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:20 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mathew & JoAnn Duckworth  
4605 Fir Dr. NE  
Bremerton, WA 98310



**From:** maureen arnesen <[maureenarnesen@live.com](mailto:maureenarnesen@live.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:05 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment proposal

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. Please consider alternative strategies that address the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maureen Arnesen  
38035 Buck Rd. NE  
Hansville, WA 98340

**From:** Ma M <[maxmill784@gmail.com](mailto:maxmill784@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:16 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments

Hello,

The decision to allow homeless encampments in wetlands and other forests in the City is a danger to the environment and the citizens. Once the homeless population is allowed to roam around the City, to and from these encampments, they will steal, use drugs, ruin property value, and camp in places they are not allowed to be. This will also draw more homeless from surrounding areas. In Seattle the police no longer enforce any kind of trespassing because they are stretched so thin. This will clearly be an even greater problem in Bremerton. By next year the City will decide it cannot enforce any homeless trespassing laws and there will be people living in our properties and community areas, just like they do in Seattle. Please recommend to the Council that they do not pass this measure and keep the laws regarding the homeless population the way they are.

--

Max Miller, P.E

**From:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:36 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Denise Frey <Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Michael Goodnow <Michael.Goodnow@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Eric Younger <eric.younger@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Quinn Dennehy <Quinn.Dennehy@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Anna Mockler <Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** FW: BMC 9.32 Unauthorized Camping - Available Shelter Space Definition

FYI...

**From:** Greg Wheeler  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:02 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** BMC 9.32 Unauthorized Camping - Available Shelter Space Definition

Council,

The Council considered the Available Shelter Space definition in use in other cities during the Study Session on August 9th and decided against including a provision like the ones in use in other cities, particularly Poulsbo and Port Orchard. Here are the examples that were included in the Council packet for that meeting:

Auburn

"An overnight shelter is available if an individual is prevented from using an otherwise available shelter space because of their past or present voluntary actions such as unlawful drug use or possession, criminal act(s), unruly behavior or willful violation of shelter rules or restrictions pertaining to such activity."

Port Orchard

"If the person is unable to utilize an available overnight shelter due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, unruly or assaultive behavior, or violation of shelter rules, the overnight shelter space shall still be considered available for the purposes of this section."

Poulsbo

"The accommodation is considered available if the individual could not use the accommodation due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, unruly behavior or violation of shelter rules."

Redmond

"The space is considered available if the individual could not use the space due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use or unruly behavior."

I am asking that the Council include similar language in Bremerton's definition of available shelter space. This language closes a loophole for people who prefer living in an unregulated encampment and refuse to follow shelter rules. I do not want Bremerton to be the only city on the Kitsap Peninsula

without this common sense approach. Not having this language will allow the worst acting people to escape the consequences of not complying with this ordinance.

9/12/2023

City Council, Eric Younger, Mayor Greg Wheeler,

Good afternoon. My name is Megan Jones, and I am a 10-year resident at 1203 Oyster Bay Ave S. I live with my baby daughter and dogs. My house is directly next to the proposed land where you are planning to rehome drug addicts. What you are proposing will cause grievous harm to my family, my personal property, my neighbors, and our community as a whole.

The below circled area is where my home is located:



I am a taxpaying citizen of Bremerton and have never missed a rent payment. So why is it that my life, my child's life, my pet's lives, and my personal belongings are now at severe risk because of your decisions? Why are so many other Bremerton citizens put in a similar position, when we are doing what we should be doing (i.e. working jobs, paying rent, etc.) and are not a drag on the community?

I will not tolerate criminals being allowed to live directly next to me in a small, uninhabitable, dry, forested area. There is no place for anybody to feasibly live in the forested blackberries. Moreover, this area is mostly a very steep hill, thick with underbrush and blackberry bushes. The whole area is inhospitable, and it is not safe for homeless or anyone else to live there. On top of that, it is not close to any services that homeless people can utilize. There are no food banks, bathrooms, or anything else they would need to live. Have any of you visited any of the areas where you intend to put the homeless people, or do you not care, as long as it is out of downtown and away from city hall?

Unsafe proposed public land:









Likewise, where will the homeless use the restroom or get food without any amenities nearby? Will they go into the neighboring dealerships for these services, or will they come knocking on our doors? Will they wander into our yards and expose themselves to our children when they use the restroom in public, like they do when they are downtown? What will prevent them from wandering and camping in the open area in front of my house? What will prevent them from shitting, shooting up, bathing, or having sex in my yard, in full view of my child and the children at the bus stop right there? Do you view this as appropriate because this can and will happen to any houses neighboring your proposal.

Open area in front of my house where the homeless will inevitably camp:





My friends live right next to these same homeless drug addicts in downtown Bremerton, which you seek to relocate right next to our houses. They have lived there for years, and in the years that they have lived there, one or more of the following are daily experiences for them. The homeless go through any personal belongings or trash left outside and steal things. They pull on their house and car doors to see if they are unlocked. They look through their windows and loiter outside their bedroom window, so that my friends cannot leave their windows open for safety reasons, even when it's hot outside. The homeless are also constantly yelling obscenities outside their house at all hours, disrupting their sleep and lives.

Moreover, my friends recently had their dog stolen in front of them by the homeless drug addicts, and it took them 2 hours to track them down and recover their dog. Further, a lady high on meth tried to smash in their neighbor's door, wrecked everything she had in front of her house, and took her outside furniture to try to smash her windows in. The homeless have also been tagging houses and personal property next door to my friend's house, and they have very recently burnt down part of their neighbors house as seen below.

Burnt down house next to my friend's house, downtown Bremerton:



How is the city council going to ensure that my house does not burn down, when drug addicts are notorious for unsafe fire practices. According to the fire chief, they do not

use safe burning materials, and instead burn whatever they can find – 2x4s, trash, etc. The fire chief says he can do nothing to stop them from doing this other than cite them useless ticket violations. Moreover, the addicts often go into drug induced comas after lighting up, which could ignite a forest fire. Across Highway 3 from my house, I watched two sections of the freeway burn down the past two years in a row, from what I assume was a lit cigarette being tossed out of the window of a vehicle. How will this be any different if homeless drug addicts light fires or use drugs in the dry, forested area next to my house? My house is completely surrounded by tall trees. How am I supposed to escape a fire? What if I am not home when they burn down my house? Are all my animals supposed to die because of a crackhead, or am I just never allowed to leave my house.

Fire hazard: dry, dead underbrush/leaves on proposed land, not yet cleaned up by city:





The fire chief said there is nothing I can do to prevent the fires either, because my house has dry grass in front of it, and cinder block burns and crumbles. Moreover, what will happen to the power lines that run through the trees if the forest catches on fire, since the trees have grown into them? Have there been any environmental impact studies done? Have there been any safety/fire hazard studies done? Have there been any impact studies or safety/security studies done of placing the homeless next to the county's waste treatment plant? Or does the city council just want to hide their problems with a band aid, instead of fixing the actual homeless epidemic. Are the council members going to open their front and backyard to homeless "campers", or are they just going to pass the issue onto us to deal with?

How am I supposed to protect my house from being burnt down? Is the city going to do a thorough cleanup of all the dry, dead underbrush and leaves that cover all the areas where they are proposing to place the homeless? Am I going to have to several times a day check on the homeless to make sure they are not lighting fires or lighting up drugs to prevent my house from burning down? Am I going to have to perpetually call the fire and/or police department to report hazards, and further waste their time and resources, because of the city council's actions.

Moreover, how am I going to keep my personal property safe? Is the city council going to pay for me and my neighbors to get individual storage units and security systems? I have outside patio tables and chairs, weight equipment, my baby's sand box, gardening items, etc., all of which I have no space for inside my house. If I do not secure my belongings from the homeless, they will all be stolen over time. My property manager said that this is what they did to his other tenants' personal belongings when they moved into the area behind Fred Meyer. The homeless turned from a few of them to a hundred and went into all the backyards and stole people's belongings. This is what they have done to several of my friends downtown as well. My friends can no longer keep anything outside, or it will be gone through and taken.

Am I supposed to sit outside all day and night to ensure they don't take my belongings, and when they inevitably do, will the police going to do anything about it? The police chief has already stated in the neighborhood meeting that the BPD does not have the manpower to deal with this, that we need to police ourselves, and that personal property will not be treated as important. Will the city council then pay me back for theft incurred due to the council's direct actions? Likewise, I will no longer be able to leave my windows open in the summer when it is hot out, because it will not be safe to do so? I will also have to keep my curtains always closed, so that the homeless will not be able to see inside my house to scout for items that they can break in and steal when I am not home, as they do with my friend downtown's house, since they know the police will do nothing about it. This has been my personal experience with the police, as they do not care about theft.

Will the city also pay for us all to have a po box, so that we don't get our mail and packages stolen? How will the city prevent my and my neighbors' cars from being broken into? How will the city prevent our trash cans from being rifled through, as has been the experience for many people I know? Will the city pick up the trash that is subsequently spilled everywhere?

How is the city council going to ensure the sanitation of the homeless in the area? How will the city ensure that the eventual biohazard risk that moving the homeless next to my house will not pose a problem? Where will they use the bathroom or dispose of their drug needles. Where will they shower and receive access to help and care? There are no services in any of our neighborhoods.

This was an issue for the Starbucks on Warren & 6<sup>th</sup>, because even though they've only been open a few years, they already had to remove every last table and chairs from their facility and roped off the bathroom from public use. When I asked them why, they said it was because all the homeless would come in and sleep and do drugs in the bathrooms and at the tables. This Starbucks is a stone's throw from MLK Way, which is the population that you want to then disperse to our homes.

This large Starbucks is completely devoid of furniture and restrooms now:



Moreover, will the council personally ensure that the homeless will only inhabit city property? Will the council put up fences properly marking where they are “allowed” to be? It will only be a matter of time before they start camping in the large open area that is my house/apartment’s shared yard instead of in the uninhabitable blackberry bushes that the council wants to move them to. Will the police enforce their removal from my immediate property, or will they have “squatter’s rights”?

There are many more issues that I have with your proposal. First, I won't be able to use my yard anymore as there will be homeless drug addicts living in the bushes and trespassing on my property. My dogs and child will not be able to play in the yard that I pay for anymore for because of safety issues - potentially being exposed to drugs, diseases, and theft. My friends had their dog stolen directly from them by the same homeless people downtown that you want to relocate to my house and other people's houses. It took them 2 hours to recover their dog from the homeless.

There will also be a biohazard issue. Who will be cleaning up and sanitizing my property when they shit in my yard or shit in my child's sandbox? Or will I be expected to now pick up human shit, like I do when I clean up after my dogs? I am not exaggerating, because these are all things that I have seen or they have done to my friends. I have had several people tell me their experiences, several of which being that the homeless trespass and shit in their yard and on their belongings. I personally have seen handfuls of shit smeared down walls in Seattle, and had to hold my breath everyday in the elevator I used to take, because it was constantly being pissed in. Moreover, my property manager said that this is what happened to his previous tenants, so I have no doubt that this is what will happen to my property.

Even the fire chief told me they had to completely cut off access to their outside water hose, because the homeless wouldn't just fill up their water bottles. They would use the hose to shower and to use the bathroom, and they wouldn't shut the hose off after. Tons of water would be wasted and run everywhere all night. We have a hose on my property, so how will you ensure that when I look outside my window, I will not see a naked person showering in my yard when I have a kid? Will the city cover the cost of the water bill when the homeless use what the other tenants and I pay for?

Moreover, how will the city protect the children at their bus stop or the Kitsap Transit bus stop riders whose stop is on the proposed displacement location? How will you protect the children who get off at that bus stop from seeing naked homeless people, as I have, or protect them from drug needles and shit all over the ground? Will the city prosecute them for exposing themselves to children? How will you protect people from being accosted when they ride the 551 am bus during the dark, winter hours, or the late-night buses, when there are drug addicts who live at the bus stop? I talked with some of the parents at the bus stop, and they are very concerned for their children's safety.



Kitsap Transit/School Bus Stop Oyster Bay Ave S & Roosevelt Ave:



Further, this will have long-term repercussions in the community. Talking with my property manager, we both agreed that if this comes to pass, eventually everyone will move out of the four units on our property, and they will not be able to rent to any future paying tenants. They might also have issues with squatters breaking into the then unoccupied houses. This will inevitably cause the owner to lose her property without having the cash flow from paying tenants, and subsequently cause her to sue the city, because she will have lost her property due to direct actions from the city council. This is reality, as the exact thing happened to my property manager's other properties when the homeless people invaded their area.

Now apply this to all of Bremerton, and how many people will lose their properties in a similar way, or choose to leave Kitsap altogether because their homes and families are no longer safe and there is no legal recourse in keeping them safe. Over time, Bremerton will turn into a rundown, desolate community like so many others where similar things have happened, and the blame will be on you.

Why do I have to pay rent, only to live in fear, due to the city council's actions of housing a majority drug addict population of homeless next to my and other people's houses throughout Bremerton, limiting any recourse we have to protect ourselves? This will destroy any safety I have, as a rent paying tenant and a taxpayer of Bremerton, because of the actions of the city council, and will prevent me from living in Kitsap in the future.

This is an entirely ridiculous and offensive proposal by city council with little or no thought as to its enforceability or consequences, and all I have seen so far is the city council displacing blame to everyone else, such as the mayor, police chief, etc.

I will NOT tolerate this next to my house, or any other peoples' houses in the community.

v/r,

Megan Jones

From: Megan C Jones <megan@megancjones.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:21 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler

<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Eric Younger <eric.younger@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

Subject: STOP: Ordinance 5482

**From:** Megan Sherman <[mpickett333@gmail.com](mailto:mpickett333@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:56 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed homeless encampment areas

Hello,

I am a voter and I live in downtown Bremerton.

I'm very concerned about the proposed homeless encampment areas. One appears to be in a busy, very visible intersection across from a children's park and another appears to be close to a church that I know has a school in it. I see a plan to push homeless closer to kids play areas, practice football fields, a church, and a school. Please don't approve these areas. Please find another way to address this issue.

Thank you,

Megan Sherman

**From:** Michael Cloonan <[mdcloonan@yahoo.com](mailto:mdcloonan@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I recently learned of the proposal to create legal homeless encampments around Bremerton. One of the locations is 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, an institution that's very important to me and the other members of our parish.

My concern is for the safety of the kids attending this school. Creating a hot bed of drug use and crime right next to a school seems like an obvious recipe for problems.

The homeless need to be held to the same laws and standards as the rest of us. Simply providing them a legal place to camp does not address the deeper issues with their lifestyle and choices. The best thing for them and for the city is to offer them a path to getting a job and standing on their own two feet. Refusal to get off the street needs to be met with legal consequences. It's time we stop enabling their destructive behavior and reclaim our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cloonan  
717-723-2792

**From:** Michael Cloonan <mdcloonan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:01 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment

Dear City Council,

I recently learned of the proposal to create legal homeless encampments around Bremerton. One of the locations is 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, an institution that's very important to me and the other members of our parish.

My concern is for the safety of the kids attending this school. Creating a hot bed of drug use and crime right next to a school seems like an obvious recipe for problems.

The homeless need to be held to the same laws and standards as the rest of us. Simply providing them a legal place to camp does not address the deeper issues with their lifestyle and choices. The best thing for them and for the city is to offer them a path to getting a job and standing on their own two feet. Refusal to get off the street needs to be met with legal consequences. It's time we stop enabling their destructive behavior and reclaim our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cloonan  
717-723-2792

From: Michael Flaherty <[mflaherty1966@gmail.com](mailto:mflaherty1966@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 5:58 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J Flaherty  
7744 Peridot Pl NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

**From:** Michael Hodosky <m3hodosky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns over proposed homeless encampments near schools

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. I understand your desire to aid the homeless however placing them in the vicinity of a school and neighbors creates unnecessary risk to the community.

In addition, Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. Both of which can create situations in which citizens to include children may be harmed or harrassed. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Hodosky  
2660 Burke Bay Ave, Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** [thenwcp@gmail.com](mailto:thenwcp@gmail.com) <[thenwcp@gmail.com](mailto:thenwcp@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:46 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Larson

5152 Sinclair Way

Bremerton, WA 98312



**From:** Michele <michele.leslie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:04 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Question

Hello Council,

I have reviewed what Councilmember Coughlin posted on Instagram regarding the revised camping ordinance and I do not understand how it is any different than what is going on currently. What is the point of adopting it?

There does not appear to be any protection for our sidewalks or effort to keep them ADA compliant. Furthermore, your idea to break up the large camp into smaller camps spread throughout the city had more potential to actually help people experiencing homelessness.

We've seen throughout history that the concentration of poverty brings the group down further and makes it harder and harder to get out of. This is multiplied exponentially when fentanyl is involved. New people to the camp become exposed and addicted when drug dealers have easy access to new and growing populations in one spot. The same is true for other predators.

My stepsister is addicted to drugs and living on the streets. We have tried many many times to get her to come home, but she has found easy access to drugs in a permanent encampment. There is no incentive for her to change when she has what she needs to feed her addiction and no threat of enforcement. Being forced to move on a regular basis is an incentive to get help and could help people like her get out of a terrible situation. Camps like the one on MLK are a dead end for people. There will never be enough shelter space while fentanyl is rampant in our community.

Smaller camping areas have the potential for some clusters to be drug free and make it harder for dealers to hit everyone at once. Being spread throughout neighborhoods could help people feel more normal and like there is a way out. It is a way more humane option.

Please consider bringing back the draft ordinance from your study session with the amendments recommended by the Mayor. We need smaller camps, less access to drugs, and more enforcement to incentivize people to get help and create positive change.

Thank you for listening,  
Michele Leslie  
Bremerton District #3

**From:** Mike and Joanna Cichy <[cichyclan@gmail.com](mailto:cichyclan@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:51 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike and Joanna Cichy  
3670 NE Nobles LN  
Bremerton, WA

**From:** Mike and Joanna Cichy <cichyclan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 1:54 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Bremerton City Council,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. We urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike and Joanna Cichy  
3670 NE Nobles LN  
Bremerton, WA

**From:** Min T <minimin0526@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. **My child Lynne Tabone is a Junior at Aquinas Classical Academy High School** and I am greatly concerned about her safety.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Min Tabone  
1520 5<sup>th</sup> St  
Bremerton WA 98337

September 19, 2023

Councilmembers,

We do not envy your task of amending the No Camping Ordinance to comply with the ruling of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. We're confident that your team looked at all public lands and developed criteria to screen them for suitable locations for a use that was always going to be difficult to site.

Our main question is why critical areas were not screened out on the first pass. We live near the wetlands off of Lakehurst Dr NW. It is a wholly inappropriate location to allow camping for many reasons, primarily because it is a wetland ecosystem. We aren't attempting to classify it with a specific designation but a casual observer can see that it is wet year round and has all the hallmarks, like skunk cabbage.

It flows directly into Kitsap Lake. The City has spent a lot of money here over the years to combat toxic algae blooms and other public health hazards. Kitsap Lake outfalls into Chico Creek and the Puget Sound. Numerous government entities and many thousands of taxpayer dollars have nearly completed massive improvements to this watershed to improve water quality and salmon habitat.

It does not make sense to enable a circumstance that would inevitably pollute these water bodies and counter all recent investments to reduce the amount of fecal coliform. This would not align with the City's obligation and stated goal to protect these waters of statewide significance. Wetlands are not a place where you can "simply" (at great expense) scrape several inches of soil to clean up after a homeless camp. Once this environment is destroyed, it is not possible to return to its natural state.

Lakehurst Dr is also not an appropriate place to allow for camping. It is narrow and unmarked, with no space for parking for car campers and RVs, which would also leach pollutants into the water system. There are no services nearby and it does not have access to high-capacity transit. The public facility that is nearby is an elementary school. It does not make sense to consider this area for camping because of access and public health and safety issues, which are responsibilities of City government and stated priorities.

*For these reasons, we ask that all wetland areas and options in proximity to Lakehurst Dr be removed from consideration as places where the No Camping Ordinance would not be enforced. But we also want to amplify the concerns of every resident who has expressed similar reasons why the area near their home should not be considered, whether this is because it is a wetland or other critical component of the natural stormwater system, is on a steep slope, or near a school.*

Any time the Council debates an issue that involves people's homes, it is always contentious. Any time a local jurisdiction tries to confront a national problem, which is already overwhelming the region, it's inherently controversial.

It is also worth acknowledging that a significant part of the frustration that is being directed towards the Council during this particular conversation is related to the lack of enforcement of the current No Camping Ordinance. Long-time Bremertonians are seeing the area they have loved and felt safe in changing rapidly. Newer residents who moved across the water to escape the escalating crisis of homelessness in Seattle and other cities are watching a familiar story, and they do not like where the

plot line is headed. All are scared for the safety of their families, worried about their primary investments, and mourning the potential loss of the natural beauty that makes this place so special.

One of our friends recently posted about an incident at the Burger King near Warren Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> St where a man was masturbating in full view of the drive-through. One of our neighbors talked to a woman in that area who had to abandon her home because, as an elderly widow who has custody of a young girl, she did not feel safe. The realtor won't list the house until the tents on the sidewalk by her front yard are gone. What happens to that woman and that child if their vacant home becomes occupied and destroyed and she cannot access the equity her and her (recently deceased) husband put into it?

At some point, insurance companies and attorneys may debate whether this kind of loss is an act of God or a "taking" for which the City is culpable because it didn't enforce its regulations, but there are a host of reasons that it seems inadvisable to neglect the duties of government. Sidewalks obstructed by tents are not ADA compliant and unsanitary conditions put public health at risk.

So we implore the Council to consider a comprehensive suite of options for how to combat the crisis of persons experiencing homelessness, especially those who experience it chronically. If the City can provide sufficient shelter beds to comply with the Circuit Court decision, this takes pressure off of the neighborhoods that are concerned about the official lack of enforcement of the No Camping Ordinance. But this does not address the issue of those that do not accept housing because they are suffering from addiction and/or mental illness. The City will need to invest in services and facilities for these people rather than neglecting to enforce the ordinances already in place.


There are no easy or affordable solutions to any of these problems, but the residents of this community are asking our leaders to be creative and proactive about addressing complex societal issues at the local level. We need you to do this in a way that is humane to those suffering from addiction and mental illness or who just can't keep up with rising costs of living, but also in a way that respects the natural environment and those that love and have invested in this community.

Sincerely and respectfully,

---

Brandon and Miranda Redinger  
6033 Harlow Dr, Bremerton

Brian & Dalene Keith  
Dalene Keith  
Brian Keith  
6041 Harlow Drive  
Bremerton

  
BRUCE YEE  
6047 HARLOW DR.  
BREMERTON, WA 98312

From: Miranda Redinger <mirandaredinger@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:03 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Public comment letter for tonight's meeting

I'm hoping the attached can still be included in the Council packet.

Thanks,  
Miranda

From: [molokai5@icloud.com](mailto:molokai5@icloud.com) <[molokai5@icloud.com](mailto:molokai5@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:29 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Cc: Father Derek Lappe <[email@fellowshipone.com](mailto:email@fellowshipone.com)>  
Subject: Homeless encampments near our schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

We are writing to you to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near our schools, specifically the one near Aquinas Classical Academy. (close to 500 feet)

This would be a potential safety issue for our children. We urge you to consider alternative solutions to the root problems of substance abuse and mental health issues.

The county has at least six different animal shelters, so why are you considering outdoor encampments for homeless people? Think about it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr.and Mrs. Steven Paul  
10205 Manitou Beach Drive  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

**From:** Nicole Pike <nicolekccp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:08 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Shelter Ordinance

The the members of Bremerton City Council,

I am writing in regards to the current homeless epidemic that has taken over downtown Bremerton. I am a homeowner on DR MLK WAY. It is offensive that the city picked the smallest and most disjointed street downtown to rename in the honor of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. This street has now become a haven for the homeless. It is not safe for the human beings having to live in these conditions, it is not safe for the home owners, and it is not safe for the city.

The ordinance operates under the myth we have a shelter in place. The city has closed all of the shelters and so, by proxy, the ordinance would immediately go into place. Ticketing people who have no income or housing, further worsening the issues.

Forcing people into the woods and patches of grass is just as cruel. There will be no services or resources. Those who have physical impairments or disabilities will not be able to access these areas. You will be spreading out the issue and making our city look overrun by the homeless.

You will be moving this vulnerable/dangerous population closer to my employment which is at a preschool and day care. We will no longer be able to safely have our students go on field trips or walks around the block. We have several employees who walk to work and have to pass these encampments. One of our employees' apartments was shot at last week. They have constant screaming and fighting going on in front of their building.

On a personal note, my property has been trespassed, damaged, items stolen, and our street is used as housing and permanent parking.

I ask that you seriously re-consider this as a non-viable option. What are the hoped outcomes for this proposition? Please, do not vote this ordinance into place. Allocate funds for a real shelter with access to resources.

Thank you,  
Nicole Pike



From: W & O Grindstaff <wogrind7@icloud.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:59 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Camping Ordinance Feedback

Good morning,

At the end of August I witnessed people setting up 1-very large tent behind nursing facilities near Clare Ave, at the end of the Warren Ave bridge. This has now grown and spread to other tents, and large amounts of garbage scattered around the area. I have also seen a large propane tank. It smells like disgusting fecal matter, urine, and garbage. I know this because I, like a lot of other people frequently run, bike, and walk the area.

This is a very hazardous safety issue because it is directly behind nursing facilities with vulnerable adults. It is also a very large environmental and health issue, which needs to be cleared. I would venture to guess that if a homeowner was doing this and a neighbor complained, it would be addressed immediately, as I hope this will be addressed timely.

I also want to give feedback on a location that may be allowed near the Bremerton Y, on old Wheaton Way in Manette. The lot is in a residential area and not a good location due to the close proximity to the Bremerton Y and residential homes.

Thank you,  
Olga Grindstaff  
360-731-7549

**From:** Pacita Payne <[paynepacita@gmail.com](mailto:paynepacita@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:30 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pacita Payne  
7675 Camano Ct NW  
Bremerton WA 98311

From: A Santiago <[dayspring05@gmail.com](mailto:dayspring05@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 10:03 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. To be effective, the remedies should be well-staffed and thoughtful and not just move things out of sight. Is there a way to partner and further support the Kitsap Rescue Mission and/or the County's Pacific Building project?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick & Alma Santiago  
7633 Orcas Pl NW  
Bremerton WA 98311

9/18/23

To [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa) <greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa7

Dear City Council

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge Mayor Greg Wheeler to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents and students.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Marz

P.O. Box 4643

Bremerton, WA 98312

9/20/23

9/18/23

To: [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us) [city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Dear City Council

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge all the City Council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents and students.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Marz

P.O. Box 4643

Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Rachel Vrazel <[rachelvrazel03@gmail.com](mailto:rachelvrazel03@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:53 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge you and the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Vrazel  
1545 6th Street  
Bremerton, WA, 98337

From: RICHARD ASCHE <reasche@aol.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:32 AM  
To: Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.usto  
Cc: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless Camp

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

PS.

At one time doors to Catholic Churches were open 24/7!! What if it were your home!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Asche  
2599 Alaska Ave. E  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

**From:** [ritadady@wavecable.com](mailto:ritadady@wavecable.com) <[ritadady@wavecable.com](mailto:ritadady@wavecable.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 5:49 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita Flaherty  
7744 Peridot Place NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383



From: Rob Gudmundson <[robert.gudmundson@gmail.com](mailto:robert.gudmundson@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:32 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler:

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

The City of Seattle has followed similar strategies to the one you are considering and the result has been disaster and national ridicule. Placing an encampment in this area offers at best a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. At worst it will increase the problem of homelessness as it has done in Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, and other cities.

As a member of this community who works at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and attends church in Bremerton, I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rob Gudmundson

**From:** Robert Sheridan <[redcedar23@gmail.com](mailto:redcedar23@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:06 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment

Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Sheridan  
1010 Perry Avenue #304  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** Rod Malcom <rmalcom@suquamish.nsn.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Garrett Jackson <Garrett.Jackson@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Alison Osullivan <aosullivan@suquamish.nsn.us>  
**Subject:** Update to BMC Chapter 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping" Comments from the Suquamish Tribe's Natural Resources Department

Below are some comments from the Tribe for the City Council to consider during their discussion about amending Draft Ordinance No. 5482. The Tribe is sympathetic to the plight of homeless people, however, feels suspending enforcement of the Ordinance at some City properties will create environmental issues that affect the Tribe. The Suquamish Tribe was not notified of these changes and therefore did not submit comments during the comment period provided.

Homeless encampments typically contain materials (both transported in and waste materials, including human waste) and have activities that generate adverse impacts on the environment, such as trampling and cutting of vegetation; out of control fires; contamination of soils, surface or groundwaters from materials stored at the site or from maintenance on vehicles and equipment. The Tribe is concerned some of the sites the City is considering contain features that will enable onsite impacts to be transferred offsite and affect riparian areas, streams, and shellfish. The Tribe is already working with the Bremerton Kitsap County Health District to address shellfish harvest closures as a result of elevated levels of fecal coliform in Chico Bay. This is not only an inconvenience, but impacts the cultural and economic welfare of the Suquamish Tribe. The Tribe requests that all properties adjacent to Kitsap lake or adjacent to tributaries that drain into Chico Bay, Ostrich Bay or Oyster Bay be removed from consideration.

The City cannot rely upon the presence of dumpsters and portable toilets to prevent waste materials from entering the soil or leaving most sites. First, these receptacles must be used by the residents (an unlikely occurrence given what is observed at homeless encampments) and second they must be serviced at frequent intervals. Waste materials, particularly human waste that enters surface water can be transported long distances and reach downstream resources. Though the individual loading from an encampment itself might not result in water quality or sediment exceedances, these cumulative loadings that are in addition to existing loadings might. For example, Kitsap Lake and portions of Kitsap Creek are listed on the 303(d) list for fecal coliform. Adjacent to another proposed site is another stream, Wright Creek, on the list rated as a Category 2. These increased loadings could result in shellfish closures such as in the nearshore area of Dyes Inlet by Chico Creek or other areas. This would adversely affect the Tribe's treaty rights and shellfish operations.

Most encampments expand over time. Some of the proposed areas are close to streams and camp residents may make frequent trips to these streams to get water, bathe, etc. It should be expected that vegetation will be cut and cleared. Additionally, some of the sites are located in or near landslide or erosion hazards areas or next to streams or marine shorelines. People moving up and down the slopes to access the streams or shoreline can destabilize the slopes leading to slope failure and sediment inputs. The proposed activity does not comply with either the CAO, the SMP or SMA. To reduce the potential for damage to critical areas, any proposed sites that include critical areas (wetlands, streams, steep and/or unstable slopes, aquifer recharge areas, etc) and their buffers should be removed from consideration.

The following locations should be removed from consideration:

Zone	Property	Concern
1 – North Eastern Bremerton	Tracyton	There is an unnamed stream WRIA 15.0262, some of which is mapped as Type F, within the proposed area. Additionally, some of the site is mapped as landslide hazard area and most as an erosion hazard area. Tribal members harvest shellfish on beaches along Tracyton, a harvest that could be at risk from runoff associated with an encampment.
1 – North Eastern Bremerton	Area south of Pat Carey Vista along Tracyton Beach Road NW	This area located along the beach can easily result in water contamination depending upon activities at the site. Locating dense homeless encampments in the marine shoreline buffer is not appropriate, is not a water dependent use, and violates both the SMP and the SMA.
3 – West Bremerton	Near intersection of Lakehurst Drive and Lakemont Ln if extended west.	This is in the Kitsap Lake drainage area. Kitsap Lake already has a nutrient issue which the City is attempting to address. Also the Lake has elevated fecal coliform. Chico Creek, downstream of Kitsap Lake, supports salmonids harvested by the Tribe and the intertidal areas near the mouth of Chico Creek are used by the Tribe to harvest and raise shellfish. Additional human waste entering the waters will impact Tribal resource and harvest activities.
4 – Kitsap Lake to State Highway 3	Properties adjacent to or part of Kitsap Lake Park.	Any encampments here can easily become large and generate large amounts of materials that could degrade water quality particularly since this sites are near wetlands or hydric soils. Locating large encampments on or near heavily utilized recreation areas will not only result in health and environmental hazards but will likely result in public safety issues.
4 – Kitsap Lake to State Highway 3	Near Watershed Rd and Sinclair Way	These sites are in or near mapped erosion and landslide hazard areas and abut a salmonid bearing stream.

Roderick Malcom  
 Biologist/Ecologist  
 Natural Resources Department



P.O. Box 498 (mailing)  
18490 Suquamish Way  
Suquamish, WA 98392  
Phone: (360) 394-8449

**From:** Roderick Camarce <roderick.camarce@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 9:10 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** No to the proposed homeless camp sites

Please city council

Do not allow these homeless campsites allowed.

It will not help the problem and only enable it.

Why can't you find a building and open a new shelter for them?

They will hurt our neighborhoods and property value and hurt public safety.

Do the right thing and do not allow this and open a shelter

Thanks,  
Roderick

**From:** ronald thompson <[rorgordo@hotmail.com](mailto:rorgordo@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Upcoming Homeless Encampment City Council Vote

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

It's come to my attention that a proposed city council land use vote is coming up which will allow for homeless encampments. Without getting into why homelessness is increasing exponentially in the area, or the conundrum of how to deal with it, I'd like to take a moment to note that one of the locations being considered is very close to The Holy Trinity Church in Northeast Bremerton. This church is also the location of Aquinas Classical Academy High School, the only Catholic high school in the region.

Please do not allow the approval of this particular location. A Quiet area with a small private school is no place to add a homeless encampment, along with the inevitable drugs and crime that would come with it. There must be other locations which could be used for such purposes.

Please consider this carefully and do what is best for the kids of the school and the residents of the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Thompson

Bremerton resident.

[rorgordo@hotmail.com](mailto:rorgordo@hotmail.com)

**From:** Roy Runyon <[sealance2449@gmail.com](mailto:sealance2449@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:27 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division

To Whom It May Concern,

Kitsap County has an entire division within its Human Services Dept. dedicated to addressing homelessness. Here is the county web page for that division

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Housing-and-Homelessness-Landing.aspx>

BTW, it appears the "Housing for All" program is defunct despite the construction of a dozen shelters. Please learn the lessons of this failure to avoid mistakes in provision of shelter space.

-Roy Runyon  
Citizen and Taxpayer



From: Russell Barrett <russellbarrettj@comcast.net>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:08 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kim Ricklefs-Barrett <Karmadeux@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Homeless and Squatter Concerns in the City of Bremerton

Hello Members of the Bremerton City Council,

I would like to express my opinion and concerns regarding the Homeless and Squatter community in our city and the proposed changes. I am very opposed to any encampment in a residential area ,a home owners easement with the city streets or in our parks and green spaces.

I am a property owner in the city ,for over twenty six years. I pay taxes, maintain my property, shop when possible locally ,my children attended school here and my wife was locally employed by a Bremerton business. I have a home in west Bremerton. A nice old home I have put considerable love and money into to maintain and improve. In the past twenty six years I have had numerous issues and encounters with thieves , vagrants, prostitution , drug dealers , neighborhood domestic violence , criminals chopping cars and people running guns. Ninety percent of these issues originated from two properties near my home that were and still are a Mecca for Squatters and Homeless people. This was the result of negligence by slum landlords for the most part. My family has been threatened , my property stolen and vandalized on numerous occasions. I have not given up I still live here even though a police officer suggested I and my neighbors should move. I was told they are understaffed, or the other excuse underfunded.

I ask you what is the purpose of local government?

To provide Safety and Health for the citizens is the correct answer. I ask you who funds City Government and their salaries ?

Taxes from property owners and sales tax from local businesses.

Well in the twenty six years I have lived here I can certainly say say the business community is suffering and I have lost two separate neighbors in less than three months because of the homeless issues. Look at downtown , sixth street at the lack of Merchants or ones that have given up. No one in my neighborhood feels safe. This is in part to our proximity to the homeless encampment on Broadway. The people of that group do not stay in their tents. They wander all over our neighborhoods going through trash ,stealing , selling drugs and in some instances vandalism. I can show any one interested my ring camera footage, and if your items are not bolted down or locked away they will be taken from your yard. I have had them sleep in my yard and boat and steal water from my hydrant.

I understand homelessness is a problem. Well life is tough for everyone. On some level homelessness has become a scam for some of our community. They have figured out how to get food, hygiene services and clothes with no effort . "Breakfast at Sally's " is a book written by an author here in Bremerton. Basically it's a how to guide to use the system in place here. Read it if you get an opportunity.

Homeless people of course are not all the same . Many have legitimate issues and need help especially women and children. Not able bodied men necessarily. Men and women who are exploiting the System and have funds for alcohol and drugs and have made a lifetime career out of homelessness .

So now we come to the 9th Circuit decision regarding homelessness... Martin v Boise.

Perhaps Judge Berzon had good intentions ,yet it should not be practiced Carte Blanche. If a community can afford to provide a shelter awesome ,but not at the expense of the community to where it becomes a financial hardship or a health and safety issue. Perhaps this decision should be challenged or conditions be attached to it. No property owner should have to experience some one camping in their easement or adjacent to their property. If I want to support the homeless it should be my choice not something I am forced to do. I doubt Judge Berzon drives through a homeless encampment on her way to Starbucks or has them camping in her front yard. Why is it I ask that Bremerton is having such an issue ? Is Bainbridge or Gig Harbor ,well no it is not tolerated and they do not make it easy to be homeless there.

You might ask why I am not more supportive of the homeless ? Well look at our parks ,no longer do we have restrooms, there is human waste everywhere , they are not safe for our children. The homeless have ruined our public libraries which are closed now on weekend days and reek of the odor of unwashed bodies. Both SAARS and Safeway have had to close their restrooms. Fred Meyer closes the side doors early and Safeway has permanently closed half of their entry ways. Those encampments at Broadway and MLK are breeding grounds for crime and disease. They have rat infestations and inadequate sewage and sanitary services. How many felons, miscreants ,drug offenders and dangerous sex offenders are inhabiting these camps ?

Well I have expressed my concerns over the situation, I feel I should offer some solutions.

1. Refund Salvation Army perhaps help them expand 2. Look at the abandoned properties on Wheaton way and the Harrison complex.

3. Purchase large military style tents ,provide them with sanitation ,water and heat.

Then establish a camp but with a public works type program like in the thirties, they receive food and lodging but do public work like the WPA in 1941.

I bet the city could find an appropriate location. Training and a stipend could be Funded through grants.

Turning the old Harrison Hospital building or the graveyard of properties around and adjacent to it into homeless shelters might be the best solution . It is criminal a city of this size has lost its hospital, someone really dropped the ball there.

You might ask funding ? Well you could loose a few FTE positions in city government or even disband the ineffective police department and contract with the Kitsap Sheriffs department or even King County. The Bremerton police department is lacking a drug unit, canines, forensic unit ,bomb squad, swat, bicycle units ,air or marine support. We do not even have dedicated neighborhood beat officers anymore. Considering the size of our city ,the terrain , policies regarding pursuits I wonder why we have so many individual offices in very expensive SUVs when something much more affordable and appropriate would work as well . You might enquire with King County or Kitsap County and see what they can offer and compare the costs. I figure that is as fair as asking property owners or responsible renters to accept homeless encampments in their neighborhoods.

Another source of funding is businesses and sales tax. Is this a friendly attractive place for businesses? No not small or large. Look at what we have here. How many have opened right outside the city limits ? We have some junk stores, a Good Will ,a few grocery stores that struggle , a hodgepodge of coffee shops and a few sad restaurants which some are not even open on Sunday. The homeless situation exacerbates this problem, how long until the Burger King and the Starbucks close ? The plant shop , and the Edward Jones recently did and Kaiser left as well. Due to homelessness and safety issues.

In closing I would also request that you look into squatters inhabiting nuisance properties in our neighborhoods as well.

I love when there is an altercation the police eventually arrive and I am told every neighborhood has a problem house in Bremerton, yours is particularly bad maybe you and your neighbors should move. Well two have recently.

In my neighborhood as many as eleven people are camping in tents in a dilapidated property behind an out of code fence at 1241 8th street.

This is a documented nuisance property since at least 2016 !

Why is it allowed to continue to exist ?

Why has it not been abated and demolished?

If I do not follow the laws and codes I am certainly notified and threatened with fines.

I have a very naughty rosemary bush that sometimes touches the dilapidated sidewalk that Mayor Wheeler has promised me both times he has run would see that it gets fixed.

This by the way is a major thoroughfare that is not ADA safe and crumbling. It runs along Veneta and is a tripping falling hazard.

Every code relating to a nuisance property or hazardous building is and has been violated plus it has a rat infestation. Good thing they do not have a rosemary bush they might get in trouble.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Russell Barrett

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Sara Sexton <[go2mass69@gmail.com](mailto:go2mass69@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:22 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments Proposed New Locations  
Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am very concerned about the possibility of allowing homeless campers to use the 40 acre public land parcel located near Parkwood pool.

My daughter is a student at the high school on Pine just around the corner and our whole family attends church at Holy Trinity at the same location. We are familiar with this area and know that the homeless population can only be served here with tremendous hardship, since it is a somewhat remote area as far as services are concerned.

Please keep working toward solving the problem of homeless encampments around Bremerton. It is a complex issue which will not be resolved simply by moving the homeless campers to a different location.

Respectfully,

Sara Sexton

**From:** Scott Cronkrite <scott.cronkrite@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:52 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Abandoned vehicles, vandalism, and littering

Good morning,

As the subject states there's a few issues to address. The parking lot adjacent to Bremerton Lanes and Auto Glass Plus is becoming a dump. As of 9/19/2023 there are three abandoned vehicles there, two are slowly being ripped apart and the latest RV isn't too far from being added to the list. I see police coming by from time to time, but nothing seems to be done about the issue. I've reported the issues on the Bremerton1 app, still nothing. I live on Lilac LN, just a short walk away and frequently see the assumed vandals/vagrants/litterers on the abandoned property on my street, but nothing is being done about that either. It's getting to where I'm worried about them getting more brazen when the weather starts to turn. Are these going to be my new "neighbors"? Are they going to take refuge on one of our properties once they burn the wildfire waiting to happen of a property next to mine? What gives? These are clearly abandoned vehicles/properties and they are quickly becoming a danger to those of us that live near by. Please do something about this.

Thank you,  
Scott Cronkrite

**From:** Scott Richardson <sronmi@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:59 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Ann Richardson <ann.b.richardson@hotmail.com>; er4674 <er4674@aol.com>  
**Subject:** New Camping Ordinance = Very Bad Idea!!!

Dear City Leaders,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott & Ann Richardson  
7394 Clover Blossom Lane NE  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** Scott Sandridge <scottsandridge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 8:24 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** District 6 - Possible to purchase undevelopable city lot in West Hills?

Greetings city council,

I know there have been a lot of people around here up in arms about the new proposals, and maybe selling the lot pictured below could be a solution for this area? The particular lot is not really suitable for camping or any development due to the rough terrain and dense vegetation, but a lot of people are worried about the new policy here anyways. I live nearby and would be interested in picking it up for conservation / passive rec use cases (conservation easement would be OK).

Please let me know if this could be a viable option to explore further.

Thanks,  
Scott Sandridge



From: Scott Sargeant <[scottwsargeant@gmail.com](mailto:scottwsargeant@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:24 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Fwd: Homeless Encampments

**Hello Mayor & City Council,**

**Everyone I have spoke with in regards to the new idea is outraged. Our family owns businesses here and we do everything we can to help the homeless in any way we can. We are also parishioners at the Star of the Sea Church where 3 of our 5 children attend school. We teach our children to feed the hungry but we also teach our children that we must accountable and willing to work.**

**My solution for the homeless will more than likely be overlooked but my vision would be a place where these people could farm and work to earn there right to live? A concept that includes a community approach. Not just scattering them around the county to become another issue for someone else.**

**Please feel free to reach out anytime and I would love to buy you a cup of coffee at our newest addition in the Big Apple Diner. Thanks so much for taking your time to listen**

**Respectfully,  
Scott & Jessica Sargeant**

Scott W. Sargeant  
Owner | Sargeant Management LLC.  
2171 NW Erlands Point Rd. - Bremerton WA. 98312

Office: 360-813-3501 Cell: 360-535-3267





**From:** Scott Sargeant <scottwsargeant@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jessica Andersen <jandersen20@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments

**Hello Mayor & City Council,**

**Everyone I have spoke with in regards to the new idea is outraged. Our family owns businesses here and we do everything we can to help the homeless in any way we can. We are also parishioners at the Star of the Sea Church where 3 of our 5 children attend school. We teach our children to feed the hungry but we also teach our children that we must accountable and willing to work.**

**My solution for the homeless will more than likely be overlooked but my vision would be a place where these people could farm and work to earn there right to live? A concept that includes a community approach. Not just scattering them around the county to become another issue for someone else.**

**Please feel free to reach out anytime and I would love to buy you a cup of coffee at our newest addition in the Big Apple Diner. Thanks so much for taking your time to listen**

**Respectfully,  
Scott & Jessica Sargeant**

Scott W. Sargeant  
Owner | Sargeant Management LLC.  
2171 NW Erlands Point Rd. - Bremerton WA. 98312

Office: 360-813-3501 Cell: 360-535-3267



**From:** Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:38 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; colleen.keltz@ecy.wa.gov; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Proposed homeless Encampments

This area off of Sinclair Way needs to be scrapped from the proposed areas for homeless just like the area off of pine as it is a watershed and has streams and creeks with fish and wildlife. I did not hear this area mentioned in the meeting yesterday like the other one.

I have proposed the Bremerton hospital in Bremerton that is vacant but no response. Midway Inn in Bremerton is another location that is vacant. These are facilities and not out in the streets.

I also noticed that Eric younger is in charge of District 7 but does not live in district 7 is that normal for how the council is made up?

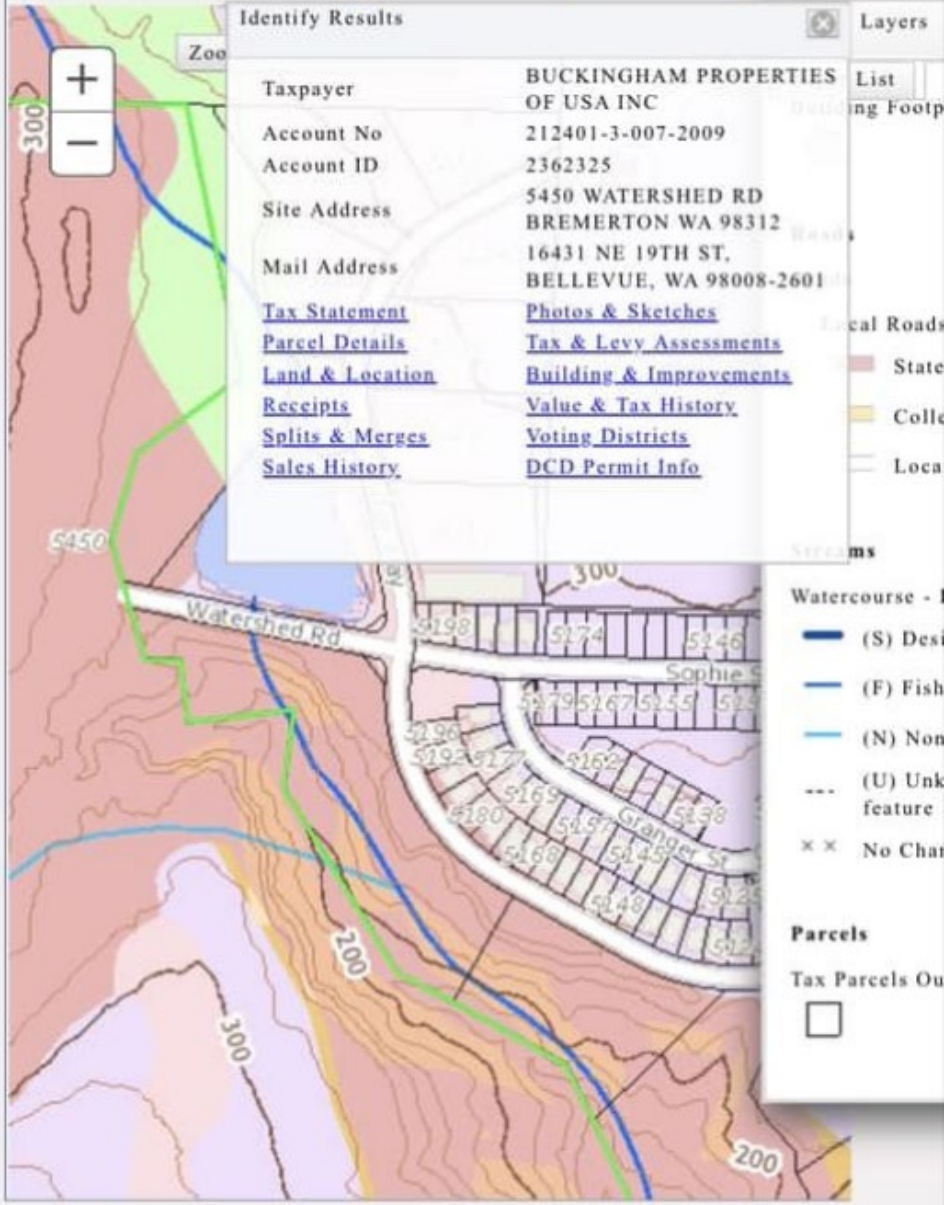


### Search Options

- Parcel No
- Site Address
- Mail Address

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



Identify Results	
Taxpayer	BUCKINGHAM PROPERTIES OF USA INC
Account No	212401-3-007-2009
Account ID	2362325
Site Address	5450 WATERSHED RD BREMERTON WA 98312
Mail Address	16431 NE 19TH ST, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-2601
<a href="#">Tax Statement</a>	<a href="#">Photos &amp; Sketches</a>
<a href="#">Parcel Details</a>	<a href="#">Tax &amp; Levy Assessments</a>
<a href="#">Land &amp; Location</a>	<a href="#">Building &amp; Improvements</a>
<a href="#">Receipts</a>	<a href="#">Value &amp; Tax History</a>
<a href="#">Splits &amp; Merges</a>	<a href="#">Voting Districts</a>
<a href="#">Sales History</a>	<a href="#">DCD Permit Info</a>

- Layers
- Building Footp
  - Woods
  - Local Roads
  - State
  - Collec
  - Loca
  - Streams
  - Watercourse - I
  - (S) Desi
  - (F) Fish
  - (N) Non
  - (U) Unk feature
  - × × No Char
  - Parcels**
  - Tax Parcels Ou



### Search Options

- Parcel No
- Site Address
- Mail Address

Zoom In Zoom Out Full Extent Prev Extent Next Extent



#### Manage Layers

Layer List  Legend

##### Building Footprints



##### Roads

###### Roads

###### Local Roads

- State Highway
- Collector / Arterial
- Local Roads

##### Streams

###### Watercourse - DNR and Wildfish Com

- (S) Designated Shoreline of the
- (F) Fish Habitat
- (N) Non-fish Habitat
- (U) Unknown, unmodeled hydro
- No Channel as depicted by DNR

##### Parcels

###### Tax Parcels Outlines



Thank You!

**From:** Sheila McKenna <[skmken57@gmail.com](mailto:skmken57@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:30 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Homeless encampment

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

**From:** **Sheila McKenna** <[skmken57@gmail.com](mailto:skmken57@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Sep 15, 2023, 11:18 AM  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment  
**To:** <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila McKenna  
4760 NW Walgren Dr  
Silverdale, WA 98383.

**From:** Sheila McKenna <skmken57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:18 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila McKenna  
4760 NW Walgren Dr  
Silverdale, WA 98383.

**From:** selhiggs@outlook.com <selhiggs@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:31 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council;

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Stuart E Higgs  
7420 State Hwy 3 SW #43  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Susan Gundersen <[susanwiggs@gmail.com](mailto:susanwiggs@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:22 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council  
<[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Public camping issue

Please see my attached letter regarding next Wednesday's vote on the public camping ordinance.

Thank you,

Susan Gundersen



**From:** Sue Sue <suesuepv@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:12 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Venard, P.E.  
1722 Gregory Way  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Susan Gundersen  
2609 E 17th St,  
Bremerton, WA 98310  
[susanwiggs@gmail.com](mailto:susanwiggs@gmail.com)  
206.713.3385

15 September 2023

Honorable Mayor Greg Wheeler :: [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
Bremerton City Council :: [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Norm Dicks Government Center  
345 6th St., Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Proposed Designated Public Camping Sites

I am writing to express my deep concerns and reservations about the proposed designated public camping sites for unhoused individuals on city-owned property, specifically the micro sites on Wheaton Way and in Manette. While I understand the city's intention to address the issue of homelessness, there are significant issues with the proposed sites that warrant reconsideration.

Several of the proposed sites appear to fall short of the minimum acreage requirements established by the Ninth Circuit's *Martin vs. Boise* ruling. This ruling is crucial in ensuring that the rights of unhoused individuals are protected, and we must adhere to these standards to avoid legal complications.

Furthermore, the proposed sites lack the necessary setbacks from residential homes. This oversight can lead to potential conflicts and discomfort for both the campers and nearby residents. It is essential to find a balance that respects the rights and well-being of all parties involved.

Several other factors make these sites inappropriate for designated public camping. Sanitation issues, the risk of fire and theft, and the lack of access to essential services and facilities, such as mental health services, hotels, shelter beds, grocery stores, restaurants, employment opportunities, and transportation, pose significant challenges for the campers' well-being and safety.

Moreover, the proximity of the Wheaton Way sites to Olympic College raises concerns about the safety of young students. It is crucial to consider the potential impact on the vulnerable college community.

I urge the Bremerton City Council to reconsider the proposed designated public camping sites and explore alternative solutions that provide safe and supportive environments for unhoused individuals while also respecting the rights and concerns of residents and institutions in the vicinity.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to serving our community. Please cast your vote against this ill-considered ordinance at next Wednesday's meeting and allow time to find a more workable solution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Susan Gundersen*

From: Susan Gundersen <susanwiggs@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:22 AM

To: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

Subject: Public camping issue

**From:** tijayfox@aol.com <tijayfox@aol.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:45 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Increase enforcement of existing laws! Do NOT relax laws!

I see tyou have delayed your vote on increasing the lawlessness in bremerton to 9/20. Please place homeless criminals at the Kitsap County or City J A I L if we have any of those left. Or insane asylums for the criminally insane. Cite the ones who are breaking the law and take them to jail. And enforce the laws on the books,. Do NOT change them and make them more lenient! Teresa Fox,1735 Shorewood Drive, Bremerton, WA 98312 (360) 536 8177.

**From:** Terry Cooper <[terrycooper24@gmail.com](mailto:terrycooper24@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:40 AM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns over proposed homeless encampments

Dear City Council and Mayor Greg Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500' from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents.

I know that if the 'vacant lot' next to any of your homes was the chosen place they could move-you would not approve of that plan. The residents of your city DO NOT want the homeless in their neighborhoods.

Terry Cooper-I live in PO but own multiples properties in Bremerton  
4826 SE Sleepy Hollow Court  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

**From:** Terry Cooper <terrycooper24@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:40 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns over proposed homeless encampments

Dear City Council and Mayor Greg Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500' from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents.

I know that if the 'vacant lot' next to any of your homes was the chosen place they could move-you would not approve of that plan. The residents of your city DO NOT want the homeless in their neighborhoods.

Terry Cooper-I live in PO but own multiples properties in Bremerton  
4826 SE Sleepy Hollow Court  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

**From:** [t-devins@wavecable.com](mailto:t-devins@wavecable.com) <[t-devins@wavecable.com](mailto:t-devins@wavecable.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 4:17 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Please reject plan for homeless camp 500 feet from St. Thomas Classical Academy; please protect our children!

Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas and JoAnn Devins  
7305 NW Duckabush Lane  
Silverdale, WA 98383]

**From:** Thomas Dunne <tedunne830@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:34 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** unsanctioned camping

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor Wheeler -

I am writing concerning unhoused residents and the previous proposal to move folks to several vacant parcels of land, allowing for "camping" there. I have many concerns about this based on my working with this population for 41 years in Seattle/King County and Tacoma/Pierce County as well as currently here in Bremerton but before raising those with you, my understanding is Mr. Wheeler has requested that the matter be continued and allow for a more thorough study and vetting of this proposal. I totally concur and support his request - there is so much that needs to be taken into consideration prior to enacting such a notion and adding it to the Municipal Code.

Please- let's take some extra time to consider all the ramifications and possible alternatives so we get this right and have viable and positive alternatives for folks. Additionally, I am open to having a conversation with each, or all of you, regarding this important and critical issue.

Thank you,  
Tom Dunne  
313 E. 30th - Unit A  
Bremerton - 98310  
(206-290-7301)



**From:** Tracy Hogg <[cookiehogg@yahoo.com](mailto:cookiehogg@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 6:53 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of the Kitsap County area, specifically the city of Bremerton.

My family has lived in this area for the past 23 years and counting. We have raised two daughters here and have made roots with friends and neighbors. In recent years the tentacles of the homeless population have crossed to this side of the pond from Seattle and other neighboring areas into our beautiful community. I have compassion for people. I am a Hospice worker and have seen families in pain and am there to grieve with them the best I can. Placing the homeless population in areas of city-owned land is not really showing compassion, but just placing a band-aid on a gaping wound. What these people need are job coaching, basic life skills, and for some, perhaps rehab. The list could go on and on for the needs of this population. What they need is a hand-up.

Some of the locations of the proposed land sites are too close to churches and schools. We have heard the stories of other homeless encampments where crime is typical, such as rape, and fires being set. By setting up these encampments, it would do great harm to our community. I know we should do something about our homeless brothers and sisters, but giving them land to do their drugs and God only-knows-what doesn't help any of them either. I know that this is a complex situation. The state has programs to help people seek job skills to go toward building a better life for themselves and their families.

I urge you to please DON'T designate the city land to homeless encampments. It would be a great disservice to the community and to the homeless population as well. It would only be enabling them and not helping them in any way.

Thank you for your time.

Tracy Hogg  
Concerned Citizen

**From:** Travis Rickett <travisrickett@kw.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless housing concerns

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Travis and Christina Rickett

**From:** Tyler Castile <[tylercastile@gmail.com](mailto:tylercastile@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns over proposed homeless encampment

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Castile  
11498 butler ave sw

**From:** Tyler Castile <tylercastile@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:05 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns over homeless encampment

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Castile  
11498 butler ave  
Port Orchard, wa, 98367

**From:** Venus Pettersen <[venus.pettersen@icloud.com](mailto:venus.pettersen@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:01 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless camp

Dear Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Venus Pettersen  
2629 Cascade Trl  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** Veronica Ramsey <[veronicalramsey@gmail.com](mailto:veronicalramsey@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:51 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Urgent message from the Pastor

Dear Greg Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. **The ACTUAL reason that there is an increase in homelessness is due to a LACK of AFFORDABLE HOUSING. (Based on a survey from Washington State.) If you want to solve the problem, make it easier to build in Washington, make it easier to rent out houses and help organizations that wish to do so.** KCR is a good place to start, as I have seen how broken that system is. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica Ramsey  
6653 NW Newberry Hill Rd, Silverdale, WA 98383

**From:** Veronica Ramsey <veronicalramsey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:48 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. **The ACTUAL reason that there is an increase in homelessness is due to a LACK of AFFORDABLE HOUSING. (Based on a survey from Washington State.) If you want to solve the problem, make it easier to build in Washington, make it easier to rent out houses and help organizations that wish to do so.** I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica Ramsey  
6653 NW Newberry Hill Rd, Silverdale, WA 98383

**From:** Victoria Crescenzi <[vtc9171964@gmail.com](mailto:vtc9171964@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 6:51 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

I am the biology teacher at Aquinas Classical Academy. I use the woods behind the school as a living classroom for teaching biology. We have already had class outside and will be doing so through the school year. We will also have compost projects and potentially gardens and bee hives which will require students to be in those wooded areas even on weekends and holidays. I am very concerned that having a homeless encampment in this location will seriously limit the scientific exploration and education of these children.

We all obviously are concerned for the well being of the unhoused in our community. We hope and expect the city of Bremerton and all the local and state governments to explore appropriate lasting policies which actually address the causes of homelessness. We would support opportunities to support them while they work towards finding real permanent solutions and housing that they can sustain. However the current environment of the homeless population cannot be hidden in the woods without deleterious effects on our children.

Placing an encampment in this area hides an aesthetic problem for the city. It certainly doesn't offer any support or solution to the people it is designed to impact. It has greater unintended and unconsidered consequences especially for the safety of the children enrolled in the Aquinas Classical Academy. It does not address deeper issues like substance abuse, crime, joblessness, lack of affordable housing in our areas, limited job skills training, and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Crescenzi MD CDR (ret)  
1696 NW Viewmont Court

Silverdale, Washington 98383



**From:** Barb&WayneNelson <[waybar2@comcast.net](mailto:waybar2@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:47 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Vote Change on Homeless Ordinance

Hello Mayor Wheeler,

I spoke with you briefly at the Wednesday neighborhood meeting in Pinewood. Today I read the article in the Sun that the Council Vote on the ordinance has been postponed pending further study and assessment of the issue and its effects on homeless, neighborhoods, schools, fire and police response, etc. 1 hour later I was amazed to see a correction and the Vote WILL take place at next Wednesday the 20th meeting.

This is totally WRONG! You can't tell me that in one day, the council had time to Fully Assess the issue including ALL of the Impacts on ALL parties concerned with this.

I implore you to do something to walk this back so that an educated and just Ordinance can be written and approved. ALSO, many people who read the initial story may have not read the amended story and will understand that the Vote has been delayed. This council seems to be totally inept at the correct and just way to proceed with a matter that affects so many people in Bremerton.

I sent our Council Rep. Jennifer Chamberlin an email about this and have not heard back from her.

Again, your help on this is needed NOW! Thank You

Wayne Nelson

Wayne & Barb Nelson  
[waybar2@comcast.net](mailto:waybar2@comcast.net)

**From:** wendy mcdermed <wendymcd@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:08 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns over proposed encampment right by a school AND church

Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools and churches

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Our children's safety is our top priority!

I'm thinking you didn't realize there is a school and a church (where classes are held for toddlers on up) very near the proposed site!

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A worried Bremerton resident

**From:** William Sherry <[william.sherry001@gmail.com](mailto:william.sherry001@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:19 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Sherry

1242 8th St  
Bremerton, Wa, 98337  
Cell 360-356-0577

**From:** Yukari Endo <bonjourway@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:54 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Opposing the homeless drug criminal encampment

Dear The Bremerton City Councils

I had lived in Seattle for the past two decades and saw all criminal activities from so called homeless encampment but in fact, they are all drug addicts and commit crimes towards all of us. My friend who was a very famous sushi chef was murdered and killed by the drug addicts from the encampment.

If ever the elected council along with you vote proving the drug and crime encampment,

The link is about the north Seattle cleared the encampment after years of complaint. This happened last year, my question is... will those criminals come to our neighborhood? Are you sending the criminals to our neighborhood with little children?

[After years of complaints about trash, rats and crime, crews clear North Seattle homeless camp](#)



**After years of complaints about trash, rats and crime, crews clear North Seattle homeless camp**

KIRO 7 learned that the city reached out to people who were living in their cars, RVs and tents, to offer shelter.

Thank you for taking time to read the article about homeless encampment in North Seattle.

Sincerely,

Yukari Evins

One of the home owners of Sulphur springs LN Bremerton

**From:** Zehua Zhou <[zehua6666@gmail.com](mailto:zehua6666@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:57 PM

**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns and objections to your homeless plan

Hi Jennifer and Greg,

I am a homeowner on Reagan Ave, Bremerton, and my neighbors told me that you are considering a plan to move homeless people to the wetland areas just next to our community. I am very disappointed and angry about this proposal, as it will dramatically and negatively impact the safety of the neighborhood, and the value of our homes. I strongly object to this plan.



September 19, 2023

Councilmembers,

We do not envy your task of amending the No Camping Ordinance to comply with the ruling of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. We're confident that your team looked at all public lands and developed criteria to screen them for suitable locations for a use that was always going to be difficult to site.

Our main question is why critical areas were not screened out on the first pass. We live near the wetlands off of Lakehurst Dr NW. It is a wholly inappropriate location to allow camping for many reasons, primarily because it is a wetland ecosystem. We aren't attempting to classify it with a specific designation but a casual observer can see that it is wet year round and has all the hallmarks, like skunk cabbage.

It flows directly into Kitsap Lake. The City has spent a lot of money here over the years to combat toxic algae blooms and other public health hazards. Kitsap Lake outfalls into Chico Creek and the Puget Sound. Numerous government entities and many thousands of taxpayer dollars have nearly completed massive improvements to this watershed to improve water quality and salmon habitat.

It does not make sense to enable a circumstance that would inevitably pollute these water bodies and counter all recent investments to reduce the amount of fecal coliform. This would not align with the City's obligation and stated goal to protect these waters of statewide significance. Wetlands are not a place where you can "simply" (at great expense) scrape several inches of soil to clean up after a homeless camp. Once this environment is destroyed, it is not possible to return to its natural state.

Lakehurst Dr is also not an appropriate place to allow for camping. It is narrow and unmarked, with no space for parking for car campers and RVs, which would also leach pollutants into the water system. There are no services nearby and it does not have access to high-capacity transit. The public facility that is nearby is an elementary school. It does not make sense to consider this area for camping because of access and public health and safety issues, which are responsibilities of City government and stated priorities.

*For these reasons, we ask that all wetland areas and options in proximity to Lakehurst Dr be removed from consideration as places where the No Camping Ordinance would not be enforced. But we also want to amplify the concerns of every resident who has expressed similar reasons why the area near their home should not be considered, whether this is because it is a wetland or other critical component of the natural stormwater system, is on a steep slope, or near a school.*

Any time the Council debates an issue that involves people's homes, it is always contentious. Any time a local jurisdiction tries to confront a national problem, which is already overwhelming the region, it's inherently controversial.

It is also worth acknowledging that a significant part of the frustration that is being directed towards the Council during this particular conversation is related to the lack of enforcement of the current No Camping Ordinance. Long-time Bremertonians are seeing the area they have loved and felt safe in changing rapidly. Newer residents who moved across the water to escape the escalating crisis of homelessness in Seattle and other cities are watching a familiar story, and they do not like where the

plot line is headed. All are scared for the safety of their families, worried about their primary investments, and mourning the potential loss of the natural beauty that makes this place so special.

One of our friends recently posted about an incident at the Burger King near Warren Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> St where a man was masturbating in full view of the drive-through. One of our neighbors talked to a woman in that area who had to abandon her home because, as an elderly widow who has custody of a young girl, she did not feel safe. The realtor won't list the house until the tents on the sidewalk by her front yard are gone. What happens to that woman and that child if their vacant home becomes occupied and destroyed and she cannot access the equity her and her (recently deceased) husband put into it?

At some point, insurance companies and attorneys may debate whether this kind of loss is an act of God or a "taking" for which the City is culpable because it didn't enforce its regulations, but there are a host of reasons that it seems inadvisable to neglect the duties of government. Sidewalks obstructed by tents are not ADA compliant and unsanitary conditions put public health at risk.

So we implore the Council to consider a comprehensive suite of options for how to combat the crisis of persons experiencing homelessness, especially those who experience it chronically. If the City can provide sufficient shelter beds to comply with the Circuit Court decision, this takes pressure off of the neighborhoods that are concerned about the official lack of enforcement of the No Camping Ordinance. But this does not address the issue of those that do not accept housing because they are suffering from addiction and/or mental illness. The City will need to invest in services and facilities for these people rather than neglecting to enforce the ordinances already in place.

There are no easy or affordable solutions to any of these problems, but the residents of this community are asking our leaders to be creative and proactive about addressing complex societal issues at the local level. We need you to do this in a way that is humane to those suffering from addiction and mental illness or who just can't keep up with rising costs of living, but also in a way that respects the natural environment and those that love and have invested in this community.

Sincerely and respectfully,

---

Brandon and Miranda Redinger  
6033 Harlow Dr, Bremerton



**From:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 12:07 PM

**To:** Brandon Redinger <branwade@icloud.com>

**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Tom Wolfe <Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Aaron Elton <Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mike Davis <Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** FW: Public comment letter

Good morning Brandon,

Thank you for including me in your timely email. The City Council has developed a camping ordinance and is now scheduled to vote on it this evening (September 20th). It is important for them to hear your comments, questions, and concerns, before they vote so I am including their office in my reply. I am also including the City of Bremerton Police Chief and Captains in my reply to answer the following in your attached letter and your email below:

“It is also worth acknowledging that a significant part of the frustration that is being directed towards the Council during this particular conversation is related to the lack of enforcement of the current No Camping Ordinance”. Take care.

“When we got here, I was struck by the lack of homeless people and asked a cop what they were doing. He said "The Mayor asked us to enforce the No Camping Ordinance." One point in the letter is a recognition that the intense level of frustration directed at Council right now is about the lack of enforcement of the existing ordinance.”

The following conditions have brought about the conditions you currently see in the city and the need for an updated no-camping ordinance. BPD officials will be able to explain in greater detail.

- Salvation Army closed their shelter
- Recent 9<sup>th</sup> circuit court rulings.
- Existing no camping ordinance is unconstitutional

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** Brandon Redinger <[branwade@icloud.com](mailto:branwade@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:23 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Public comment letter

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler,

Attached please find the public comment letter from my wife and I for tonight's Council meeting. We'll be submitting it through the Council website but a bunch of neighbors wanted to sign it. I wanted to send it directly to you.

We want you to know that we understand the legal obligation and the challenge of addressing this crisis. Even though we've only been here for four years, we love it here, are in our forever home, and are very concerned that the problem that drove us from Seattle is transforming this side of the water too. When we got here, I was struck by the lack of homeless people and asked a cop what they were doing. He said "The Mayor asked us to enforce the No Camping Ordinance." One point in the letter is a recognition that the intense level of frustration directed at Council right now is about the lack of enforcement of the existing ordinance.

Just yesterday, Josh Farley and I were cleaning up the Madrona Trails and a clearly high and very angry man who is camping in his RV on a vacant lot beside the hospital came charging at us demanding to know whether we were the ones who called the cops. This area is going to continue to attract campers until it redevelops and it is going to break my heart if the work that Josh and I have done for the last few years to redo the trail system and keep it clean and safe for people is destroyed because families don't feel safe there.

Good luck tonight. We're not going to attend and I'm sure it will be a wild time and a long and intense meeting.

Take care and thanks for listening,  
Brandon

BRANDON WADE REDINGER

**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2023 6:37 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Citizen Message - Camping Concerns (Unknown)

Jeff,

A voice message was received on September 18 at 2:28 PM from an unknown caller. She requested follow-up on concerns about the camping proposal and may be contacted at (564) 229-0035.

A copy of this email will be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



From: Christine Grenier  
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 11:20 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: FW: Mitel voice message from +13602655184 for mailbox 5280 (John Becker)

Call received from John Becker, requested call from President Coughlin on homeless issue, to be included in final record.

From: Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 6:34 PM  
To: Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Mitel voice message from +13602655184 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13602655184 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:02:05. Message size is 977 KB.

From: Christine Grenier <Christine.Grenier@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 11:16 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: FW: Mitel voice message from +16153007218 for mailbox 5280 (Mary Pearce)

Call received re: the homeless issue from Mary Pearce to be included in the record...

From: Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:42 AM  
To: Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Mitel voice message from +16153007218 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +16153007218 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:00:16. Message size is 128 KB.

**From:** Tiffany Hye <thye@catalystpublicschools.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 3:20 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** My speech on the unhoused on MLK

Hello, my name is Tiffany Hye, I am a community leader, I work in this community, and I worship in this community and most importantly I have two boys that are being educated in this community. Also, I get to engage with about 500 scholars that need a voice in this matter. I speak for them today.

Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns about homelessness and unhoused individuals in our community, specifically along MLK street in Bremerton. I want it to be clear that you should have a deep passionate about this issue and the impact it has on your community. Homelessness is indeed a complex and pressing problem, and it's vital for community leaders like yourself to advocate for meaningful solutions.

My suggestions for the mayor and city leaders to actively engage with the issue and involve Leadership Kitsap scholars' class of 2024 in finding solutions that are commendable. Here's a breakdown of my points and some recommendations on how to proceed:

1. **Mayor's Involvement:** I Encourage the mayor to walk down MLK street and witness the situation firsthand when you are walking to work. This can provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by unhoused individuals in the area. Engaging with the community is an essential step in addressing the issue.
2. **Leadership Kitsap Scholars:** Involving Leadership Kitsap scholars in finding solutions to homelessness is a great idea. They can bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table. The mayor should consider forming a task force or committee with these scholars to explore comprehensive solutions.
3. **Safety Concerns:** Addressing safety concerns is critical. Collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of both the unhoused population and the community. Explore strategies such as community policing and outreach programs to build trust and provide support to those in need.
4. **Transparency and Communication:** I am Requesting a timeline from the mayor and city leaders on how they plan to address the homelessness crisis. Encourage open communication with the community to keep everyone informed about the progress being made and the actions being taken.
5. **Collaborative Solutions:** Advocate for a collaborative approach involving various stakeholders, including city officials, social service organizations, housing providers, and concerned community members. Working together can lead to more effective and compassionate solutions. It is not by accident, and I know by designed that the salvation army, the Marvin Williams Center, Bremerton housing and Kitsap community resources is the four cornerstone to the unhoused population
6. **Support Services:** Push for the expansion of support services for unhoused individuals, such as mental health services, addiction treatment, and housing assistance programs. These services can help address the root causes of homelessness.
7. **Affordable Housing:** Emphasize the importance of creating affordable housing options in the community. This can provide a long-term solution to homelessness.

Remember that addressing homelessness is a complex issue that requires sustained effort and collaboration. By continuing to advocate for change and engaging with your community and local leaders, you can play a crucial role in finding meaningful solutions to the crisis on MLK street I want to leave you with this quote.

"The time is always right to do what is right." A quote by Martin Luther King Jr

**From:** Anna Mockler <Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:23 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Helen Havens <fellow\_sojourner@yahoo.com>

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Proposed Camping Ordinance (Helen Havens)

Dear Helen,

I agree that a designated camping site should have facilities including toilets, showers, laundry, regular garbage pick-up, and storage. We learned at our last meeting that the City has security guards (unarmed) trained in conflict resolution, de-escalation, and sympathetic mobilization, so it was suggested they provide some supervision.

Since we got two new pieces of information very late before tonight's meeting, we delayed tonight's vote until we could examine it and discuss it next week. There were so many people who wanted to give public comment tonight that we now have even more information to process.

Really appreciate your thoughtful email. Hope you are well, and thanks again for those masks you gave me in April 2020!

Anna

Anna Mockler

Bremerton City Councilor, District Six

Chair, Public Works and Audit Committees



**From:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 4:13 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; David Bracero <david.bracero1@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - HOMELESSNESS PLAN FOR BREMERTON (David Bracero)

Mr. Bracero,

I am your council person for District 1. Thank you for reaching out with your concerns. I would like to take a moment and dispel some blatant misinformation:

- 1) There are no efforts to "relocate" houseless encampments
- 2) City Council is currently addressing the current unconstitutional camping ordinance but has not voted on it yet
- 3) As it stands because our ordinance is unenforceable. As such, camping is legal in the East Bremerton area and virtually anywhere.
- 4) It is illegal to penalize camping for houseless individuals if no shelter bed is available. In Bremerton we have ZERO shelter beds available until November 1st when Salvation Army reopens for inclement weather. Therefore, council is considering perimeters to comply with the law including spaces to allow camping.

I understand and empathize with your concerns. If you would like to chat with me over the phone I am available for you. Please let me know if you would like to connect.

Jennifer Chamberlin  
Bremerton City Council Vice President  
District 1

**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:23 AM  
**To:** Anna Mockler <Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Mitel voice message from +12064223005 for mailbox 5280 (Alyssa Brock)

Anna,

The attached voicemail was received from Alyssa Brock, who shared her concerns about the camping proposal; and she indicated her parents live on Wycoff. Ms. Brock may be contacted at (206) 422-3005.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:44 AM  
**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +12064223005 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +12064223005 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:00:58. Message size is 453 KB.

**From:** Christine Grenier

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:02 PM

**To:** Michael Goodnow <Michael.Goodnow@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Citizen Message - Camping Concerns (Burwell Place Resident)

Michael,

A voice message was received from a resident of Burwell Place on September 20 at 1:41 PM, who had concerns about the camping proposal. He requested a call at (360) 551-5339.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



**From:** Christine Grenier

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:43 PM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Citizen Message - Proposed Camping Concerns (Carol Shae Ryder)

Jeff,

A voice message was received on September 18 at 3:25 PM from Carol Shae Ryder. She had concerns about the camping proposal which included areas near schools, bus stops, and backyards. Mr. Ryder may be contacted at (360) 277-1316.

A copy of this email will be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



**From:** Christine Grenier

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:33 PM

**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Citizen Message - Camping & Legal Questions (Jacob Blodgett)

Jennifer,

A voice message was received on September 19 at 2:53 PM from Jacob Blodgett. As a homeless individual, he had questions about the legality of camping in the City, specifically the Tracyton area (Sugar Pine/Essex/Tracyton Beach). Mr. Blodgett requested a call and may be contacted at (253) 313-4237.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



**From:** Christine Grenier

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:49 AM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Citizen Message - Proposed Camping Concerns (John Becker)

Jeff,

A voicemail was received from John Becker on September 17 at 6:34 PM, who had concerns about the camping proposal, specifically the Tracyton area. He indicated he's a resident of Jacobsen Boulevard. Mr. Becker requested a call and may be contacted at (360) 373-5570 or (360) 265-5184.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



**From:** Christine Grenier

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:26 PM

**To:** Michael Goodnow <Michael.Goodnow@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Citizen Message - Proposed Camping Concerns (Jonathan Moore)

Michael,

A voicemail was received from Jonathan Moore (433 S. Constitution) on September 18 at 4:09 PM, who had concerns about the camping proposal. He requested a call at (425) 466-2806.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:34 AM  
**To:** Eric Younger <eric.younger@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Mitel voice message from +13604346760 for mailbox 5280 (Patricia White)

Eric,

The attached voicemail was received from Patricia White, who had concerns about the camping proposal on Lakehurst. Ms. White requested a call and may be contacted at (360) 434-6760.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:05 PM  
**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +13604346760 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13604346760 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:00:21. Message size is 169 KB.



**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:57 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Mitel voice message from +13603778474 for mailbox 5280 (Pykonen Family)

Jennifer,

The attached voicemail was received from the Pykonens, who had concerns about the camping proposal on Pinewood. The Pykonens may be contacted at (360) 377-8474.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:45 PM  
**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +13603778474 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13603778474 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:00:26. Message size is 207 KB.

**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:42 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Citizen Message - Proposed Camping Concerns (Sarah Dargan)

Jennifer,

A voicemail was received from Sarah Dargan (*on September 15 at 10:19 AM*), who was concerned about the camping proposal. Sarah indicated she'd had contact with you during outreach and did not request a call, but may be contacted at (360) 434-2608.

A copy of this email will also be included in the record.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 10:05 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Mitel voice messages from +12068530960 for mailbox 5280 (Yukari Evins)

Jennifer,

The attached voicemails were received from Yukari Evins, who had concerns about the camping proposal. Ms. Evins may be contacted at (206) 853-0960.

A copy of this email will be included in the record, along with an attached email (for your reference).

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:35 PM  
**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +12068530960 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +12068530960 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:01:27. Message size is 682 KB.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +12068530960 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +12068530960 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:01:00. Message size is 469 KB.

**From:** Adam S <[youngmr.shepard@gmail.com](mailto:youngmr.shepard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 6:31 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns of Homeless Encampment Locations

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler:

My name is Adam Shepard and I am writing you out of concern for a potential homeless encampment locations. The location I am referring to is the 40 acre parcel behind Holy Trinity Catholic Church. The fact that encampments have grown in this city is very concerning as it is, but the fact that the city would even consider property within close proximity of churches, schools, or other areas with a high concentration of children is very unsettling. Holy Trinity is both a house of worship and a school housing Aquinas Classical Academy private high school. Additionally, the woods between the church and parcel are often used as retreat areas, areas for prayer, the high school has begun using parcel for track practice, and the woods are used as a course for the church's Easter Egg Hunt.

As such, churches are not just places of worship but of family gatherings. The population of Bremerton is well aware of the reputation of most homeless camps. Even if the communities growing in our city mostly consist of law abiding individuals, the safety of children and the congregation is still uncertain. This is due to the fact that there is no requirement for anyone in an encampment to register with local authorities if they have a history of drugs or criminal activity such as sex offending.

If I may, I understand that the old hospital is another area of consideration. This area would be a more suitable location for an encampment especially as the winter months come up. It is a sheltered location, it has bathroom facilities, showers, proper sleeping quarters, cafeteria facilities, can easily be accessed by local police, EMTs, and fire, and would also provide individuals with an address which will assist them in applying for jobs in an attempt to improve their situation.

Perhaps the city could allocate money to refurbish the old hospital as a proper homeless shelter in the long run? Please Mayor Wheeler, for the safety of our community's children and families do not vote to allow encampments near churches, schools, or parks. If churches wish to assist the homeless, please allow the church to make the decision. For the health and well-being of the homeless in our community a location that can provide a means of proper shelter, such as the hospital, would more ideal.

Thank you

Sincerely:  
Adam Shepard, concerned citizen

**From:** ALISON lente <[3in1-fsandhsamen@comcast.net](mailto:3in1-fsandhsamen@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Camps

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

Knowing that homeless people need a place to live, it is completely wrong to put them close to schools where children are, parks, where children play, housing where there are a lot of children living, and Catholic Churches, which have schools for children and Sunday schools for children or any church where children are learning. You need to rethink your proposal. We don't need children to be exposed to alcohol, drugs, or the likes with homelessness. I understand that not all homeless people are that way. Some homeless people have had the unfortunate circumstance of being removed from their home for not being able to afford payments but don't suffer any addictions. However, we need to protect children. We need to protect our environment, as well. We need to keep Bremerton a clean city. Why would you want to make Bremerton trashy like Seattle was? Please, don't do this to us. Do not put a homeless camp next to Holy Trinity Catholic Church!

Sincerely,

*Alison K. Vermette-Lente, TOF*

**"Spiritual joy arises from purity of the heart and perseverance in prayer." St. Francis of Assisi**

**From:** [alvin-melanie.guzman](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:40:52 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

>

> Dear City Council,

>

> I'm writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

>

> Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Alvin & Melanie Guzman

> 2050 Taft Ave

> Bremerton, WA 98312

>

From: Amy Conner <[amymelissaconner@gmail.com](mailto:amymelissaconner@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:09 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amy Conner  
4481 Eastway Dr SE  
Port Orchard WA, 98366

**From:** [Andrew St.Hilaire](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Encampments  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:53:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings Mayor Wheeler and Brem City Council,

As a business owner in Bremerton, and someone who drives thru the city on nearly a daily basis, it saddens and frustrates me to see the situation with people on the streets worsen. While there are surely those who are down on their luck, and struggling to make ends meet in today's tough economy, it seems many have put themselves in this state either by refusing help and services and/or falling into drug and alcohol addiction. It's a vicious cycle. They need help and being left on the streets is not good for them and it's not good for our community. The trash is unsightly and the people are often in rags and in a drug induced state of mind. It makes members of our community feel unsafe and shows a lack of self respect that we allow this to go on in Bremerton.

I know we're not alone in this struggle. Cities are grappling with it nationwide. A common denominator is fentanyl, but also decriminalization of drug possession. There is heated debate about the answer to all of this, and I won't pretend to know exactly how to solve it as we most likely need a multi-faceted approach.

**Setting up an encampment on city owned property is NOT the answer.** The city supposedly has its hands tied with a court decision saying unless you have a shelter space available for a person on the streets, you cannot take down their tent. There must be another way. Allowing encampments does nothing to help these people, and it can further impose serious safety risks on children and families. They should not be allowed, but most certainly should not be placed near residences, schools, or businesses.

I urge you to find another solution that involves temporary shelters with drug and mental health treatment options and pathways to get people rehabilitated.

Thank you,

Andrew St.Hilaire



**From:** [Anton Preisinger](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#); [Jennifer Chamberlin](#)  
**Cc:** [Maggie Brassil](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Anti-camping ordinance updates  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:28:06 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Response to the Bremerton City Council Study session held on 9/13/2023. Please note, this is solely a response to the ordinance adjustments proposed on 9/13, the list of concerning issues with the rest of the ordinance has not diminished. It is not illegal to be homeless but it should be illegal to continue failing to act in the best interest of people experiencing homelessness.

The first proposed update simply brings part of the ordinance back into compliance with established federal case law. Well done.

The second proposed update, summarized in the meeting packet as providing “a definition of available shelter space that includes public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment, located either in the City, or in Kitsap County if free transportation is available,” is superficially very reasonable and hypothetically could open the door to more shelter choices for people. However, there are some glaring problems that do not appear to have been addressed.

To start, none of the shelters or transitional housing currently operating or planned within the county are set up to conduct intakes on a whim. They’re all coordinated through referrals and procedures which make them unable to accept drop-offs or walk-ins. The one exception is the Salvation Army which does not have capacity for the number of people needing shelter, and their plans keep changing as to what kinds of services they’ll be able to provide (largely because the city has failed to adequately support this service which they now cling to as a life preserver). Anticipating the Mayor’s insistence that more is coming, we need to see that progress first. It has taken several years to make incremental progress on the Pacific Building shelter project in Port Orchard. Anything the Mayor claims to have in the works is years away from realization and should not be included in any calculations of what is available to people today.

Shelter should not be considered available if the person needing help has been banned from utilizing the available shelter. The ordinance puts forth that “Shelter is considered available [even] if a person is...in violation of shelter rules.” Essentially, by counting a shelter “available” even when a person is unable to check in there, the ordinance as currently written, is making it a misdemeanor to violate shelter rules. There are many, many reasons that people end up on the wrong side of shelter rules. The shelters have every right to protect their guests and staff as they see fit with the rules they deem necessary, but

if a person breaks those rules and is no longer able to access said shelter, how is it acceptable to count that shelter as available when determining whether or not to meter out enforcement? I have seen legitimate mental healthcare challenges and physical healthcare barriers result in countless people being turned away from many shelters. We can't let those limitations of the services available close more doors than they already do.

The third proposed adjustment to the ordinance makes the insinuation that intoxication and drug use are "voluntary actions" which is in direct conflict with the current medical understanding of addiction. The most recent revision of the International Classification of Diseases includes many entries for different types of diseases involving addiction. I didn't read through them all, but none of them even began to hint that addiction is a voluntary disease, the very concept is an oxymoron. Shelters will not accept a person who is actively intoxicated by any substance, yet the consequence of the ordinance you are putting forth is that those people will have a misdemeanor added to their list of challenges.

They will go to jail, lose most of their belongings, lose touch with resources, lose what remnants of hope they had remaining or were beginning to reconstruct with help from local outreach services, get released with a new charge on their records, and have no choice but to go back to exactly what they were doing again until someone else calls to complain that they exist.

In addition to the whack-a-mole of sweeps this ordinance is doomed to inject into our community, now the Mayor (this adjustment was included based on his direct request) wants to build a brand new revolving door in and out of our judicial system which will tax resources and result in absolutely zero positive outcomes for the community or the people being charged: It's not a deterrent because people can't choose their way out of these circumstances and it doesn't offset the cost of anything because most won't be able to pay and any fines that do get paid will be insignificant as a municipal funding source. Whatever problem this is supposed to address, the only actual outcome will be more harm to vulnerable people and a less healthy community.

Speaking of harming vulnerable people, there is abundant research showing that adding misdemeanors to a person's criminal record makes it take longer for them to get into housing. What is our goal here? Do we want to punish these people endlessly or would we like to create an environment in which they can succeed? For just one example, according to [\*Success in Housing: How Much Does Criminal Background Matter?\*](#) A Research Project Initiated by Aeon, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, CommonBond Communities, and Project for Pride in Living (the Research Collaborative), Conducted in Partnership with Wilder Research, authored by Cael Warren and released in January 2019, the impact of a single misdemeanor can make it harder for a household to find housing for 2-7 years after a conviction. And this ordinance is proposing to impose this on someone who is already vulnerable simply because that person doesn't accept what the city decides to be adequate

shelter for a single night. People have animals, they have community, they have jobs, they have family, they have a trauma-induced fear of shelter systems and authority, they have countless reasons not to accept the shelter being offered them and they are being given very little reason to trust that anything will be different if they do accept.

Should the Mayor and Bremerton City Council be struck with inspiration to focus on something that will produce positive results, I urge that attention be focused on actually providing those resources listed in the proposed ordinance as being essential, "public or private shelter, transitional housing, or a permitted outdoor encampment." Table this 5482 garbage ordinance for ten years and come back to it once you've successfully stood up an inclusive shelter with wraparound services, or sufficient transitional housing options, or a permitted outdoor encampment with services, or all of the above because we need a full toolbelt in order to properly serve our community. Start with the services and your camping problem will take care of itself or, at the very least, you'll finally be able to arrest some people without compromising the Constitution of the United States of America.

Anton Preisinger  
Founding Executive Director  
Northwest Hospitality  
888-222-5240

[www.nwhospitality.org](http://www.nwhospitality.org)



**From:** [barb frey](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerned home owner  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 10:27:31 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

GREETINGS,

I recently viewed the City of Bremerton Council Study Session.

I currently own my condo on Oyster Bay and have worked on Kitsap Way for 25+ years. The population of Kitsap Way has changed over the years; The Quality Inn became a homeless shelter. Suddenly, we experienced car prowls, mail/package theft, homeless making a home in our parking garage (leaving their trash, urine filled bottles, and drug paraphernalia when they slithered out before morning). The City parking lot above our condos became seriously littered from cars parked there for the night giving inhabitants a place to sleep and leaving their trash and biohazard refuse for someone else to clean up.

Then, Pendleton Place opened. This brought many more people with mental health issues wandering, littering and being troublesome to the Kitsap Way area.

Kitsap Way has many small businesses. Most of these have had property destroyed or stolen and employees harassed.

We, too, have experienced Community issues like MLK and Broadway. I know theirs is extreme in comparison to ours, but when you are the recipient of their unlawful behavior, comparisons don't matter.

There is a housing development just above the Oyster Bay lot you are considering, many small businesses (that have already endured harassment and damage) and a few motels that will be affected by that location.

I am astonished and disappointed that City of Bremerton Council is trying to fix the homeless situation on MLK and Broadway by moving it to ANY other neighborhood. Moving that group will only cause the same havoc in another Community. Please consider other alternatives.

Respectfully

B Frey

Resident

**From:** [Beckie Regusci](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns With Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Pine Road Bremerton Washington  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 8:01:43 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment, near our schools and resources. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

I also have concerns with the wildlife and the environment in that area behind Holy Trinity Church. There are many deer living in this wooded area. Allowing the homeless to camp in this area will harm these animals and could contaminate the creek that flows in this area. As a home owner there are several regulations about the setbacks near waterways (streams/creeks). How will this be enforced/mitigated to ensure that the water doesn't become contaminated? How often will the city go into the encampment to pick up the trash? Will port-a-potties be available to prevent human waste from contaminating the area? Will there be patrols to prevent drug use?

Placing an encampment in this area, offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urged the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beckie Regusci  
276 NW Paulson Road  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Ben](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near School  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 8:11:34 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear city council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy. I attend this school and I'm a freshman starting highschool and would not like to see tents and addicts walking around less than a mile away from us. I am also deeply concerned about the safety of me and my fellow peers, such as how alot of us drive to school and would not like to have our cars broken into, not only that but breaking into our school as well. Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

God bless,  
Benjamin Keller  
7611 Orcas pl. NW  
Bremerton WA 98311

**From:** [Brandon McCormick](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:11:07 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Pope Francis prayer intention for this month is directly relevant to this issue, please meditate on it in your decision making on this matter:

**We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Brandon McCormick  
413 Chester Avenue  
Bremerton, WA, 98337



**From:** Brooke Andersen <[sixesalwayswin@icloud.com](mailto:sixesalwayswin@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:13 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Hi you and your office team should check this out :)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Program | Washington Low  
Income Housing Alliance**  
[wliha.org](http://wliha.org)



Further criminalizing survival is NOT the answer, Mr. Wheeler. Please build or convert a shelter immediately! We need rent control and affordable housing as well, but I have faith that you know that. Ticketing/trying to expedite the ability to push misdemeanor crime charges on an already strained (and in some ways failing) court system is not going to work either.

**“If the penalty for a crime is a fine, that law only exists for the lower classes.”**

Thank you for your time and consideration!

-Brooke Andersen

**From:** [Carolyn Schuster](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 11:25:49 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn D Schuster  
5240 SW Old Clifton Rd  
Port Orchard, Wa 98367

**From:** [spear12](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** No homeless encampment near church and school  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:11:16 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Jackson  
5011 Bowwood cir Ne  
Bremerton Wa 98310

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Charles Bray](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns over proposed homeless encampment near schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 9:00:02 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear, Mayor Wheeler and City Council Members

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residencies. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Bray  
575 Bridle View CT NW  
Bremerton, WA 98386

**From:** [Charles Bray](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed homeless encampment near schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 3:00:12 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear, Council Members

The proposed homeless encampment by Holy Trinity and surrounding communities is not a viable safe solution. The city has not announced any security/police to enforce safety. We all know resources are limited in our post-Covid environment so there won't be any security. To have the encampment overlap with the surrounding *safe* community is not reasonable because it makes it all unsafe. Any council person who is a parent of a student at ACA would not allow a nearby homeless encampment. So, why would citizens, your constituents, allow it? All the proposed encampment does is puts stress on the surrounding areas resources. The solution is simple. Homelessness needs to be contained. They need a safe place and not occupy land without resources. For a post-Covid and high inflation society not many want to pay for... resources!

Charles Bray  
575 Bridle View CT NW  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** [Chelsie Rae Stewart](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed camping in Bremerton  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:22:56 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

> Dear Bremerton City Council,

>

> I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

>

> Placing an encampment at this site or any of the map sites, which is not available to me as a resident, is not solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. It simply moves them to another camping site. I am unaware of any examples of this approach working in anywhere. I urge you, as representatives of all Bremerton residents, to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Chelsie Stewart  
> 2009 Nipsic Ave  
> Bremerton, WA  
> 98310

>

**From:** [Chelsie Rae Stewart](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Encampment camping proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:31:07 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear District 3 Council Member Coughlin,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our students. Other proposed locations are not available to me as a resident since the map access has been removed. I am unaware of any examples of this approach working anywhere. It simply moves the issue possibly out of site with continued safety concerns for other residents.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chelsie Stewart  
2009 Nipsic Ave  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** [Christine B.](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless/Tracyton Water Shed  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 2:04:32 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

9/16/23

City Council,

First, I thank Ms. Chamberlin and Mayor Wheeler for attending our Ridgetop Community meeting on 9/11/2023, as well as the council for addressing the Tracyton Water Shed 40-acre site and those who suggested taking it off the list of sites for the unhoused during the study session.

Since then, I have read about the revised map that will no longer include the extensive list of areas purposed as suggested camping areas.

Homelessness and mental health issues are a degrading and devastating national problem that, unfortunately, is taken too lightly.

That said, everyone knows what problems typically come from homelessness that will and have affected residents:

- a) drugs, alcoholism, overdoses, possible death
- b) sex crimes
- c) crimes, gun violence, break-ins, theft, etc.
- d) fires that have happened way too frequently will happen again
- e) unsanitary living situations, environmental issues, wildlife habitat interruptions, and pollution, which many areas have difficulty recovering from
- f) unintentional injuries on themselves
- g) poor nutrition and starvation
- h) infections, diseases, parasitic infestations, and other disabling conditions
- i) lack of resources if displaced or encouraged to move out too far.
- j) not to mention a sizeable financial burden to surrounding properties, fences, security cameras, additional locks, etc.

I am writing to remind our council that our Tracyton 40-acre fully wooded site, with a giant ravine, close to where hundreds of families with young children and elderly reside, is not the place to encourage unhoused people to come.

Just so everyone knows, my husband and I, a few years back, have already dealt with a man high on methamphetamine breaking down our door in the early morning hours as we slept. The frightful, destructive, and intimidating situation could have been much worse for us and him. He was "someone, someone" who was his mother and enabler.

We want and need to continue protecting this forest and wetland area, possibly considering natural habitat conservation and habitat protection as a way to do so.

Please continue to consider not using this Tracyton Water Shed property at all!



Thank you,  
Christine Brandau

**From:** [Colleen Chamberlain](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Camping Ordinance  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:50:41 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen A. Chamberlain  
9145 Baird CT NW  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** Cristina Tan-Kipp <[mcristina\\_tankipp@yahoo.com](mailto:mcristina_tankipp@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sept 16, 2023

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cristina Tan-Kipp  
1336 NE Echo Dr.  
Bremerton, Wa . 98311

**From:** [Spooner's](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Near Schools (CONCERNS)  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 2:54:46 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council:

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. Monies collected for homeless need to be used for solutions not for temporary housing which merely "hides" the issue. You have already seen many cities try this and it DOES NOT WORK!

You are the folks who are supposed to create solutions, not just kick the bucket down the road. We urge your council to please consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
David and Teresa Spooner  
10555 Lathrop Lane NW  
Silverdale WA. 98383

**From:** [David Cochran](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camps  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 6:58:40 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to oppose using vacant city property to let the homeless camp. I am especially concerned regarding the 40 acre property that is near Aquinas Classical Academy.

This appears to be a band aid approach that does not address the root of the problem. Having the homeless spread throughout the city will ruin neighborhoods and increase the need for additional policing in a wider area.

The root causes of homelessness such as mental illness, criminality, pan handling, and substance abuse need to be addressed. Resources must be put towards dealing with the mental health and substance abuse issues.

I oppose using public property to encourage homeless encampments.

Sincerely,

David Cochran  
3063 Rocky Point Rd. NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** [Elana Voigt](#)  
**To:** [Quinn Dennehy](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homelessness and camping law  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 7:14:07 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing you today as a long time district 4 resident to ask you not to approve the proposed camping law aimed at addressing homelessness in Bremerton. The law as proposed is not a solution to the growing housing crisis that leaves so many of our neighbors unhoused. We need a plan to take a housing first approach to tackling this crisis, dispersing unhoused people farther away from resources, while they still have no transportation or support will not help our community. The proposed plan fails to take into account the needs of the people who are being forced to move to areas where they are going to have a harder time accessing essential services such as food assistance, sanitation and hygiene services, or bus access to essential government services such as DSHS, the Housing and Essential Needs program in downtown Bremerton, or any other services. There is a very simple solution here, open up enough beds in long term public housing buildings to ensure that every unhoused person in the community can have a safe roof over their head. The amount of money we spend hurting these people is more than it would take to simply take care of them. We also need rent control, with caps that will bring down the prices on already over inflated units. If we want to keep this crisis from getting worse we need to keep rents from getting higher. So I urge you to vote no on the current proposal, since it does nothing to actually fix this problem only tries to move it out of sight so that all of the people who have houses don't have to think about the fact that so many in our community do not.

Elana Voigt

From: er4674 (null) <[er4674@aol.com](mailto:er4674@aol.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 8:52 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is falling in deaf ears, but I will send to have my say.

Would you spend your hard earned money for your children to go to a great school, praise God, and be productive members of society? Wait. Do you actually work hard for people who make a difference or do you only care about agendas?

Fight for what is right for those who do right. Find 40 acres away from polite society for those who drain resources and cause havoc. Protect our children!!!!!!

Elizabeth Voss

From: Erin Tharaldson-Pocuis <[erinreg99@hotmail.com](mailto:erinreg99@hotmail.com)>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:41 PM

To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Subject: From Erin Pocuis, Please do not allow a homeless encampment near my daughters school

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Greg...

I hope you are well.

I just heard there is talk of putting a homeless encampment near Holy Trinity in Bremerton.

My daughter just started school there at Aquinas Academy and I am very concerned about the safety of the students if that were to happen. We have gone to great lengths to take her out of the public school system where kids are doing drugs in the bathrooms and many other things that are not safe.

You must know that putting homeless people in camps does not solve any problems, it would more than likely make things worse for them and the community. If you truly care about homeless people, there are better options and I would gladly offer some if you would entertain that.

Please consider other alternatives and please put our hardworking kids in the community and their safety first. Our kids are our future and we need to keep them safe.

Kindly,

Erin Pocuis



**From:** [frank.cruz](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:04:03 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council

I, writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and DOES NOT address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to PLEASE alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Frank Cruz  
1022 5th St.  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** [frank.santos](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Camping Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:03:06 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Santos  
13188 Beech Ave NW,  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

**From:** [Gabriel Crawford](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampments Mental Health and Addictions Concerns  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 7:45:46 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

My name is Mr. Gabriel L.M. Crawford, LMHCA. I am the owner of the St. George Counseling Clinic, that is currently growing in it's focus in treating trauma among combat veterans, current service members, and the local Catholic and Christian community. All are welcome to receive care at our burgeoning clinic at 4th and Pacific. I myself am a Combat veteran, having served in the Military Police Corps of the United States Army.

In my volunteer time, I have spent many hours in service to the homeless on our streets in Bremerton and in Seattle. In Seattle for instance, I taught my twin boys to honor the dignity of the most vulnerable, as I took them with me in my service to those unhoused. Putting a large cooler in a wagon and several packs of cigarettes in my backpack, I simply walked the streets during the hot summer days and offered Gatorade or a simple cigarette to honor the dignity of my sisters and brothers in desperate situation. My heart has been broken as I've watched the increase of unhoused persons sleeping in filthy, desperate, unworthy tents and improvised structures and dismayed by the wafting smoke from pipes and foil. I've seen overdoses from fentanyl and meth here and in Minneapolis in public places and in sight of even the youngest children among us. I know that our hearts are aligned with compassion for this impossible situation and we all want to work together to do what is best for the common good and the vulnerable among us.

I am writing this email as a mental health counselor, veteran, Bremerton resident, father of five, and Catholic Christian because I've recently learned about the proposed legal homeless encampment site on a 40 acre lot next to Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

First, Holy Trinity is a significant Hispanic, Spanish speaking community. The local neighborhood around Holy Trinity houses many of our Hispanic and LatinX neighbors, as is shown by Armin Jahrs Spanish speaking pedagogical approach. I am concerned that this legal encampment merely pushes destitution and addiction into hidden corners and in the vicinity of a minority community that has experienced a long history of racism and xenophobia especially in the area of housing and land.

Second, this encampment is also next to a private high school. Our youth face a difficult future as is evident by teen suicide, rising housing and higher education costs, inflation, and political turmoil. By placing the destitute and underserved in hidden places by our children adds to their difficulties, makes drugs and prostitution more accessible, and puts them in immediate physical, psychological, and emotional danger. We must find better solutions than legal camping. We can do better. I believe in you.

I'm requesting that we table this upcoming vote on Sept. 20th, and find a better solution not only for the currently unhoused but also for our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Gabriel

Bremerton City Council Members,

As Star of the Sea Catholic Church parishioners and donators to Aquinas Academy at Trinity Catholic Church, we have recently become aware of the proposal to create a homeless encampment 500 yards from the school and church with many young families and children. We feel this proposal is just kicking the can down the road and is not a serious solution to Bremerton's homeless.

We strongly oppose this as a reasonable solution to a complicated problem.

Thank you for understanding our objection.

In Christ,

Gary and Karen Bruno

**From:** [Gina Cruz](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns over proposed Homeless Encampment Near School  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 10:45:17 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/ Mayor Wheeler,  
I, writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and DOES NOT address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to PLEASE alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gina Cruz  
1022 5th St.  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** melocotongina <[melocotongina@yahoo.com](mailto:melocotongina@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Camping Ordinance

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Melocoton  
3043 Nipsic Ave.  
Bremerton, WA 98310

From: Greg Bennett <[gregbennett007@gmail.com](mailto:gregbennett007@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 4:20 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Bennett  
622 Hewitt Ave.  
Bremerton, Wa 98337



**From:** [Elizabeth Leonard](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless camping sites  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:59:22 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We do NOT feel ANY camping sights for anyone homeless and/or addicted should be placed near any school. Your recent proposal refers to a spot within 500 feet of Holy Trinity Parish on Pine Rd. There is a parochial school located at Holy Trinity Parish that started this year for High school students. ALSO the Lutheran Church has another school very close by. We must protect these students for any activity which could very easily put them in Harms Way!!!! PLEASE reconsider your proposal very carefully and do not place it near ANY SCHOOL!!!! Thank you James and Elizabeth Leonard Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** [James Waters](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:41:31 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler and the City Council of Bremerton,,

The homeless situation in our community calls for an immediate and serious response that addresses the real cause of homelessness and offers well-staffed, thoughtful, and effective remedies. Setting up temporary or even long-term legal homeless encampments is in no way a solution to the problem of homelessness.

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James and Martha Waters  
3431 NE Shore Cliff St.  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** james freeman <[jcfreeman1959@gmail.com](mailto:jcfreeman1959@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:23 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Church concerns

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor

I concur with the feelings of the church regarding the encampment location. Moreover, I agree something must be done, but the main cause is greed and jacked up rents--even more so than drugs and mental illness.

And yet we do not equally share the burden. I live in West Bremerton and I am afraid to go out after dark due to real concerns. I've been spat on and have had stones hurled at me, and just yesterday a group of three advanced on me wanting to look in my shopping bag. And there is the constant panhandling, becoming increasingly aggressive. Bad off or otherwise, this sort of activity is consistent with camps everywhere. Why should the people who rent on Broadway or in the South Court apartments deal with the filth, needles and dangers more than people who live on Kitsap Lake? Why are the residents suffering secondary and only rewarded with placating duckspeak that infuriates far more than pacifies?

I've lived here since 1965 and in the same 5th Street location since 1998. Frankly, I'm a bit tired of hearing about rights and suffering when the constant pressure and stultifying depression our neighborhoods are under pretty much ruins everything. It's not illegal to be homeless, but there are parasites who attach themselves to such circumstances and they are the ones who sell the stuff that goes in the needles we find lying about. They are the ones who remove sewer covers and knock out store windows and set dumpster fires because there are few consequences for their behavior. Everyone should be held accountable. No one is entitled to a pass due to poverty or hiding within it.

Sadly, since it will take money and action to repair, or at least ease, the ways of the past predict that we can look forward to a bright future for this sort of thing--this cancer that meetings and programs alone will not cure.

Businesses will no longer be able to escape the blight by moving to Silverdale (already infected). Soon, the North Pole will not be far enough. It will cling to everyone as a sort of secular version of Original Sin.

Sincerely,  
James Freeman  
Bremerton, 98337

**From:** [Jim HOCHSTEIN](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** proposed location of homeless camp 20 Sept decision  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 5:51:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [HolyTrinityHomelessSuggestion.doc](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached is my letter sent to the mayor. Please consider wisely.

Sincerely

James Hochstein

1135 National ave S

Bremerton, WA

James R. Hochstein  
1135 National Ave S  
Bremerton, WA 98312

Office of the Mayor  
345 6<sup>th</sup> St #600  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Subject: Suggested solution for street parking of homeless RV's and random tent sites.

Dear Mr. Wheeler

Kitsap Housing Authority, Peninsula Health Services, Kitsap Public Health, Department of Developments, DHS and other public institutions all have as their mission to provide safe support for ALL Kitsap and Bremerton residence. They have identified various needs for the homeless populations, those being jobs, access to housing, sanitation, health care, transportation, food, and safety.

I'm surprised to hear that the Bremerton City council wants to plant them in out of the way places away from the public view and limited access to their needs.

Placing a homeless encampment in a residential neighborhood, within 500 feet of a church and permitted planned high school site, is concerning to me. There is no food source, medical care, etc. in that area near Holy Trinity Church.

I still suggest that Kitsap Parcel 022-00 on 1231 Sheridan Road (former View ridge School site) be configured as a trailer park.

With streets and concrete parking pads and resurrection of the former school sewer system and some fencing, it could become a safe site for our homeless population. It is located on a bus line and walking distance to Save-on Foods

It would provide the residents with an address for their mail, and with some occasional patrols afford them with a safe area to live.

We the public need to keep the homeless in our view (and surveillance) and then perhaps we (the public and agencies) may be motivated to create some solutions, mitigations and avenues for moving out of poverty and despair.

Sincerely

James R Hochstein

Bremerton Resident since 1968

**From:** Janet Eckert <[janeck@sister.com](mailto:janeck@sister.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:09 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Eckert  
1423 17th Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** [Jason Shurtz](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:24:43 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

Attached are some recent news articles from Seattle about homeless encampments near schools.

<https://komonews.com/amp/news/local/seattle-homeless-crisis-encampment-cleared-crime-fire-camp-aurora-avenue-signs-remove-all-property-tent-witness-fire-department-sfd-spd-unhoused-open-air-drug-activity-shooting>

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/bill-would-ban-homeless-camps-within-1000-feet-schools-statewide/7FV76YDOE5CGJBNDXGITS6FLTI/?outputType=amp>

<https://www.king5.com/amp/article/news/local/homeless-encampment-near-broadview-thomson-school-bitter-lake-seattle/281-9affac37-d961-43ba-a3e0-b79bd9c8645a>

<https://komonews.com/amp/news/local/seattle-homelessness-crisis-homeless-ship-canal-bridge-encampment-john-stanford-international-school-elementary-north-wallingford-university-district-protest-demonstration-violence-crime-fire-drugs-chinatown-international-district>

SOON TO BE ILLEGAL IF BILL 5332 PASSES

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,  
Jason Shurtz

**From:** [J Chamberlain](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:48:27 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L Chamberlain  
9145 Baird CT NW  
Bremerton, WA

**From:** [Jennifer DRAGOVICH](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 4:31:41 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Dragovich  
144 S Yantic Ave  
Bremerton, Wa 98312

**From:** [Jenny Mulligan](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:54:45 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mulligan  
2716 NE Athens Way  
Bremerton, Wa 98311

**From:** [Joe Keller](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:16:40 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

> Dear Bremerton City Council,

>

> I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

>

> Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Sincerely,

Joe Keller  
7611 Orcas Pl NW  
Bremerton, WA 98311

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** John O Sullivan <[osullivj@aol.com](mailto:osullivj@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 6:11 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. You are risking the safety of our children and elderly residents in the immediate area. I urge you to lead the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. Allowing homeless or houseless citizens to randomly set up camps anywhere on city property, without due consideration as to the risks, makes it difficult for that segment of the population to receive urgently needed services that are more readily available in closer proximity to the city center and existing support agencies.

While we are not Bremerton residents per say, we travel into town routinely for shopping and religious services to include assisting the unhoused community. We are most concerned for the welfare of our grandchildren who may very well someday be attending schools in the City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John and Marietta O'Sullivan  
7018 Cadmar Lane  
Seabeck, WA. 98380

**From:** [John Boyle](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUIRED - Homeless encampment proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:32:36 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council,

As a property owner in Bremerton and an active community member, I am concerned about the increase in homelessness and closely related drug addiction/mental health issues in our community. I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Boyle  
360.620.9622

--

---

john boyle  
360.620.9622

**From:** [John Velasquez](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [email@fellowshipone.com](mailto:email@fellowshipone.com)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 6:09:50 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler & The Bremerton City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Velasquez  
1728 Harrison Ave SE Apt H4  
Port Orchard, WA 98366



From: Julia McLain <[jemclain01@gmail.com](mailto:jemclain01@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 8:42 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concern and request for clarification

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Greg Wheeler,

I am concerned about homelessness in Kitsap and in general. I recognize it's a crisis and we need to utilize every tool available to responsibly address it in a timely manner.

As it pertains to encampments in an empty lot near a church and high school in East Bremerton, are there any concerns from elected representatives and staff about whether they can adequately ensure a reasonably safe environment for people who use those spaces? Is there discussion about measures that could be taken to keep these encampments healthy environments for the people who will be staying there? Are there best practices for these encampments or are we in brand new territory?

Is there a publication where people can educate themselves about this homelessness crisis? Is there evidence these encampments are helpful in addressing the extensive and ongoing crisis that seems to be without end in sight?

How can you educate the people who struggle with concerns about personal safety, and be transparent about how issues that come up will be mitigated? Do you have any reassurances and how can we keep hope alive? How do you and your team see this situation? What services will people receive? What's the end game?

Honestly I don't know enough about your plans for encampments and I'm certain community members need more info. Can you do anything to raise awareness and garner more community support and input?

Please try to respond as you see fit vs. answering individual questions. Just trying to see some different angles before drawing any conclusions.

I'd like to know what evidence there is for such measures being effective. Please look at Chico, CA's history with encampments in 2021- they were absolutely not well planned and communication with community members was wanting. They put an encampment in an airport outside densely populated areas in the open with very little shade and didn't adequately or realistically address the encampment's residents' needs for a healthy environment. The community was outraged, human rights advocates were outraged. They didn't have enough shelter space for the number of homeless and a judge ordered Chico to not enforce ordinances against camping in public spaces. So that summer they set up an encampment that only someone with the luxury of an rv with a generator could put up with so they c say they were providing enough accommodations for the number of homeless so the judge would allow them to once again enforce ordinances against camping.

Several days temperatures reached 114 degrees F. I'd like to see a coordinated effort that is funded appropriately to keep everyone optimally safe & healthy. I hope it's possible.

I'd like for a delay in the implementation of plans in favor of an extension of the opportunity for community members to weigh in and absorb how this will work. This came to my attention today.

Thank you for your dedication to the work you do, Julia M

**From:** [Katherine Damalas](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:09:42 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE do NOT consider locating homeless encampments near schools, churches, or any areas when the vulnerable will become prey to crime , vandalism etc. Thank you.  
A concerned citizen of Bremerton.

**From:** [Kathleen Snider](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** no to homelessness  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:58:27 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing about moving homeless encampments into neighborhoods near our schools and family residences - as if this will solve or help Bremerton's homeless problem. These happy campers seem to enjoy not paying taxes and avoiding hard work and social responsibilities and using drugs and avoiding the police.

Instead, I'd recommend protecting your hard working homed-citizens from the dangers of crime and vagrancy and drugs that come with the homeless territory. Please don't let your compassion be an excuse to shove this mess into the backyards of hard working Bremertonians.

Thank you for your time.  
Kathleen Snider

**From:** Kay Thompson <[kaythompson1012@gmail.com](mailto:kaythompson1012@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:38 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** UNACCEPTABLE - Vacant City Property

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wheeler

Do you think you can move all the homeless people living in the Bremerton area onto that property? That would be impossible for anyone to imagine. They like to live in tents in convenient locations. Why are they setting up tents in such convenient locations, like around the Starbucks on 6th Street and on the road behind Salvation Army? Have you ever thought about such a thing? The city-owned properties in Bremerton, which you are now trying to open up for the homeless, is not a convenient location. I can't imagine them moving to such a place. In addition, there are schools and churches nearby. Are you not thinking about the safety of our children and residents? It may not matter to you at all because you don't live around it, but it matters to us. Will you open up that lands to the homeless so that in the future, they will be able to work and live in regular houses like the rest of us, rather than as homeless people? It's absolutely not . The future of homeless people will only get worse if you open up the site. We need to consider more fundamental issues than that. We need to think about how they can live a decent life instead of living in a tent. How can they get jobs and live in regular housing? Instead of banishing them to a plot of land, you should have a warm heart and care for them, and think about how to make their future brighter. What you think is just a temporary solution. It's completely useless.

Sincerely,  
Kay Thompson

**From:** Kay Ohnhaus <[kay@agentron.com](mailto:kay@agentron.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:53 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** NO NO NO to camping

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor,

The current harm reduction model is enabling addicts to remain in the slavery of addiction and die a terrible death. In addition it is allowing our beautiful city to be unsafe and unsanitary.

Please do not allow this ANYWHERE!!! Please watch and follow the model shown on Seattle is Dying that invests in getting people out of the lifestyle rather than allowing them to stay in it and harming our city as they do. Make it as hard as possible for people to stay in this unhealthy lifestyle. Have some compassion and hold people accountable to be part of society and behave better.

We have the worst record in this state in terms of spending HUGE amounts of money and having terrible results. We can do better. We have the resources but need to hold people accountable and not allow these horrible things to continue to happen.

We need to stop allowing unsanitary conditions with garbage, human waste, and drug related items. We need to stop allowing crime to skyrocket and affect our peace loving tax paying citizens. The only reason this problem exists is that people are not willing to comply in order to receive services. Let them do that outside of city limits!

I feel so sorry for the people who are living close to this unsafe unsanitary condition. People and businesses are leaving our great city due to this unhealthy, unsuccessful system.

Thank you,

--

Kayren Ohnhaus  
900 Trenton  
Bremerton Wa 98310  
360.340-8723

From: Dkorteza <[dkorteza@comcast.net](mailto:dkorteza@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:15 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Proposed Homeless Encampment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Orteza

**From:** [Kevin Sumner](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Camp Near Schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 7:02:41 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed encampment near Star of the Sea church school. One only needs to observe the negative impact of these decisions in King County. These camps have had fires, homicides, drug dealing and abuse, and sexual assault. How can our children learn and be nurtured in an environment where they may be distracted by constant law enforcement, and first responder activity outside their school, not to mention the possibility of predation, and exposure to all the goings on of activity I mentioned above. I implore the council to consider other locations. I have no idea what is currently going on with the former Harrison hospital site, but feel it could be utilized for this purpose. It has two covered parking garages, and perhaps areas within the building that could house mental health treatment and rehabilitation resources. Let's tackle the root causes of homelessness, and ensure safety for all residents of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Jackie Sumner  
5738 Londonderry Loop NW  
Bremerton, WA. 98312

**From:** [Kimberly Pizanti](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Aquinas Classical Academy (Pinewood Area)  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 8:26:09 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is a 40-acre lot owned by the city which is 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children, especially MY SON. Holy Trinity is no longer "just" a church. There are school children on the premises all day, every day. They use the back wooded area of the property for PE. They do not need to "discover" vagrants and needles while they exercise.

Placing an encampment in this area puts school children, MY SCHOOL CHILD, at risk. The council must absolutely not endanger school children with this temporary solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kim Pizanti  
Bremerton, WA 98312



**From:** Lee M <[warachelsvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:warachelsvineyard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 3:56 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: campsites on public property

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am dismayed by the Bremerton City Council's proposal to permit the unsheltered members of our community to camp in public lands within the city of Bremerton.

One such camp site is close to the Thomas Aquinas Academy on Pine Road in Bremerton. There are family homes in the area as well. This is concerning as much of the camping sites have issues with drug abuse and mental health issues. There is also the issue of sanitation.

Those who live rough have burned through family relationships, refuse to seek help for their addictions and quite frankly should not be rewarded with public lands to camp on. The City of Bremerton is enabling and not helping with this proposal.

I am urging you, as Mayor of Bremerton, to steer the council away from continuing with this proposal. The council needs to address the homeless issue instead of enabling it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lee Anne Martinez

From: Leni Montenegro <[lenimontengro@gmail.com](mailto:lenimontengro@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:26 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless encampment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leni Gelito  
4818 Charmont Lane  
Bremerton, Wa 98310

**From:** Elizabeth DelVecchio <[elizabethdelvecchio@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethdelvecchio@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 8:53 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Please reconsider homeless encampment near schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

I am aware that experts recommend an open air encampment run by a provider with security and case management that is not near to schools, churches, or vulnerable people. Please consider this and I can get you in touch with several county and federal officials who can help you implement this.

In the meantime - please understand that this chaos has no place near our children, communities of upstanding citizens, or vulnerable people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Liz DelVecchio 14815 48th Avenue NW Gig Harbor WA 98332 973.270.7633

**From:** [Lori Smith](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camps  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:27:33 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear MR MAYOR,

I am writing in regards to the proposal you are looking to pass to putting in homeless camps around our community and our churches and schools.

Our children are our future and need our protection and as parents, grandparents, concerned citizens , and our leaders ,it is up to us to protect them so they don't end up in the same situations or harmed by someone already in the homeless situation. Setting up camps just invites more and soon our city and neighborhoods will be a copy of Seattle. Yes we will loose our cities revenue, our streets will become more dangerous than they already are and it's just an open invitation to more drugs , more deaths and destruction of our children's future and innocence. We need to start fighting instead of caving in to a government that has no moral or ethical responsibility towards anyone but their own fame, power and pocket books. Let us pull up our big boy pants and take the lead in the right direction and do what will really help our homeless crisis instead.

Sincerely,

A mother , grandmother,

And a citizen

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lyle <[lprouse@hotmail.com](mailto:lprouse@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:04 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless camp

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lyle Prouse  
1610 Park Ave, A2  
Bremerton, Wa 98337

**From:** [Lynne Marie](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Objections to City Ordinance 4582  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:36:22 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Wheeler, Ms Chamberlin, Ms Frey, Mr Coughlin, Mr Dennehy, Mr Goodnow, Ms Mockler, and Mr Younger,

I am a high school student living in Bremerton, and the Bremerton School District representative on the County Commission on Children and Youth. I am aware of the struggles faced by our homeless--there was a time when my own family was unable to find housing and we were afraid we would end up on the streets. But I would like to voice my objections to the plan not to enforce camping regulations on select city-owned lots. While I cannot find the latest maps of these lots, I object to all the locations in residential neighborhoods and protected land on the maps from September 6, and especially the 40 acre Tracyton Watershed lot in Eastern Bremerton. This lot is located very close to Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Aquinas Classical Academy, my school. I live near Kiwanis Park and I regularly walk and drive past the homeless encampment on MLK Way. Homeless encampments carry with them increased crime, drug abuse, and littering. Allowing these encampments would endanger local residents, students, and the environment. In addition, I have heard that many of the potential campsites are also not safe for would-be homeless inhabitants. Please try to find a solution to this pressing issue which does not carry such negative consequences for our community, or explain to the public at your council meeting Wednesday why this is the best solution.

Best regards,  
Lynne Tabone

**From:** Mariah Gill <[mariahchristinegill@gmail.com](mailto:mariahchristinegill@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 6:11 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

I am also concerned about the proposed homeless encampment on the intersection of Pacific and 11th Street. I live on 11th Street Place. On Sunday May 28, 2023, just after 2 am my apartment was broken into while I was home and asleep. I woke up to recordings from my security cameras of a woman coming onto my porch and removing the screen from the window that leads into my kitchen where an ac unit was installed. She proceeded to climb into my home. While in my home, she proceeded to use my bathroom and go through the cabinets in my kitchen before falling asleep under the window she entered in. She was in my home for 2 hours before I woke up terrified and called Bremerton Police. I could not see her on my camera inside since she was just out of frame on the floor behind my AC unit. I did not know she was in my home still until the police arrived and arrested her. At the time, the woman was found with drugs in her possession and to be homeless.

Since that event I have felt unsafe in my own home for fear that someone may break in again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariah Gill  
307A 11th Street Place  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** M D <[ml.dalbeck@hotmail.com](mailto:ml.dalbeck@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 7:12 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment Plans

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

September 15, 2023

Mayor Greg Wheeler

Bremerton City Council

345 6th Street  
Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337

RE: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools / Neighborhoods

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

We write to express concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for the children.

In addition to some areas directly adjacent to private residences, some areas near PSNS, Manette and others, we thought were once considered community gateways, where millions of dollars either have been, or are being spent on improvements, supposedly to welcome all Bremerton citizens and visitors. It seems that investments the City, business and property owners have all made, might also be considered in any decision about the likely establishment of transient living scenarios, with insufficient services.



Placing encampments in these areas offers a temporary solution; it does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health, crucial to the success of those homeless individuals wishing to break the cycle. It's recognized that more must be done about the lack of services, to help those in desperate need. But to read of homeless members expressing their concern for 'who their neighbors will be' if transitions to these proposed sites are not well-managed, only highlights the universal concern. We urge you and Council to consider alternative strategies that address the root causes of homelessness, and to design a plan that ensures *safety as a priority* for all residents. Respectfully, it seems the number of sites identified is out of proportion to the local population and invites growth of the problem, where services are already inadequate or not available to support the scope of the challenge.

Thank you for considering further review of more sustainable, strategic solutions to this humanitarian concern.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Dalbeck  
Homeowner, Manette 98310

Gabriela J. Dalbeck

Homeowner, Rocky Point Road NW 98312

**From:** [happyhwest](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [mary.es.howell@gmail.com](#); [happyhwest](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:08:03 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

see note below

On Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 12:05 PM happyhwest <[happyhwest@gmail.com](mailto:happyhwest@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

**My children and (5) grandchildren have and will be attending this church and school.**

<https://www.chronline.com/stories/names-in-the-news-howell,133984>

**Link above is our daughter who commuted from Hansville to Bremerton Star of the Sea K-8 then into Seattle to Holy Names for highschool, had the opportunity been available for a catholic highschool in the area she would have attended there. She is a MD today because of her access to strong school foundations.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Stonecypher Howell  
33430 Widmark Rd NE, Kingston, WA 98346  
206-601-0257

**From:** [Mary Pearce](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Camp Sites  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 6:30:34 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I have heard from my family in Bremerton that the City will be voting on allowing homeless camps near neighborhoods. I can appreciate that all humans need shelter but urge you to NOT approve this solution. It is unfair to the tax payers who invested in Bremerton with no idea a homeless camp would be the land use right next to a residential neighborhood. There has to be a more reasonable, thoughtful and sustainable solution.

Most homeless people have mental health problems which lead to addictions to drugs and alcohol. As well, anger issues, begging, theft and filth are prevalent outcomes to being homeless in this type of situation.

Is this really what you want to put in your community's neighborhoods where children are growing up?

It is heartbreaking to know my grandchildren will now have a homeless camp next to where they live. No indoor plumbing, no roof, no bed—just a place to spawn trouble and lower property values and other numerous outcomes that will negatively impact the residents who will be the victims of your decision if the camp sites are approved.

As someone who has spent my career working for non-profits—YOU CAN DO BETTER. This is a decision that will have no good outcomes for anyone. Not even the homeless will benefit. A holistic approach to serving the homeless is required.

Thank you for your service and I hope you will disapprove the camp plan.

Respectfully,  
Mary Pearce

Grandmother from Tennessee worried about my grandchildren and their parents.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mary V. Dombrowski](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 11:04:34 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

Right now the Catholic church is undergoing administrative changes. We support the needy in our community but in the right way. I live on Bainbridge Island and attend church both on the island and in Bremerton. We are one Catholic community in Kitsap County.

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Marya Dombrowski  
2412 Soundview Drive NE  
Bainbridge Island WA 98110

**From:** [Megan Sherman](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:54:17 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a voter and I live in downtown Bremerton.

I'm very concerned about the proposed homeless encampment areas. One appears to be in a busy, very visible intersection across from a children's park and another appears to be close to a church that I know has a school in it. I see a plan to push homeless closer to kids play areas, practice football fields, a church, and a school. Please don't approve these areas. Please find another way to address this issue.

Thank you,

Megan Sherman

**From:** melanie alcid <[mgalcid@yahoo.com](mailto:mgalcid@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melanie Alcid  
2050 Taft Ave.  
Bremerton, WA 9831

**From:** Merton Garrison <[mert523@yahoo.com](mailto:mert523@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:36 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Merton J. Garrison  
10488 Fairview Blvd SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367-7219

**From:** [MGB](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Unauthorized camping ordinance / Tracyton watershed  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 2:27:57 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council,  
I want to first start by thanking Council member Chamberlain and Mayor Wheeler for attending the block meeting on Ridgetop Ct NE September 11th. I also want to thank both Council member Coughlin and Chamberlain for verbally recognizing during the September 9th study session that the 40 acre Tracyton Watershed would not be a good fit for designated camping.

As of writing this, as I understand it, the map itself has been removed from the proposed ordinance. This is promising.

I know it has been said by some that the naming of this plot as a watershed is a misnomer and I disagree.

While its current purpose does not supply daily water to residents, it does house an emergency supply tank and is fed by wells.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/watershed.html>

"What is a watershed?

It's a land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean."

The massive ravine that takes up a large portion of this plot channels water to Dyes Inlet.

Aside from the already stated reasons during the study session; lack of services, fire danger, trash control, risk to our children walking to school bus stops and ecological impacts. I want to also address the financial burden that would face many residents who border this property.

Humans, like water, tend to take the path of least resistance. Many of the properties that surround this plot do not have fences including ours. If this plot were chosen, many of the residents would feel compelled to have fencing put up in an attempt to keep out wanderers. Just in case, I am soliciting companies for a quote. My current research suggests around ten thousand dollars for our property line size and the terrain it is located on, this would be a major burden.

I also want to share a couple of stories with you from my own personal experiences.

My wife and I moved to our Bremerton home in 2008 so she could act as caregiver for her elderly parents. We specifically chose this location because of its location in a cul de sac and having a mature old growth forest in our backyard in addition directly connected to the wonderful Watershed area.

In 2011 I was working for a company remotely but as a result of the 2008 recession impacts, my position was moved to another country. My wife grew up in Bremerton and went to central Kitsap high school. However, I grew up in Colorado and since I



had been remote, I had no professional network in Washington. Living in Bremerton I had a difficult time finding new employment with my skills. I was unemployed for 9 months and seriously had to grapple with the idea of losing the home we both love. I did eventually find work in Seattle, but had to take a large pay cut just in order to save our home.

Fast forward to early April of 2015. One early morning between one and three AM our home had its front door forcibly broken into by an individual who was high on Methamphetamine. This person was so high he was hallucinating and paranoid that people were chasing him. Thankfully I was able to detain this person with my shotgun until the Bremerton police arrived with no shots fired. To this day, we both have traumatic impacts as a result of this drug induced crime.

I mention these events as I do have an understanding and compassion for truly homeless people that are looking to fix their situation and get services. I also mention the latter as it is the individuals who are wanting to hide and remain anonymous so they can continue their criminal behavior beyond sight. The impact these people can inflict on everyday citizens is immeasurable.

The rampant crime associated with some of these camps, tent fires, gun fire, murders, theft, drug use, drug selling, sex crimes, the list goes on. It is truly beyond belief, yet we see it everyday on the news.

I believe there is no single fix to the greater homeless issue. This is not just a local issue, but it is a national issue. However, I do believe we as a city and nation should address this as any emergency.

A proper site should be set up using disaster relief tents or other suitable accommodations where these people can have EASY access to transportation, food, water, and services.

In conclusion I am reiterating to my representatives that the 40 acres Tracyton watershed should not be used for this or any development for that matter. I also ask that we find ways to protect it long term.

Sincerely,  
Michael Brandau  
3558 Ridgetop Ct NE.  
Bremerton, WA.

**From:** [Michael Flaherty](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:00:57 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Michael Flaherty <mflaherty1966@gmail.com>  
**Date:** September 16, 2023 at 5:58:14 AM PDT  
**To:** Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us  
**Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools**

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J Flaherty  
7744 Peridot Pl NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Eric Huska](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless-Compassion is NOT enabling actions  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 4:21:05 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools, residences and places of daily activity . One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

RCW 69.50.435 This prohibits the manufacturing, selling, delivering or possessing with the intent to manufacture, sell, deliver, or possess a controlled substance within 1000' of a school. It is known that homeless camps have drugs and alcohol.

RCW 9.41.280 It is unlawful for a person to knowingly carry onto, or to possess on, public or private elementary or secondary school premises.  
There are chances the homeless carry dangerous weapons for protection against each other and outsiders.

One can look up all of the issues and dangerous situations that have arisen at the homeless camps in Seattle over the past couple of years. Drugs, deaths, murders, fires, etc. Fentanyl is also a huge issue.

Many homeless are that way because they choose that lifestyle. They do not go to the facilities because they cannot have alcohol, drugs and are asked to help out with basic chores. I know this because I had a family member who choose to live like that, regardless of family interventions and help from substance abuse centers.  
In October 2020, he froze to death in a park due to heavy substance abuse.

Compassion is NOT enabling the actions.

**The City is liable for the dangers it places on the first responders and the public.**

Placing an encampment in any area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health.

I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Respectfully,  
Michele Sanchez  
Spouse and Mother of First Responders in Kitsap

Sent from my iPad

From: Miracle Geier <[miraclegeier@gmail.com](mailto:miraclegeier@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:05 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: City council meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This letter is addressing Greg Wheeler and city Council.

I am writing this letter and hard to express my frustration my anger at what's going on on Broadway Avenue . as a property owner and tax payer it's been told me the grass between the sidewalk and the street was my responsibility to take care of. This is impossible because of the tents that are placed on the grass. Since the tents have been there, the streets smells like urine and feces. I physically watched these homeless people pour their urine down drain on our street right in front of my house. I have been forced to put chains and locks on each of my gates in order to keep these homeless people out of my yard. They've jumped the fence three times and I was forced to call the police. on Broadway and eighth Street, there has been three homes broken into already. A dumpster that was set on fire., We should not have to live in fear that our homes will be broken into there has been drug dealings prostitution. people partying all night and Violence. You say we're supposed to coexist , but who can when our street filled with filthy people who are disrespectful they have no respect for The homeowners in the last year's we have all live peacefully with each other and now we live in Turmoil. I have no longer have respect for the city Council because you put these homeless people before the people that pay property taxes which I have to add pays your salary. You should be ashamed of yourselves. There's money available that you refuse to use there's 4 million dollars for a turnabout at the end of 11th St. that is not necessary When that money Could be used for building, homeless Shelter. I have a young child who can't go out to play. I can't park in front of my house because the campers it's to Dangerous there and there's no way I'm gonna let my daughter out of the car with those men gawking at her again we shouldn't have to live like this I feel like a prisoner in my own home. We can open the windows because the smell will come in. Can't sit on the front porch because these people are there gawking at us like we're in a zoo. With their filthy filthy language again I have to say this is not acceptable. This is not acceptable. You say these people have rides, but you have robbed us of our rights to live in a peaceful, clean neighborhood again you should be ashamed of yourself you don't belong in office agenda for keeping the homeless people who choose to live this way, who refused to get jobs and I don't believe that they are all mentally handicapped the right to be there. Refuse to be put anywhere who have said and I heard and I quote I don't want anybody telling me what to do when I live this way because I want to live the way I want to live there Lawless irresponsible Human beings with no dignity no self respect, yet they can afford their drugs, Oh yeah, I forgot they're dealing drugs right in front of everybody they don't care, so I guess they can afford a patch on the grass in front of our neighborhood. it is because it is expected of the city Council to do the right things for the citizens of Bremerton and vote on this ordinance to protect our neighborhood. It is your responsibility, and I expect to take you to take action to do the right thing for us in our neighborhoods. And with that said, I am hoping on Wednesday you will do what is right by Not allowing all of this lawlessness and shenanigans going on in our neighborhood.

Miracle Geiet

**From:** [Nancy Jo Franz](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camps near schools  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:12:55 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

When voting on sites for homeless camps please consider the risk of having these sites near schools. There is now a high school, Aquinas Academy that is housed at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

These camps are only a band aid for a problem that needs a comprehensive solution. The band aid will only make the problem worse and much more expensive sooner than later. These camps will create a snow ball effect, inviting an irreversible problematic situation.

One start would be putting any able bodied person to work and offer incentives for anyone willing to participate in programs for addictions and mental health.

This is a very difficult problem, however please protect the children first.

Thank you for serving.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** natsmi812 <[natsmi812@protonmail.com](mailto:natsmi812@protonmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 12:32 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Concerns over proposed Homeless Encampment near schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration and please, think of the children.

Sincerely,

Nathan Smith  
4550 Bay Vista BLVD  
Bremerton, WA, 98312

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Please fund Porta Potties until Bremerton establishes camping area(s).  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 10:16:31 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council, as we work though the Anti-Camping Ordinance would you please consider funding the Porta Potties located on MLK Way? They run about \$800/month. This is a basic need for humans and right now these are being funded by your private citizens. I would happily have some of my tax dollars support this until such a time as the city permits or operates an approved camping area.

Also, not sure how to look into Puget Powers fenced lot at 901 Park? It is just North of the Fire Station. I sent an email to customer service but have not received a response. This area right along Park is deserted and has been for decades. It is outside of Puget Powers use area, and separated by an alley. It is fenced, it has a parking lot adjacent to the North of the fenced area. No direct or adjacent neighbors. In close proximity of support services. It is pretty well hidden from view as well.

If it is determined to use the area on Oyster Bay Blvd please have our city move a little bit of dirt to provide flat areas to camp.

Would love to move forward with Tiny facilities as well. Tents are killers in the rain and snow.

Thank you



**From:** [Nick Milos](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed homeless camping ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:09:20 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the City Council:

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encamping ordinance. One proposed location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community — especially for the children who attend the school.

As you know, the proposed ordinance would be a temporary solution and would fail to address root causes including substance abuse and mental health disorders.

I understand that the homeless issue is a vexing problem, but I urge you to consider alternative strategies that would address those root causes of homelessness and help ensure safety for all residents of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J Milos  
1553 NW Vermont Ct  
Bremerton 98311

**From:** [Paula Mastro](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed homeless encampment near schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 3:14:51 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council, and Mayor wheeler

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Paula and Christopher Mastrogiacono

**From:** Philip Mueller <[cowboy.mueller@gmail.com](mailto:cowboy.mueller@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 8:35 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** homeless

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Mayor

I once wrote to you about this a year or two ago, and you said you didn't want your city to get into this mess. So what's going on? Why on god's green earth do we want to let these people make our city look like a city dump? It has already started down on MLK way, and if we give them semi permanent access to neighborhoods and beaches, it will just start the endless drain on tax dollars of cleanups. Not to mention the crime rate for the poor neighbors of these people. You said you didn't want this! So let's don't do this! Come on, I voted for you, so don't let me down....

Philip A Mueller

**From:** Philip Mueller <[cowboy.mueller@gmail.com](mailto:cowboy.mueller@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 8:56 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr Mayor

Just a short note to add to my first letter about the homeless encampments. The thing we have to remember about these camps is, once we let them in and they are set. It's permanent, its not temporary at all. My wife dealt with this thing in California and saw it first hand, it's ugly and unforgiving and not easy, we know. But camps are not the answer.

Philip A Mueller

**From:** [Philip Powell](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Camping Ordinance  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:35:46 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wheeler and the Bremerton City Council,

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed camping ordinance that would provide areas for homeless encampment in Bremerton on vacant lots.

As I am sure you know, the proposed areas are in an immediate vicinity of not only a thriving church, but also a high school, with over fifty students and numerous faculty present every day. I myself am a student at this high school - Aquinas Classical Academy - and am deeply concerned and opposed to the proposal. The nation, especially over the last forty or so years, has made it very clear that places of education should be safe and uninterrupted places of learning. There is in no way which the proposal can be seen as anything but an immediate threat to the school and church community in striving to reach those goals. Our community has a right, state funded or not, to be able to grow and learn in a safe environment, not clouded by violence and smoke (from who knows what drugs which are permitted to ruin our citizen's lives).

I'd also like to convey my disagreement with *any* proposal regarding homeless encampment. It is an injustice to our community, including our homeless brothers and sisters, to pretend that pushing the problem of homeless farther into the future will save us from these issues. Our city's homeless need dedicated medical and mental personnel who will actively address their homelessness and *help them to overcome it*. It is a theft of dignity to allow our homeless brothers and sisters to live without proper and stable living conditions, provided by work and the dignity which comes along with that.

I firmly believe that our society is suffering from intolerance and providing a place for our homeless to continue a disordered lifestyle (whether it is their fault or not) for the sake of tolerance is an atrocity. It's about time we think about the individual and work for programs which promote them and their calling to live as a proud, functional citizen.

Please be assured of my prayers as you work in leading our community.

God Bless,  
Philip Powell

**From:** [Ranae Ausbrooks](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns over proposed Homeless encampments near schools  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 4:45:57 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/ Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Aquinas Classical Academy, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for the children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of the unhoused and ensure the safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ranae and Ausbrooks  
6435 Lake Dr  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** [Ranae Ausbrooks](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Encampment on Kitsap Lake and other neighborhoods  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 5:20:25 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CityCouncil/Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express many concerns I have regarding the proposed homeless encampments in my area and in many other residential areas. After watching the city council meeting on Sept.6th and watching the concerns of the residences and the advocates, my overall reaction was how much you ignored the concerns of the church members and many residents concerns. This situation really impacts their lives on a daily basis. I find it hard to believe you would want to subject another neighborhood to this kind of situation.

Your proposal is only in benefit to the unhoused and does not make them accountable for anything. You want to use my tax dollars to pay for resources and they have no rules. They get to steal residents water and electricity and laws can not be enforced. Law enforcement hands are tied by your hands. The council has a misguided sense of compassion. You are going in the direction that Seattle is going, and you can see how well that is going for that city. Pendleton Place is near my home and even though most of the residents are living quietly, they are others who are doing drugs outside the facility. This impacts the nearby homes and businesses.

I have been a resident of Bremerton for 30 years and it has always been a pleasant place to live but now I am beginning to see the undoing of the city. What the council is proposing is unsafe for families and the elderly. The council is not addressing the real issues for the unhoused such as mental health and substance abuse. I urge the council to work on the real problem and enforce the laws put in place to protect its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ranae Ausbrooks  
6435 Lake Dr  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** [rwburkey@comcast.net](mailto:rwburkey@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** CONCERS OVER PROPOSED HOMELESS NEAR SCHOOLS  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 9:34:16 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. We urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Richard & Marlo Burkey  
3051 Rocky Point Rd NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** [ritadady@wavecable.com](mailto:ritadady@wavecable.com)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 5:50:45 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita Flaherty  
7744 Peridot Place NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383



**From:** [Robert Millerbernd](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Re: "Your Proposal"  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:33:36 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

A concerted citizen waiting for a response

Sincerely,  
Rob

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 12, 2023, at 6:25 PM, Robert Millerbernd <[rmillerbernd1979@yahoo.com](mailto:rmillerbernd1979@yahoo.com)> wrote:  
>  
> Dear reader,  
>  
> The city council isn't addressing the real problem here. Instead, it's an "appearance fix" by "opening" multiple locations around Bremerton to send them all out. Also, I'd invite ALL Council members to "explore" the 40 acre water shed area and see how feasible it is for ANY types of services, Fire, Medical, Police, Salvation Army etc... As well as the environmental impact. Why did the health dept get involved with Illahee?  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Robert Millerbernd  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [morashbob@netscape.net](mailto:morashbob@netscape.net)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:14:37 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<!--[endif]-->

Robert C. Morash

6016 Peregrine Ct

Bremerton, WA 98312

[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**From:** [Robert Sheridan](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:06:46 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Sheridan  
1010 Perry Avenue #304  
Bremerton, WA 98310

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** Robert Toy <[roberttoy95@gmail.com](mailto:roberttoy95@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 8:25 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Homeless Camp

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Robert Toy  
645 NE McWilliams Rd.  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** [Sara Sexton](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Proposed New Areas  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:45:42 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council Members,

Please consider not approving the proposed public properties being looked at as places where the public camping rules will not be enforced. I am especially against approving the 40 acre parcel located near Parkwood pool. This area is residential and backs up to a church and private high school.

The homeless campers who end up there will not be served well as it is not near any services that they would want to use.

Please continue trying to solve this complex problem of finding places for the homeless in our city. You have been chosen because the voters felt you have the skills to lead this city. So, please put those skills to use, look to other municipalities for ideas, and come up with a better plan to accommodate the homeless.

Respectfully,

Sara Sexton

**From:** [Sarah Keller](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 12:57:06 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Keller  
7611 Orcas Pl NW  
Bremerton, WA 98311  
360-471-4044

**From:** eabirkemeier <[eabirkemeier@gmail.com](mailto:eabirkemeier@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:21 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Our Children's Safety and Proposed Homeless Encampments

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, and especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott and Elizabeth Birkemeier  
7558 Grahns Lane NE  
Bremerton WA 98311

**From:** Serena Retterath <[serenaretterath@gmail.com](mailto:serenaretterath@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:05 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to express my concerns and outrage over the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences and churches. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

When we have seen homeless camps pop up there is an increase in crime, trash and drug use. Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. The quality of life for the rest of the community will suffer. There needs to be a better solution to the problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Serena Retterath  
4954 Bridletree Drive NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312



From: Susan Ogilvie <[snoopysusan@hotmail.com](mailto:snoopysusan@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 5:59 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Regarding potential homeless encampment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Greg,

This is Susan Ogilvie. I had the privilege of meeting you at Olympic College at our opening of the Quincy Square show that you spoke at. I am one of the art history and painting/drawing instructors at OC. You and I shared great enthusiasm for our community and the growth of young people.

It has come to my attention that the City of Bremerton is reviewing possible locations for a homeless encampment with one of those considered behind Holy Trinity Catholic Church. I am a 3rd Order Franciscan and part of my work as a volunteer is to feed and shelter the homeless. I have a heart for these members of our community.

But I would like to ask you to consider a different location than the Holy Trinity proximity. The new Catholic High School, Aquinas Classical Academy is housed there with a vibrant and growing community of young people. My daughter is a sophomore there. I have been working with community members for 30 years toward a Catholic High School. The encampment is not a good fit that near the children. It is my hope and prayer that you and your council will find a more appropriate location. The growth of Aquinas High School will directly be hindered as families consider safety for their children. ACA will also be a continuous blessing to the community.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your council as your work is challenging and important. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Susan Ogilvie

Sent from my iPhone

From: Earline LEGGE <[r6legges@msn.com](mailto:r6legges@msn.com)>  
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:12 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless in Bremerton

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

The city of Bremerton needs to come up with proper facilities for the homeless who are camping on our streets. Many of these people are mentally ill or drug addicted, and they need treatment. It is unconscionable that we allow people to camp on the sidewalks and grass planting strips in our neighborhoods. Planning to establish a parcel of property for homeless to camp on is not an acceptable solution. Establishing a tent city on the 40 acre parcel is especially unacceptable as it is near a school, church and a neighborhood where children are present and far from any facility where the homeless can get treatment.

There are vacant buildings in the area. Perhaps the city could purchase, modify and staff a facility for the homeless. Maybe we should encourage them to take the ferry to Seattle where there are several homeless shelters and opportunities for treatment. We do not want Bremerton to become another Seattle where the homeless proliferate and despoil every neighborhood they camp in. Seattle was once a jewel of a city and look at it now.

We call upon you to respect the tax paying citizens.

The Legges

**From:** [t-devins@wavecable.com](mailto:t-devins@wavecable.com)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** : Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 4:21:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. We urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas and JoAnn Devins  
7305 NW Duckabush Lane  
Silverdale, WA 98383]

**From:** [Tim Herring](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** rearranging Titanic's deck chairs  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 2:15:19 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council,

Please don't force homeless camps into peaceful neighborhoods. Rather, give homeless people the choice to take community service jobs for pay or else be incarcerated for vagrancy and or drug dealing.

Thank you,  
Tim Herring

**From:** [Venus Pettersen](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless camp  
**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:03:06 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Venus Pettersen  
2629 Cascade Trl  
Bremerton, WA 98310

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Victoria Crescenzi <[vtc9171964@gmail.com](mailto:vtc9171964@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 6:51 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

I am the biology teacher at Aquinas Classical Academy. I use the woods behind the school as a living classroom for teaching biology. We have already had class outside and will be doing so through the school year. We will also have compost projects and potentially gardens and bee hives which will require students to be in those wooded areas even on weekends and holidays. I am very concerned that having a homeless encampment in this location will seriously limit the scientific exploration and education of these children.

We all obviously are concerned for the well being of the unhoused in our community. We hope and expect the city of Bremerton and all the local and state governments to explore appropriate lasting policies which actually address the causes of homelessness. We would support opportunities to support them while they work towards finding real permanent solutions and housing that they can sustain. However the current environment of the homeless population cannot be hidden in the woods without deleterious effects on our children.

Placing an encampment in this area hides an aesthetic problem for the city. It certainly doesn't offer any support or solution to the people it is designed to impact. It has greater unintended and unconsidered consequences especially for the safety of the children enrolled in the Aquinas Classical Academy. It does not address deeper issues like substance abuse, crime, joblessness, lack of affordable housing in our areas, limited job skills training, and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Crescenzi MD CDR (ret)  
1696 NW Viewmont Court  
Silverdale, Washington 98383

**From:** [Sherlock Bill](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Tom Wolfe](#); [Greg Wheeler](#); [David Nelson](#); [Dana.Walters@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Dana.Walters@usw.salvationarmy.org)  
**Subject:** Fw: HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS SOLUTIONS- SEPTEMBER 13TH STUDY SESSION  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:02:31 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council members:

I read the article in today's edition of the Kitsap Sun about Wednesday's Council meeting. I don't believe any neighborhood would accept an encampment unless they were assured of round the clock security and monitoring. I still think a gated community is the best format. In the mean time, temporarily leasing a place like the old Harrison Hospital before it's demolition might be the way to go. The south end of the building is newer construction with plenty of room, restrooms, showers, a fully equipped cafeteria, and ample open and covered parking. It is on a bus line and is close and easily accessible to our police force on all sides for monitoring. Of course there should be an inside security team like the Salvation Army has for 24/7 monitoring.

I had lunch today at the Salvation Army with a group of homeless people. We discussed solutions and one woman said the most important thing to her for a shelter is "security". Some of the people who wind up in a shelter can be a threat to peace and safety. Another didn't like the idea of a monitored camp. If he wants to be taken care of on the taxpayer dime then he will have to accept what is offered. I encourage Council members to visit SA for their noon lunch. I find their food very good

and it is a good opportunity to talk with the clients. It will make you even more thankful for what you have. The SA has been great for years standing in the gap providing shelter for the homeless. They shouldn't be expected to carry the whole load endlessly. Time to spread the load. If it has to be a large fenced parking lot on a bus line with portable shelters, portable mess hall, restroom and shower trailers, and first aid trailer, it can be done. Thank you.



William L. Rieger  
3321 Almira Drive NE  
PO Box 2423  
Bremerton, Wa 98310-0317  
Phone 360-377-8443  
Cell 360-471-7250  
Email: [sherlockbill@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockbill@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/william.rieger.9659>

Reminder:

-If you receive an email from a trusted source with a suspicious message or link, contact that person first to verify they sent before clicking the link. The hackers are getting craftier all the time.

-Change your password occasionally. Use upper case, lower case, and numbers not in sequence for a strong password.

-Please use your reply button when responding to this message. It will help avoid the spam filter that is in place. Thank you.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Sherlock Bill <[sherlockbill@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockbill@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** City Council <[city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** David Nelson <[david.nelson@kitsapsun.com](mailto:david.nelson@kitsapsun.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 09:11:49 AM PDT  
**Subject:** HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS SOLUTIONS

Dear Council members:



Thank you for working to solve the problem of the homeless who are taking over some of our streets. If they were neat and tidy it would be helpful but they are not. I talked with some members of the homeless encampment street behind the Salvation Army. They are very frank about the drug dealing, overdose deaths, and prostitution going on. The City has gone the Biblical "extra mile" for a long time and it is time for action. Here is a letter I shared with Mayor Wheeler earlier with some additional suggestions. A central housing facility would be the most cost efficient and helpful to law enforcement. We unfortunately did not pass the public safety bond which would have added more officers so we have to help them the best we can by not making their job more difficult.

What do we do about the unsolved problem of the homeless in Bremerton? It's like triage, we need to help those closest to us.

For a long time I have been a proponent of a gated year round community housing center. It should be located on a bus line. It would contain clean modern barracks with restrooms and showers, mess hall, laundry center, first aid station, mini-storage garages, and vehicle parking. This as opposed to converted hotels which can become lawless slums. It would be a strictly enforced alcohol and drug free zone with proactive 24/7 armed security personnel with lethal force authority if needed. There would be zero tolerance for any type of threatening behavior. Some type of community service and job training activity would be required for residency at this taxpayer supported facility. If a person is physically able to

push a broom they should be able to do some type of work. Some feel it would be bringing back the "poor farm" but if it gets people off the sidewalk, out of the woods, and out of dilapidated RV's and into a clean secure shelter , why not. It would be more cost efficient than subsidizing rent in motels, apartments, and houses. Let's create a model for other communities across the country. If we can send 150 billion dollars and counting to Ukraine , a non-NATO country we have no obligation to, we can take care of our own people who WANT to get back on their feet. Those who don't will continue in their own self-inflicted downward spiral and may need to be incarcerated for their protection and society's protection.

Best wishes and much success for cleaning up Bremerton.



William L. Rieger  
3321 Almira Drive NE  
PO Box 2423  
Bremerton, Wa 98310-0317  
Phone 360-377-8443  
Cell 360-471-7250  
Email: [sherlockbill@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockbill@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/william.rieger.9659>

Reminder:

-If you receive an email from a trusted source with a suspicious message or link, contact that person first to verify they sent before clicking the link. The hackers are getting craftier all the time.

-Change your password occasionally. Use upper case, lower case, and numbers not in sequence for a strong password.

-Please use your reply button when responding to this message. It will help avoid the spam filter that is in place. Thank you.

**From:** [William Sherry](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:20:27 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
William Sherry

1242 8th St  
Bremerton, Wa, 98337  
Cell 360-536-0577

**From:** [Xavier Peck](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 4:19:34 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Xavier Peck  
622 Hewitt Ave.  
Bremerton, WA, 98337

**From:** [Yukari Endo](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** To the chair Jennifer Chamberlin district 1 Opposing letter regarding to homeless encampment  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:19:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_9796.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear The chair: Jennifer Chamberlin district 1 and city of Bremerton council officials

I am a resident of city of Bremerton. My name is Yukari Evins. I am also a former long term resident of Seattle king county for two decades until 2021. My original heritage where I come from is Japan.

I know exactly how Seattle was pushed into the current corruption while living there since 1999. Thank you so much for reading my letter that explained why I am opposing the proposal of homeless encampment.

I have three children who are 16 years old son, 11 years old daughter and 6 years old daughter. We just found out that there will be homeless encampment proposal done by city of Bremerton where it is pretty close to our beautiful safety neighborhood. It is one of the biggest reason why we chose to be in our current neighborhood in Bremerton.

When I saw the proposal map for the encampment that is marked as green, I was so shocked to see that my home is also showing on the edge of the map. All of my neighbors and even my friends in Jefferson and Clallam, Pearce, Mason and King county are so worrying about what we are facing.

I should also mention about my entire family's in Franklin, Williamson county Tennessee are so much worry. Especially my mom in law Mary Pearce who has three grand children live in Bremerton had immediately left a voice message to opposing the proposal to the Bremerton city council.

She told me that She would also write a opposing letter to the Bremerton City council. What we are facing is absolutely her issue due to her loved grandchildren live close to the planned map for the homeless encampment.

I told my husband about the situation and talked to our neighbors. I am not happy at all about the proposal that we have been suddenly pushed with short notice. I will not be able to accept this proposal since I have had enough of Seattle.

I am writing this letter to express the reason why I am absolutely opposing short noticed extreme insane proposal to the hard worker residents and citizens and wonderful community regarding the homeless encampment without any low enforcement on them at all.

I and my husband along with our three children moved out From Seattle back in 2021 May. We found and bought our current home in Bremerton back in 2019 before the covid closure in the world.

Yet We had already seen the mess of homeless encampment in Seattle King county for a long time that the city had pushed encampment into our safe community where it was exactly just like our safe neighborhood in Bremerton.

King county and Seattle lied big to us about homeless encampment.

The fact is that Most of them are drug addict. Who knows drug cartels sneaked into our beautiful safe community and the town had destroyed. I have seen and heard of it in Seattle that is why I am so much concerned. City claims as homeless encampment but actually many of them are drug addicts.

We left from Seattle because we fell in love with our current neighborhood in Bremerton. The number one reason why we made the decision to purchase our house is absolutely the safe environment and our beautiful neighbors.

Another reason why we left from Seattle is to absolutely protect ourselves and children from the worst high rise “drug and crime “ surge in to the metro due to the encampment that had been forced by the city of Seattle. Street drug like Fentanyl and Tranquil became the issue in Seattle due to the so called “homeless encampment” city of Seattle had forced the residents to pay high tax to homeless encampment. In another words, now I feel that the city of Seattle forced taxpayers to support the drug activities by asking to help homeless.

At that time, Our neighborhood of Magnolia and Queen Anne community had opposed the short noticed proposal just like what we are having right now. However the city voted yes to the encampment in our neighborhood without any hesitation. Soon after the encampment was released, the whole area was in danger including kids’ playgrounds and parks and parking lot and even small businesses had been threaten by drug and criminals.

I have seen and had eyewitness those crimes everyday by driving and walking.

One day, Just before moving out from our house in Magnolia, two of my children’s bicycles had stolen from our fenced backyard. It had been always safe until the city forced the neighborhood to create the encampment. My neighbor’s bicycle was also stolen that the same time.

It means that criminal broke into our backyard at night while we were sleeping.

I have another big reason why I am so much concerned and opposing the proposal is that one of my very good friend who used to own a Japanese restaurant was murder by the drug addicts from the homeless encampment.

He was a very famous sushi chef who worked so hard everyday while he was alive. His body was found on the street by a SPD police officer. Many of former Seattle Mariners' baseball players used to come to his restaurant. He had served the baseball players everyday.

Here are my questions to the Bremerton city council officials with the chair Jennifer Chamberlin.

Have you ever seen Seattle's homeless encampment?

Have you ever heard about what is happening in Seattle by local news?

Have you ever seen Portland's situation?

How about excessive growing numbers of drug and mental illness issues in Philadelphia and Los Angeles and NY due to the homeless encampment without any enforcement at all?

No law enforcement means that anyone can do anything what they want on the camp site while we the taxpayers follow the law and rule by state of WA.

Can you imagine what this mean? Probably Your homes are not close to the encampment proposal map so nothing worrying about any situation to you all.

How about the children who live just edge of the encampment border line ?

One of my daughters friends at Pine crest elementary school was telling everyone at the bus stop the other day that we will not be safe at bus stop anymore because of drug people are coming. Who will be responsible for the safety issue of children? In fact that The ck school board officials have to also deal with this situation. They are also responsible if the encampment is passed.

Also The fact and the reasons why tremendous members of police officers have left from Seattle long ago is because of the homeless encampment.

I know that the police officers in Seattle who worked hard for the residents. However one of the officers told me and the neighbors that he completely lost his passion on making the safety for the community due to the outrage endless crime from encampment.

He said that He needed to protect himself first while on duty before the residents and he finally made the decision to leave from Seattle. He told us sorry to leave from Seattle. It means that We will also lose many police officers from Bremerton.

Have you also ever seen the drug outrage issue among in homeless encampment In Vancouver BC and Victoria BC?

If you have seen what the cities have dealing with the crime and murder and drug ,why

you even pushed and announced in public for this nonsense with dangerous proposal to the city of Bremerton among your residents?

Also Please do not forget our respect towards Navy and military veterans who live in Bremerton. It is not a city of huge corporations like Seattle at all. Please listen to their voices as well.

If the proposal is voted yes in 20th, we as the community can no longer trust the elected officials. Please don't make the same mistake just like Seattle king county.

I had enough of enough from Seattle where none of the elected city councils and officials work for the residents at all but just do the task with the big companies and keep taking anything from what the companies asked the councils. I hope that the city of Bremerton is not yet this way.

Downside of all this is we the taxpayers ending pay the bills created all the homeless. And there are many who are homeless by choice. Homeless encampment led to never ending drug addicts and endless high rise crime.

Again i want to stress that I have eye-witnessed while living in Seattle .

Who is responsible for the current situation in Seattle?

Was the former City councils in Seattle?

The city councils who voted for homeless encampment have already gone from the office along with the former mayor. So the fact is that nobody is responsible for the crime in Seattle.

It is a endless game with homeless encampment.

All I have seen while I was the resident in Seattle was Crime after crime without any enforcement on the drug camp. I called Seattle Police department many times but nobody showed up. I absolutely don't want to see the "dejavu" in Bremerton.

What the city of Seattle Forced the residents is shifting the homeless problem from one part of town to another part of town without solving it. Endless.

I have been asking myself a big question Who really gain from this?!

If we the resident have no ability to say no at this point with many mistakes we saw in the last, I imagine less than 10 years from now would be corrupted by the time my youngest one will be 16 years old.

I don't want my children to experience anything like Seattle anymore so I am absolutely opposing the homeless encampment with my actual experiences in the past.



If I don't speak up individually, I will regret as a mom, as a human, as a woman and as a parent who is definitely responsible to take care and protect my children first before me no matter what.

I need to stress that where the city proposed homeless encampment is insanely close to our neighborhood. Seems like that the back of the wooden hidden street might be connected to our secured private property.

If anyone intoxicated sneak into our property, our property will be at risk for being targeting arson. Just like some of the housings in Magnolia was fired by arson from the homeless encampment.

Also we already started to having the issue of campers down by the hill where it says private property by Dyse inlet. Some of Homeless campers break into our shared private property. And one of our residents are having the problem as they can spot and see the campers down from their top of balcony.

If we the residents can't say no and stop to the ridiculously short noticed sudden forced proposal at this moment, so called "homelessness" and drug and mental illness along with crime will keep moving forward to all entire kitsap to even Jefferson and Clallam counties where many of my friends live in. They are also concerned and speaking up for a long time.

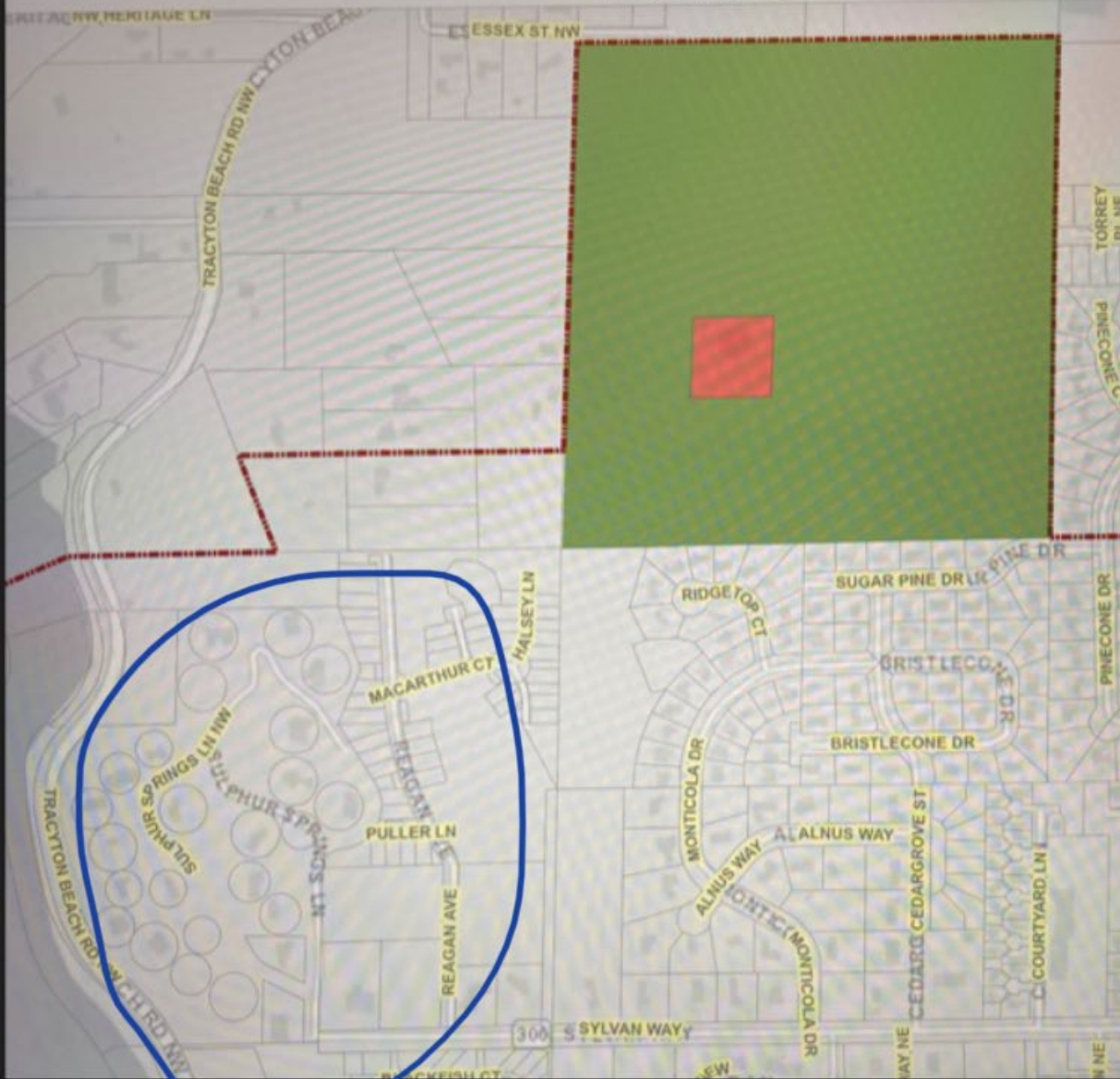
I am opposing the proposal for Homeless encampment all entire Bremerton.

Sincerely yours,

One of the residents of city of Bremerton  
Yukari Evins

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)







**From:** A Hammond <[arthammond2020@gmail.com](mailto:arthammond2020@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:38 PM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Re: An Update on City Council's Amendment to BMC 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Still saying that the land behind the Chevron station on Kitsap Way is the only space that makes sense. It is wide open, easier for observation, patrolling, puts them in proximity of public services.

Have been reviewing, and the property behind Pinewood is a part of the watershed, a ravine, and the homeless would have limited access to level areas, and limited access to services.

Putting them in any housing community would be detrimental to the communities. Increased crime, trash build up, etc. Would plaque the communities as it has downtown Bremerton. Plus, the article that appeared in the KitsapSun that said that the homeless would not be given maps to the areas available for camping is ludicrous as you all have publicly commented and shared with them via the KitsapSun, the locations of the places being considered. With that said, I really do feel that any housing communities should be taken off the list of encampment considerations.

Regards,

A. Hammond

**From:** [Anna Sergent](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:40:43 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Sergent  
2221 Soundview Ave NE,  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** [Ashlee Jones](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** City encampments  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:46:37 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Please vote NO to allow the homeless to camp out on Constitution ave, Bremerton Wa. I live in the middle of both of these locations proposed to be camping areas, one is right across the street from my house. Please, do not allow this to happen. I will not feel safe and my family will relocate.

Thanks for listening to my concerns,

Ashlee Jones

**From:** [barb frey](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerned Homeowner  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:37:13 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

GREETINGS, I recently viewed the City of Bremerton Council Study Session.

I currently own my condo on Oyster Bay and have worked on Kitsap Way for 25+ years. The population of Kitsap Way has changed over the years; The Quality Inn became a homeless shelter. Suddenly, we experienced car prowls, mail/package theft, homeless making a home in our parking garage (leaving their trash, urine filled bottles, and drug paraphernalia when they slithered out before morning). The City parking lot above our condos became seriously littered from cars parked there for the night giving inhabitants a place to sleep and leaving their trash and biohazard refuse for someone else to clean up.

Then, Pendleton Place opened. This brought many more people with mental health issues wandering, littering and being troublesome to the Kitsap Way area.

Kitsap Way has many small businesses. Most of these have had property destroyed or stolen and employees harassed.

We, too, have experienced Community issues like MLK and Broadway. I know theirs is extreme in comparison to ours, but when you are the recipient of their unlawful behavior, comparisons don't matter.

There is a housing development just above the Oyster Bay lot you are considering, many small businesses (that have already endured harassment and damage) and a few motels that will be affected by that location.

I am astonished and disappointed that City of Bremerton Council is trying to fix the homeless situation on MLK and Broadway by moving it to ANY other neighborhood. Moving that group will only cause the same havoc in another Community. Please consider other alternatives.

Respectfully

B Frey Resident

**From:** Cassie Tahler <[c.hadad.tahler@gmail.com](mailto:c.hadad.tahler@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:36 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Please no homeless encampment near Holy Trinity

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Tahler  
4448 Waterman Ridge Ln E,  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

--

Cassandra Hadad Tahler, P.E.



**From:** Cecilia Milos <[ceciliamilos7@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliamilos7@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am requesting that you please reconsider locating a homeless encampment near Holy Trinity Church and the Aquinas Classical Academy High School. This location would pose health and safety challenges for our community and especially for our children.

Please consider alternative strategies to address the root causes of homelessness that will keep residents and children safe.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Milos  
1230 NE Forest Rock Lane  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

**From:** [cesilva@bellsouth.net](mailto:cesilva@bellsouth.net)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 12:30:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members:

As a concerned Bremerton citizen, I am writing to express my distress about the proposal to situate homeless encampments near our schools and residences. My understanding is that one such location would be less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and the Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area might seem to offer a temporary solution but in no way addresses the deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all our residents.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Charles Silva  
233 Apple Street  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** [Christine Daniel](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment proposal  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:25:08 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Bremerton City Council Members,

This letter is in regards to my adamant opposition to the proposal of a homeless encampment area to be allowed near Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Many of you may not be aware, but the church has now dually become a private Catholic High School for approximately 100 students. It has continued to grow exponentially each year by 25-30% since it began three years ago.

Aside from my concern for the students, my other concerns are obvious. Lessons learned from the disastrous affects of such encampments allowed in the City of Seattle, Portland and other areas should be an obvious wake up call for each council member and acknowledgment that encampments are not a solution, but are a band aide on a wound that continues to bleed.

Creating an enabling environment for increased drug use, prostitution, violence, rape, theft, unsanitary conditions (human waste, and garbage), should absolutely not be permitted on any level in Bremerton, let alone near a church, school or residential neighborhood area.

Once this prescient is set, you will open the Pandora's box enticing more homeless to populate our beautiful Kitsap Peninsula, creating an even heavier financial burden on the city. Allowing this to happen is not only fiducially irresponsible in the short term, but will have a grave impact long term which will be difficult to reign in once allowed. Further, the impact on homeowner's safety and the consequential decrease in their properties home values as well as resale will be substantial.

I suggest if there is an over population problem here, the homeless are shipped to Olympia for the Governor to sort out in his neighborhood. The cost of a bus would be far cheaper. As well, EBT food vouchers, housing assistance and any other free aide should be incentivized and given out only if a person is tested and has drug free results. This will actually work towards getting individuals off of drugs and to become productive citizens who contribute to the tax base.

Allowing for a homeless zone where rules will be broken will only exacerbate the drug use and homeless problem. As council members you must think outside of the box, be fiducially responsible to your constituents and do the right thing keeping peace and safety for tax paying residents your HIGHEST concern. Imagine if the proposed camp were allowed in your neighborhood. Seriously! You do not have the right to negatively impact our community by such a disastrous decision. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Respectfully,

Christine Daniel

Sent from Proton Mail for iOS

**From:** [Rob Sr. Legge](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless camps  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:15:18 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am sending this at the request of Clyde and Lynn Zumwalt who do not have a working email account.

They reside at : 1290 E. Treasure Island Dr., Allyn WA 98524

Dear council members,

The proposal to allow camping on the city owned 40 acre near (less than 500 feet) Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School is not something that should be tolerated. This is not a solution, but merely a temporary band-aid.

Please use alternatives that address the root causes of homelessness and do not endanger our school children and nearby citizens.

Sincerely,

Clyde and Lynn Zumwalt

P.S.

I live in Belfair and like the Zumwalts attend Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. I agree wholeheartedly with them.

Rob Legge

**From:** [Cindy Large](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments about camp sites  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:33:57 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mayor Wheeler and Members of the Council,

**I applaud your desire to address the sub-culture of homelessness.** By not allowing unauthorized camping on public property within the city limits, many **residents will be safer, be able to use sidewalks with wheelchairs and walkers, will not need to clean feces off their property, or have personal property stolen or damaged, will not be verbally assaulted and will be able to smile to greet a passer-by on the sidewalk, again.**

Sadly, moving these persons to other locations will prove to be a social experiment creating sever consequences. First, many are transient and wander. Some may return to the city during certain hours, then go back to the camp sites. Some may explore surrounding property of the camp sites. **Essentially this is spreading the “issue” around without addressing the real problem.**

Secondly, **some of the suggested camp sites are out of sight which allows uncontrolled behavior to a greater, more intense level.** Considering that while in sight of any one within the city, many have displayed out of control behavior. So now, out of sight, are they going to suddenly control themselves? To what level will be their limit or do they have a limit? Actually, this out-of-sight already exists in many locations and has been going on for some time: Fred Meyer neighboring county land, the watershed of Illahee, city parks, city watersheds, etc. Ask those neighbors what has happened to their homes and personal safety. Do they get protection from intruders and at times, invaders? This is an identical scenario of what has been happening within the city limits with one distinction. The offenders melt back into the woods, where police would have to go on foot to pursue them, a dangerous situation for our officers. I submit that this has been unreasonable and with this proposal, unsustainable.

Next, **in the woods, what about safety issues like fires and/or emergency medical care?** Some of the sites do not have vehicle access and the safety of our first respondents must be of high priority.

**Do you have an environmental impact statement?** What happens to our watersheds and our wildlife? Are they being killed, eaten? What about contamination from human waste, garbage, needles from drugs, and that list goes on and on? What about our beautiful trees? I had to hire a woodsman to climb up trees to remove steak and butter knives that tweakers had stabbed into the trees all the way to the highest point of the tree. If the trees weren't there, what would they be stabbing or whom?

Some of the unenforced camping sites are close to schools. I personally know of a young girl, an elementary student who was assaulted by a homeless man with bear spray. This is not acceptable nor tolerable. **Our children must be protected. Our government must not be ineffective at accomplishing this.**

**In December of 2012, recreational marijuana use was legalized.** In the spring of 2013, I saw the first for the first time a man in the storm water drain on Sylvan Way. I called the police because I thought that he had been hit by a car, no he was high. By the end of summer, I became desensitized to the ditches being bedding. **Do we really want our children or ourselves to become desensitized to human plight?**

This is clearly not a fix, not even a band aid. Not all homeless are drug addicts, mentally ill, or lazy. A friend who was homeless cited that other homeless people will bring drugs, displaying and handing out, before breakfast. **Now, the issue comes full circle to the homeless environment itself.**

Let's get back to business of the homeless environment, define the sub-culture of homeless. There are so many different reasons for homelessness: drugs addiction, unaffordable housing, unsafe home, inadequate education [an inadequate babysitting service for too many students, while over-regulating many good teachers] and sadly this list goes on and on. No matter the cause, there are several types of people:

- Those who want to get back on their feet. May need some drug rehabilitation due to being on the streets.
- Those who want to grow beyond that and desiring education to advance themselves.
- Those who want to be safe and recover from past abuse.
- Those who like drugs without walls around them or laws to cope with.

My definition is: **A homeless person does not have a home nor apartment; nor a recreation vehicle, boat, nor vehicle to dwell in, located in an authorized, legal, off-street location.** If you are going to have encampments and do not call them camp sites, plan to develop each type of site in the future. There should be **3 types of sites: drug-free, transitional and drug accepted.** The last two should house small populations. McNeil Island would be workable with much planning for the drug accepted site.

**But the drug-free encampment would be located where other charities could help by providing services and operate without rental costs in buildings owned or constructed by city.** Bremerton once had Love-In-the-Name-of Christ operating which was most effective. By tracking their clients as well, the transient offenders were not able to deplete their resources. We have many good, effective organizations like Stand Up For Kids. These are homeless children due to abuse, neglect, etc. But, they have been displaced by the new regime of violent homeless and are near impossible to locate. Pre-pandemic there were about 800 in Silverdale, they attended school, successfully graduating. Lord knows what has happened since. Therefore, this encampment would have a separate, adjacent location for the unattached, homeless children.

**Most of all, are these homeless persons residents?** [I have noticed that my illegal alien friends are housed and are not among the sub-culture of homeless.] Let's pin down where some of this population came from. Some cities have bussed and ferried homeless out of their jurisdiction to other cities. Bremerton would need to charge the other cities and tack on an additional high processing fee. We are a small community and should take care of our own.

The State of Washington defines a resident as:

- Persons are considered residents of this state for sales and use tax purposes if they take actions which indicate that they intend to live in this state on more than a temporary or transient basis.
- According to the rule, if you spend at least 183 days of a year in a state — even if you have established your domicile in another state — you are considered a resident of the state for tax purposes.
- Students must live here one year first for college tuition consideration.

We are investing a great deal of money and time and effort in each homeless person. **We need to prioritize our efforts to make them count.** Even though the City of Bremerton feels that they need to house homeless persons, **no government should attempt to be a guardian, nor a parent, nor a family member, and most importantly, not a charity.** If

an individual is unable to care for themselves, then they should have a GAL, guardian ad litem appointed. **All government primary purpose is to provide law and order.**

**Let's follow the money: the state government makes a huge revenue from marijuana sales.** In fact, they love it. This big business has brought in huge, almost infinite tax revenue **in a mere eleven years.** **Our social and personal cost has been the loss a generation of young men and women, living in an altered state.** We have paid dearly, and now we must humanely house them. It is time for the **State of Washington to create encampments from this goldmine revenue for drug usage encampments.** Those residents would be free to go and come as they wish. But drug usage elsewhere remains illegal, anyone violating the law will be jailed and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

This squarely lands on our shoulders, not the governments'. If the City wishes to be involved, they need to investigate other governmental, including international, attempts to deal with the homeless and recognize failures and cherry pick plausible methods. We also need to ask why do we have so many homeless? Were they born here? The government is required to count our population every ten years for census. So, **have identification for our homeless neighbors.** This is critical. **Without numbers how can we even handle, move or serve the current homeless more-or-less reduce the growth rate?**

I submit that you table this proposal, create a small committee to investigate solutions, get input from charities, coordinate with the state and possibly other cities. Meanwhile, purchase a RV site as a temporary location, with non-drivable RVs to house drug free persons, with surveillance and drug dog patrol.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Large, a mother of an altered state adult son

**From:** [David Tougas](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 9:09:13 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am concerned about the proposal being voted on by the City Council to permit a homeless encampment in East Bremerton. One proposed location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. Many municipalities in Western Washington are facing terrible health and public safety problems related to homeless camps allowed in their jurisdictions, and I think it's a big mistake for Bremerton to consider allowing homeless camps here.

Homeless camps offer only a temporary solution, and do not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the City Council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness, and provide for the health and public safety for all people in Bremerton.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Tougas  
General Manager  
Bremerton Work Space  
1310 Bertha Ave. NW  
P.O. Box 5839  
Bremerton WA 98312  
(360) 698-8687



**From:** [DOMINGO MONZON](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 11:39:19 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Domingo Monzon Jr. & Mrs. Marlene C. Monzon  
9370 Saint Johns PL NE  
Bremerton, Wa. 98311

**From:** [Donavan Phillips](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Camping on city property  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:54:14 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Today, I arrived home to a typed note on my gate, placed by a citizen, informing me of the vote planned for Wednesday on the proposed city ordinance. I am extremely unhappy and shocked that the first literature or notice I received to my home on such a potentially impactful law is from a private citizen, not the city, and only two days before the planned vote. The lack of outreach and information is unacceptable. To the ordinance itself and the potential sites for camping, I am vehemently opposed. I live on the corner of Preble and Constitution mere blocks from two of the proposed sites, this is my first home which I purchased last November and I live here with my wife, who is a stay at home mother, and my two children aged 4 and 1. I work long hours to support my family and leave very early in the morning. The idea of leaving my family alone near such a site, which I fear will be frightfully under regulated and under patrolled, is unthinkable. Me and my family deserve safety and peace of mind in our home and on our property. The potential crime and safety issues around the placement of these sites are unquestionable and need to be addressed before any ordinance like this is proposed, let alone considered for a vote. Please consider my family and every family on this street when I ask you to vote no on this ordinance. I support assisting those in need, but not at the expense and under the nose of responsible tax paying families.

Thank you,  
Donavan Phillips 9/18/2023  
360-550-3383

**From:** [Raylene and Skip Collier](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 9:55:05 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

My wife & I attended your Study Session on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. I believe the public attendees were expecting a deep discussion on the proposed homeless encampments scattered around Bremerton and (while I can only speak for myself) I also believe that those attendees were hoping for some input on that subject. That's not what we got and frankly I don't know if we're going to get that opportunity prior to any decisions being made and/or any ordinances are voted on and passed. It is absolutely essential that the citizens of Bremerton get to voice their opinions to the Mayor and City Council.

By what I read in a recent article in The Kitsap Sun, an "available shelter" will include properties outside the city limits. What properties and where? Might I suggest the open area on SR303 next to Safeway and behind Brown Bear? I know this property has been cleared at least twice of overgrowth and is once again that way. Also, what about the large piece of property on SR303 that was the golf driving range? It has been undeveloped since the business closed over a year ago. If these parcels are privately owned, possibly a lease agreement could be reached with the owners. Who is going to pay for the "free" transportation to these shelters? Is Kitsap Transit and are cab companies going to be subsidized for the additional bus route{s} and/or taxi cabs & drivers? The same article talks about an "available overnight shelter" to include a permitted outdoor encampment inside the city limits. Does "overnight" really mean overnight? Also, since maps were published {seemingly by mistake if what I heard at last Wednesday's meeting is correct} will the homeless now go to those areas as they will be considered available for an encampment without fear of prosecution? Why is the homeless situation only a Bremerton issue? Why are not the Mayors & City Councils of Poulsbo and Port Orchard and participation of the Greater Kitsap Chamber of Commerce not included in the meetings in Bremerton? This is not just a Bremerton problem but it sure seems that it's being treated as such. This is a Kitsap County problem and all of the incorporated and unincorporated municipalities should be part of the discussion of what should be done. I'm sure you all realize that if these encampments are established in Bremerton, the homeless from throughout the entire county will migrate to them and they will grow exponentially until they are totally out of control. On the subject of control, we heard the Chief of Police say he does not have the resources. Will toilet and shower facilities be provided? Who will be responsible for maintaining those? Public Works & Utilities can't keep up with their present workload much less take on this additional tasking. Are any of these encampments located literally outside the back or front doors of any of the City Council member's or the Mayor's homes or in their neighborhoods?

I was shocked to hear one of the council members say that we shouldn't criminalize being poor. How about the Kitsap County Prosecutor in cooperation with county and city law enforcement once again criminalize being criminal? Is it not criminal to use fentanyl, meth, cocaine, or crack in public? Is it not criminal to leave drug paraphernalia laying around for our children to have access to? Is it not criminal for people to be passed out on the street from alcohol or drug use? Is it not criminal for people (especially children) to see people urinating or defecating on the street?

Finally, the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, the most Liberal court in the country, has ruled prosecution of people living on the street as unconstitutional if there's no shelter provided for them to go to. I submit that the government could build shelters throughout the county and it would not

eliminate the homeless population from living on the street. They could be transported to a warm shelter and some would walk away as soon as your out of sight and go back to living on the street. Because that's how they want to live. We've all heard the old saying 'you can lead a horse to water...' If there are mental issues involved, get them help. If there's a veteran living homeless then by all means get them a shelter space or a permanent home because these men & women signed a paper volunteering to give their lives for our country. We've all seen what the conditions are in San Francisco, LA, Portland, Seattle, and yes Eugene. I see Bremerton on a slow walk to the same conditions. Residents will be walking the streets stepping over needles, feces, or bodies like they currently are in the aforementioned cities.

Respectfully,  
Edward L. Collier

**From:** [Edwin Cabalfin](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:52:40 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment, near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area, offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse, and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edwin V. Cabalfin  
2609 Trenton Avenue  
Bremerton, WA. 98310-5237

**From:** Emiko Helmuth <[em\\_helmuth@hotmail.com](mailto:em_helmuth@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:22 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council/Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emiko Helmuth  
2067 NW Rustling Fir LN  
Silverdale, WA 98383

**From:** [Finn Bray](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 6:16:27 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening Bremerton City Council,

I recently have been notified about these proposed homeless encampments in Bremerton. One of the areas being proposed is a lot of land near Pine Road, by Holy Trinity Catholic Church. I would like to express my concern as a student who goes to the new high school (Aquinas Classical Academy) which uses Holy Trinity's building. I find this proposed location to be highly unsafe, not only because it is near a Church and a school, but also because it is not a good place to have any sort of encampment. To my knowledge, there is no fresh water, no public restrooms, and lots of mosquitos. In addition to this, the encampment being in the woods will make it difficult for emergency responders to access possible victims of drug overdoses, stabbings, and shootings. On top of all of this, fires could always be started that lead to the destruction of some of the forest. I believe to fix this exceedingly rampant homeless problem, we should be trying to fix this problem by giving the homeless real and effective remedies, rather than giving them a large chunk of land to set up their tents.

Sincerely,

Finnegan Bray  
Bremerton, WA

**From:** [Flor Cabalfin](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 4:53:25 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address the deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Florencia V. Cabalfin  
2609 Trenton Avenue  
Bremerton, WA  
98310-5237



**From:** Huy Nguyen <huythuybinh@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 7:04 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools and Neighborhood

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children. This location is also very close to my own neighborhood, and I believe this would impact the overall sense of security and quiet that I have enjoyed since moving to my home a year and a half ago. Home values in the area would also take a hit.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Huy Nguyen  
3667 Halsey Ln  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** [Jane Oczkewicz](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment near schools  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:28:57 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near (less than 500 feet) from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy (ACA) High School. This poses safety challenges for our community and for our children. Please consider two thoughts:

- 1: Liability issues for the academy
- 2 The encampment as a temporary band-aid solution for the homeless.

No way would this idea of situating a homeless encampment be suggested as a neighbor to a public school property. Both parents and school board would be up in arms at the idea, I speak from 30-years experience as a public school teacher/counselor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Oczkewicz  
10872 Horizon Lane E.SE  
Port Orchard, WA

**From:** Jane Oczkewicz <[j.oczkewicz@centurylink.net](mailto:j.oczkewicz@centurylink.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:32 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near (less than 500 feet) from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy (ACA) High School. This poses safety challenges for our community and for our children. Please consider two thoughts:

- 1: Liability issues for the academy
- 2 The encampment as a temporary band-aid solution for the homeless.

No way would this idea of situating a homeless encampment be suggested as a neighbor to a public school property. Both parents and school board would be up in arms at the idea, I speak from 30-years experience as a public school teacher/counselor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Oczkewicz  
10872 Horizon Lane E.SE  
Port Orchard, WA

**From:** jane Rebelowski <janerebelowski@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 1:05 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; David.Nelson@kitsapsun.com; Dawn Michele Wilson <DM.wilson@soxbox.org>

**Subject:** Encampments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This may be the saddest response to our unsanctioned houseless camps. Volunteers with Rock the Block reached out to Child Protective Services to report two young children living amongst Fentanyl users, people on the sexual offenders registry, and severely mentally sick people behind Burger King.

CPS had no accommodations to offer these children but a social worker hung up a clock on a tree and got them new bikes. The clock was given to the children so they would know when to go to school. We can and must do better now.

Jane Rebelowski



**From:** [jeffreytoney@aol.com](mailto:jeffreytoney@aol.com) <[jeffreytoney@aol.com](mailto:jeffreytoney@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:10 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment Proposal

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

We believe that homelessness is a serious problem and sadly continues to grow. However, we do not believe that encampments are a humane and serious solution. Issues such as sanitation, mental health, drug use, loitering are all issues that arise from these encampments causing catastrophic problems for your constituents living adjacent to these encampments.

As supporters of Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School we urge you to reconsider the proposed encampment to be located on the 40 acre site just 500 feet from these two private institutions. A better use of this land owned by the city would be a mental health facility and/or a shelter for families. This would be the first step in seriously addressing the growing homelessness problem.

My wife and I grew weary of the rising crime and high cost of living in the Northwest. Last year we packed our RV and came to Florida. Quality of life in the Pacific Northwest must improve for everyone or the exodus from the Seattle area will continue. Please make a positive change that improves the lives of everyone! We'd like to someday return.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff & Patricia Toney  
Formerly of Gig Harbor, WA

**From:** [Jj Kk](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#); [Quinn Dennehy](#)  
**Subject:** City Designated Camping Sites  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:24:47 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff Klist

1202 Broadway Ave

Bremerton, WA 98337

[jnkpnw@gmail.com](mailto:jnkpnw@gmail.com)

512.552.0324

18 September 2023

Honorable Mayor Greg Wheeler :: [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Bremerton City Council :: [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Norm Dicks Government Center

345 6th St., Suite 100

Bremerton, WA 98337

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Designated Public Camping Sites

I am writing to express my deep concerns and reservations about the proposed designated public

camping sites for unhoused individuals on city-owned property, specifically the micro site on Warren Ave and 11<sup>th</sup> St. While I understand the city's intention to address the issue of homelessness, there

are significant issues with the proposed sites that warrant reconsideration.

Several of the proposed sites appear to fall short of the minimum acreage requirements established by

the Ninth Circuit's Martin vs. Boise ruling. This ruling is crucial in ensuring that the rights of unhoused

individuals are protected, and we must adhere to these standards to avoid legal complications.

Furthermore, the proposed sites lack the necessary setbacks from residential homes. This oversight can

lead to potential conflicts and discomfort for both the campers and nearby residents.

The home builder on 12<sup>th</sup> St attempted to buy the lot on Warren and 11<sup>th</sup> but was denied by the city. The homeowner at 1011 12<sup>th</sup> st attempted to buy the lot and was denied by the city. Apparently this lot is unfit for use of any kind according to the city. Half of the lot is a steeply sloping hill, and is unusable for tents, RVs, portable toilets etc. The only access to this lot is a dead end street on 12<sup>th</sup>, with a small turn around. There is limited parking and it's 1hr only. This encampment will surely spill out onto the already crowded street, blocking access and causing mobility issues.

Several other factors make these sites inappropriate for designated public camping. Sanitation issues,

the risk of fire and theft, and the lack of access to essential services and facilities, such as mental health

services, hotels, shelter beds, grocery stores, restaurants, employment opportunities, and transportation, pose significant challenges for the campers' well-being and safety.

Moreover, the proximity of the Warren Ave sites to Olympic College, a daycare, and Pop Warner field raises concerns about the safety

of young students. It is crucial to consider the potential impact on the vulnerable college community.

I urge the Bremerton City Council to reconsider the proposed designated public camping sites and

explore alternative solutions that provide safe and supportive environments for unhoused individuals

while also respecting the rights and concerns of residents and institutions in the vicinity.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to serving our community. Please cast

your vote against this ill-considered ordinance at next Wednesday's meeting and allow time to find a

more workable solution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

Jeff Klist

**From:** jennifer.pielow.net <jennifer@pielow.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:16 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences

To the Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pielow  
1955 NW Woodcrest Ct  
Silverdale WA 98383

**From:** [John E](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 5:53:26 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear <City Council/Mayor Wheeler>,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

I have had personal experience with the homeless at our Church and as a Transit operator. Many are good citizens and have been easy to interact with. There are also those who are not and should not be in close proximity of a school or wherever children are likely to be present and may not have a parent or legal guardian to watch out for them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Eckert  
1423 17th Street  
Bremerton WA 98337  
360 271-6971

From: Joni White <[jamnjoni@icloud.com](mailto:jamnjoni@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:08 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless housing crisis!

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joni White  
2916 NW Bucklin Hill Rd  
Silverdale, WA 98383

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Guyt, Juliana <guyt5179@pacificu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:17 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** MLK Toilets

Hello,

My name is Juliana Guyt and I am writing to get clarification regarding the portable toilets on MLK Way.

From my understanding, the city counsel set aside \$10,000 to install portable toilets on MLK Way. Is this correct?

I also understand that the city never installed the toilets. If my understanding is correct, what is that money being used for and when will it be used according to allocation?

In addition, it seems the community was able to act before the city and there are two toilets being funded by donations on MLK Way. Can the \$10,000 of tax dollars be used to support these toilets?

I am hoping the city government and community can work together.

Please respond with answers.

Peace,  
Juliana

**From:** Karen Fairall <[klfairall@gmail.com](mailto:klfairall@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:45 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Homeless Encampments

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near our schools and residences in Bremerton. Of personal concern, one such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for my children. This area, and other locations are near homes with vulnerable populations, day cares, playgrounds and playfields.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. In addition to the hazardous conditions created by encampments I am deeply concerned about the likelihood of increased personal and property crime in the areas surrounding the proposed camps - especially in areas with vulnerable populations, elderly and children. There is no access to transportation or resources in many of the areas outlined in your encampment plan.

It is embarrassing that our city's leaders would prefer those suffering from homelessness, addiction and mental illness to live in squalor and desperation in the woods and beaches of our community then allow for resources like the Kitsap Rescue Mission to continue operations without fire sprinklers in the building - as they managed to operate safely for years prior to you shutting them down in 2019. We invest our tax dollars in schools, playfields and parks for our community to enjoy safely - it will be a tragedy to see these further overcome by criminals that thrive in homeless encampments.

Under your leadership - you have had almost 4 years to create or find a new solution to provide a permanent shelter to provide services for homeless in our community and you have failed. The Salvation Army was intended to be a short term solution and now, in its absence, and leading into the cold and rainy months your proposed solution is to designate encampment areas in our community. This is a disgrace. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Fairall  
671 Cantershire Ct NE, Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** [Karen Fairall](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:44:28 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near our schools and residences in Bremerton. Of personal concern, one such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for my children. This area, and other locations are near homes with vulnerable populations, day cares, playgrounds and playfields.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. In addition to the hazardous conditions created by encampments I am deeply concerned about the likelihood of increased personal and property crime in the areas surrounding the proposed camps - especially in areas with vulnerable populations, elderly and children. There is no access to transportation or resources in many of the areas outlined in your encampment plan.

It is embarrassing that our city's leaders would prefer those suffering from homelessness, addiction and mental illness to live in squalor and desperation in the woods and beaches of our community then allow for resources like the Kitsap Rescue Mission to continue operations without fire sprinklers in the building - as they managed to operate safely for years prior to you shutting them down in 2019. We invest our tax dollars in schools, playfields and parks for our community to enjoy safely - it will be a tragedy to see these further overcome by criminals that thrive in homeless encampments.

Under your leadership - you have had almost 4 years to create or find a new solution to provide a permanent shelter to provide services for homeless in our community and you have failed. The Salvation Army was intended to be a short term solution and now, in its absence, and leading into the cold and rainy months your proposed solution is to designate encampment areas in our community. This is a disgrace. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Fairall  
671 Cantershire Ct NE, Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** [PATRICIA MARZ](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near two Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 11:32:02 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our

schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and

Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper

issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative

strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Ron Karlberg

P.O. Box 4099

Bremerton, Wa. 98312



**From:** [Kelly Shea](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Connecting  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:43:48 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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

**From:** Kelly Shea <[sheakelly61@gmail.com](mailto:sheakelly61@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 7:40 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

My name is Kelly Shea-Lider, I live on S Constitution Ave. It has been brought to my attention that the city council will be voting on allowing unhoused individuals to set up camps on city owned land. Two of these properties are on S Constitution Ave. One of which is right in my backyard! On the other side is a grade school. On the corner is a kindergarten and grade school bus stop, also there are preschools on both sides of the proposed site. That trail is used by many grade school children to get to and from school. My Husband and I are very concerned about the Human waste, garbage, broken glass and discarded needles soon to litter this area! This is not the proper way to deal with the homeless. It will not improve their quality of life. But it most definitely will impact this neighborhoods quality of life, in a very negative way! Thank you for your time, Kelly Shea-Lider  
On Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 5:14 PM Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

|

**From:** Kim <kimmysiebens@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 8:19 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Concerns Regarding the Anti-Camping Ordinance and Its Impact on the Homeless Crisis

Dear Bremerton City Council and Mayor,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed anti-camping ordinance and its potential impact on our community's homeless crisis. As a concerned citizen and Registered Nurse, I firmly believe that this ordinance will only exacerbate the already dire situation faced by individuals experiencing homelessness.

First and foremost, it is crucial to acknowledge that homelessness is not a choice but a complex issue influenced by a myriad of factors such as lack of affordable housing, mental health challenges, substance abuse, unemployment, and systemic inequities. Criminalizing camping through the implementation of such an ordinance would further marginalize and stigmatize those already facing hardship, pushing them deeper into the cycle of poverty and despair.

The homeless crisis demands compassionate and sustainable solutions that address the root causes rather than punitive measures that only serve to displace individuals without offering any real assistance. By focusing on punitive actions instead of investing in supportive services, affordable housing initiatives, substance abuse treatment, and mental health resources, we risk perpetuating the cycle of homelessness and denying our fellow community members the opportunity to regain stability.

Moreover, implementing an anti-camping ordinance would strain our community resources and burden our already overstretched social services. Instead of allocating funds toward criminalization efforts, it is imperative that we invest in proactive programs that provide access to affordable housing, job training, mental health support, and substance abuse treatment. By adopting a comprehensive approach, we can empower individuals to reintegrate into society as productive and self-sufficient members.

Furthermore, countless studies have shown that criminalization measures have proven ineffective in resolving homelessness. Cities that have implemented similar ordinances have witnessed a rise in hidden encampments, increased strain on emergency shelters, and a higher risk of individuals being driven into more dangerous and unsanitary situations. Instead of criminalizing homelessness, we should focus on collaborative approaches that involve community organizations, local businesses, and government agencies to implement sustainable strategies for addressing the crisis.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the adoption of the proposed anti-camping ordinance and, instead, prioritize compassion, collaboration, and long-term solutions. By investing in affordable housing, support services, and community outreach programs like Rock The Block, we can make significant strides in addressing our homeless crisis and ensuring the well-being and dignity of all individuals in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I would be more than willing to discuss this issue further or participate in any initiatives aimed at finding sustainable solutions to our homeless crisis. Together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Kimmy Siebens RN

Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member,  
Washington Physicians for  
Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

President, Their Voice  
<http://www.their-voice.org>

Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless>

Founding Member, Rock the Block  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/rocktheblockkitsap/>

2023 USA TODAY Woman of the Year Honoree  
<https://www.kitsapsun.com/in-depth/news/2023/03/19/kimmy-siebens-washington-usa-today-women-year/69925589007/>

**From:** [Lawnie Bailey](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp near Churches and Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 11:15:17 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler/City Council Members:

Your proposal to move a portion of the homeless population to within 500 feet of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish and the new location of Aquinas Classical Academy is not acceptable. This proposal does not offer a solution, rather it creates another problem.

The City of Bremerton has numerous Codes and Ordinances regarding Health and Sanitation (Title 6) as well as Peace, Safety and Morals (Title 9) covering a host of issues, viz.,

- \*\* . Garbage and Refuse
- Public Nuisances
- Litter Control
- Drug and Alcohol Offenses
- Nudity
- Unauthorized Camping
- Et Cetera

In addition, Washington State has laws prohibiting the sale and distribution of alcohol within a specified distance from schools, with good reason. Those laws were enacted to protect our most precious resource, children. Shouldn't there be the same concern about the flagrant use of drugs and alcohol within that same distance?

It is indeed alarming to witness council members choosing which ordinances they will enforce and which they will ignore. I have long believed that higher education, including academic degrees do not insure intelligence or for that matter the basic ability to employ cognitive discernment (aka common sense).

It is time for the City Council to take an honest look at the social problem that is plaguing our cities across the country. I'm sure you have studied the problem, discussed it within your council as well as citizens of Bremerton. It is now time to act responsibly. Let the solution begin with you.

Thank you for your service to the City and for considering my position on this very important subject.

Sincerely,

Lawnie Bailey  
983 Deer Harbor Lane NW  
Silverdale, Washington 98383

**From:** [Len Psyk](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Camp Near Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Academy  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:16:00 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Further to my previous cautionary email below, I urge the City Council to include in their deliberations and considerations of the proposed ordinance that would allow for homeless camps on various public properties the risks and costs that have been associated with the cleanup of property where drugs such as fentanyl have been discovered. Fentanyl has become a commonly used drug by addicts and is highly likely to be found present in every homeless camp. Extremely small amounts have required extraordinary and very expensive cleanup efforts. In the case of homeless camps on public property that cost would unfairly burden the taxpayers.

Please review the facts described in the article below by one of the companies that specializes in such cleanups. The link is below. The photo at the top of the article should itself give pause to your decision making. The health risks to the surrounding neighborhood warrant your consideration. Any proposed ordinance should certainly include provision for the enforcement, investigation, and funding sources for such cleanups. It should also include consideration of the risks of litigation with the City by neighbors who may be harmed by the presence of such a dangerous drug essentially allowed in their neighborhood. To ignore that drugs such as fentanyl are almost certain to be present would be negligent.

<https://www.safetyservicesmanagement.com/blog-articles/2022/4/10/the-untold-story>

I wish I could provide suggestions for alternate solutions to the homeless problem. I do not have one. But defaulting to a kneejerk reaction of burdening any public property with the high likelihood of being contaminated by fentanyl could only be viewed as irresponsible. Please take extreme caution in your decision making on this proposed ordinance



**Len Psyk** | Sr. Development Manager  
Panattoni Development Company, Inc.  
1821 Dock St.  
Suite 100 | Tacoma, WA 98402  
Office: 206.838.3847 | Cell: 206.755.6722  
[LPsyk@panattoni.com](mailto:LPsyk@panattoni.com)

**From:** Len Psyk <[len.psyk@gmail.com](mailto:len.psyk@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** September 15, 2023 at 12:39:02 PM PDT  
**To:** [city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us), [greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Homeless Camp Near Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Academy

Please reconsider the approximate 40 acre vacant city land near the Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Academy as a possible homeless camp. The inherent dangers and risk of populating this land with a camp for the homeless is a very long list. The history of homeless camps speaks for itself. They attract people suffering from addiction and the dealers who sell to them. They pay for their illegal drugs by stealing from homes and cars close to them. They create sanitation and trash nightmares. This location is surrounded by residential areas, the Holy Trinity Church, and the Aquinas Academy. It is far from the services homeless people need to survive. Things such as food banks and medical care. It is far from any law enforcement. Perhaps there are more appropriate locations in the downtown or commercial or industrial areas that should be considered. To destroy this area with a homeless encampment would be unconscionable.

Placing a homeless camp in this area is no more appropriate a location than any of the public parks throughout the city. The state liquor laws prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages near schools for a very good reason. It seems equally important to shield schools from the problems experienced at virtually every homeless camp whether "legal" or illegal. Law enforcement resources are already insufficient and underfunded to manage the other criminal activity in the city. There is no way the city can provide adequate protection and safety for the residents of the area and the children at the school. There is simply no defensible plan to ensure otherwise.

Enabling homeless activities and accommodating illegal camping does nothing to solve the problems of the homeless. Designating this area as a "legal" campground ignores existing zoning and land use regulations in place in this neighborhood. No jurisdiction in the country has been successful controlling the crime, sanitation issues, and trash that comes with virtually every homeless encampment. City funds would be far better utilized address the core cause of homelessness including substance abuse and mental health.

If your mission is to provide for care and support to the homeless please consider other options, and at a minimum do not impose the destruction of a residential area such as this one.

**From:** [Lilly Deerwater](#)  
**To:** [Jeff Coughlin](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Re: An Update on City Council's Amendment to BMC 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 12:59:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Bremerton City Council,

This update does not address the core issue that criminalizing homelessness creates worsens homelessness rather than solving it. A criminal record prevents people from finding housing in the future. You're punishing people experiencing homelessness with misdemeanors instead of solving the problem by increasing available services and making them more accessible.

Please don't pass this anti-camping ordinance in any form. If you spent this time and energy on solutions rather than band-aid measures focused on visibility, you could actually improve the lives of everyone in Bremerton rather than kicking the can down the road, filling jails, and creating more barriers to housing access.

Thank you,  
Lilly

On Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 7:25 PM Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Dear Bremerton Neighbor,

I am sending this to you because you submitted a comment by e-mail regarding or related to the update to BMC Chapter 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping" (a.k.a., the camping ordinance), and wanted to give you an update.

1. Thank you for your civic engagement. One of the Bremerton City Council's top goals is soliciting public input, and we are glad to have had such robust engagement and spent many meetings on this difficult and complex topic.
2. I wanted to make sure you knew Council has a modified draft of the ordinance that is on the agenda for the Council Meeting this Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> — there are significant differences from the draft presented at the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The full text of the ordinance can be found in the Council Packet (<https://www.bremertonwa.gov/706/Agenda-Packet>) and at the end of this e-mail is a snapshot of the agenda bill summary that describes the differences between this draft ordinance and the last update to this code from 2004.
3. The Council's Public Safety Committee will additionally be exploring a separate ordinance, hopefully with the assistance of the Mayor and his Administration, that could give property owners the legal authority to trespass people who are congregating in the planting strip adjacent to their property, based on this model from Eugene, OR: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4236/Planting-Strip-Ordinance>
4. It should be clear that the ordinance to update BMC 9.32 only addresses Unauthorized

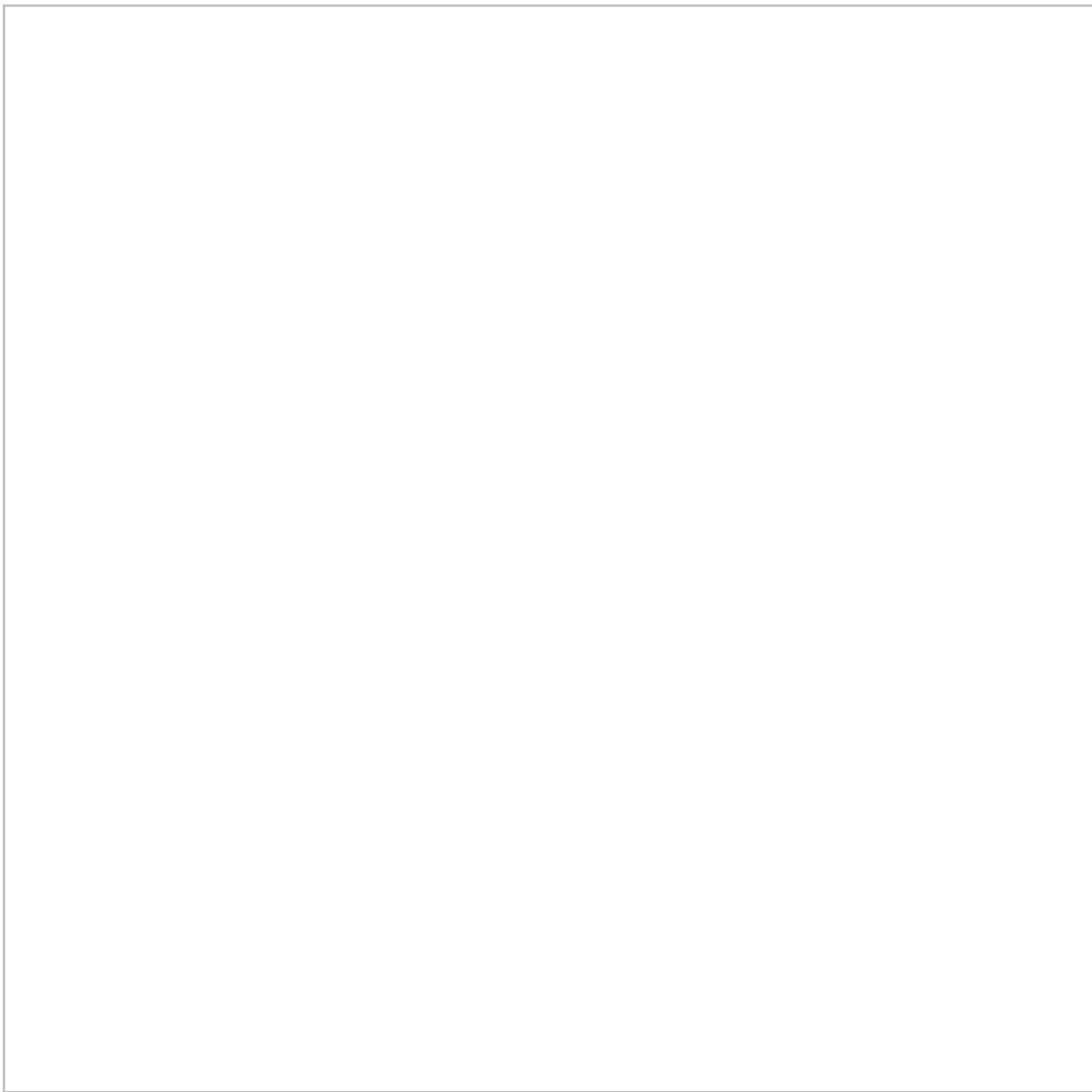


Camping. It does not address the creation of shelter space and the myriad of needs for those experiencing homelessness, for which we rely on the Mayor working in concert with non-profits, community groups, non-governmental organizations, and county, state, and federal government to provide, and to request from the Council any needed city resources.

Finally, personally speaking, I encourage you to contact your county commissioners and state and federal legislators to address the growing issues of poverty, affordable housing, homelessness/houselessness, drug addiction, healthcare access, including mental health, and the many other issues that face our community and impact our neighborhoods. Bremerton is the poorest per-capita city in Kitsap, with only 16% of the county's population, and yet is the identified residence of nearly 60% of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Council has been bold to have frank conversations on these issues, but Bremerton does not have the resources to solve these complex regional issues alone.

Thanks for speaking up,





*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

--

**Lilly Deerwater** (she/her/hers)  
Economic Inequity & Health Program Manager  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Email: [lilly@wpsr.org](mailto:lilly@wpsr.org) | Phone: 206.547.2630

Visit us: [wpsr.org](http://wpsr.org) | Join us: [Become a member](#)

Donate: [Support our work](#) | Learn more: [Sign up for emails](#)



**From:** Lilly Deerwater <lilly@wpsr.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 12:59 PM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: An Update on City Council's Amendment to BMC 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Bremerton City Council,

This update does not address the core issue that criminalizing homelessness creates worsens homelessness rather than solving it. A criminal record prevents people from finding housing in the future. You're punishing people experiencing homelessness with misdemeanors instead of solving the problem by increasing available services and making them more accessible.

Please don't pass this anti-camping ordinance in any form. If you spent this time and energy on solutions rather than band-aid measures focused on visibility, you could actually improve the lives of everyone in Bremerton rather than kicking the can down the road, filling jails, and creating more barriers to housing access.

Thank you,  
Lilly

From: Lisa Gnassi <lisagnassi@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:02 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Proposed Homelessness Encampments

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CAPT & Mrs Steven Gnassi, USN (Ret)  
177 NW Carter Farms Ct  
Bremerton

**From:** [m.broderick@marcibroderick.com](mailto:m.broderick@marcibroderick.com)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampment on Lakehurst  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 12:44:24 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: City Council  
Attention: Eric Younger

I've learned of a possible homeless encampment on Lakehurst Dr. in Bremerton. The area selected is a wetland area that is hilly, wet and swampy. The selected area has streams flowing into Kitsap Lake, and is squarely located near an elementary school.

The streams feed Kitsap Lake. Human waste will end up in that lake. The lake has undergone efforts to clean it up already. Human waste, drugs, needles and increased crime will have a negative effect on home values, the wetland and the safety of our community. The proposed encampment would have million dollar homes directly across the street.

We already have crime in our neighborhood. While I feel for those experiencing homelessness, I also know that many of encampments occupants have addiction and mental illness problems.

Please reconsider the selection of Lakehurst Dr. Advocate for conducting an environmental assessment before signing off on this plan. The impacts will be devastating for our community.

Thank you,  
Marcia Broderick

---

Marcia Broderick  
1-206-419-9604  
[m.broderick@marcibroderick.com](mailto:m.broderick@marcibroderick.com)

from iPhone

**From:** [Mariebeth Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:05:47 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler/City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children with my son being one of the students attending this school.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariebeth Rodriguez-Silva  
8845 NE Towne Pl  
Bremerton, WA 98311

**From:** [Marina Large](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:40:36 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I am concerned that the Bremerton City Council is entertaining legalizing homeless encampments near schools, daycare centers, and residences. I am a lifelong resident of Kitsap County. So, when I read the article in the newspaper with the list of proposed sites, I recognized all the locations. By every government statistic and non-profit statistic, homeless camps are drug havens. How can you even consider moving homeless camps rampant with drug use near schools and daycare centers? How can you consider moving them near residences that house the elderly and children?

This is no kind of solution. It just endangers vulnerable populations.

I would hope the City Council and the Mayor would be champions of children and the elderly. At the very least, I would hope that you would show good sense and support your voting base.

Placing encampments in these areas offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Marina Large  
PO Box 275  
Bremerton, WA  
98337



Virus-free [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** Mary Conte <mmc12130@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:08 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Mary Conte <mmc12130@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear Bremerton City Council  
Members:

I am writing you to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampments near our schools and residences.

One such location is less than 500 feet away from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, and especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues such as substance abuse, mental health, public health safety, and crime prevention issues.

I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that address the root causes of homelessness, and ensure the safety and dignity of all people.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and may God guide your deliberations and decisions.

Respectfully,

Mary M. Conte  
3320 NE Coley Ln  
Bremerton, WA



**From:** [maureen.arnesen](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment proposal  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:08:51 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Bremerton City Council

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that would address the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maureen Arnesen  
38035 Buck Rd. NE  
Hansville, WA 98340

**From:** Michael Cook <silvercgu11@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 8:52 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Bremerton Police Department (No Response Arson)

Hello,

Today,

A woman, possibly a transient and mentally unstable, started a small fire behind our home. Our neighbor called 911, at about 2:35 p.m. and reported it.

The fire department, responded quickly but no police patrol units ever responded.

The woman casually just walked away, from the scene.

I politely called the Bremerton Police Dispatchers and spoke with them and got the impression, they believed it was a fire department issue only. I asked them if an on duty police patrol supervisor could contact us, so we could speak with them about procedural responses to arsonists and a lack of response.

No one ever contacted us. I simply had concerns, she would not be prevented from once again or repeatedly committing arson, again, in other locations or even our area, maybe when we are asleep. My questions /concerns are below and I would have asked if someone from the Bremerton Police Department, had followed up, responded or took more initiative and concern.

1. Why was this individual allowed to just walk away, despite committing arson?
2. Does the Bremerton Police Department, no longer respond to arson, crimes or consider arson, a crime!
3. Why does no one from BPD, care enough to contact us, despite being patient and courteous?

Thank you, I would not have contacted you, if BPD, had actually contacted us, as the Dispatcher, said they would, after we got the impression and subtle wording that this was only a Bremerton Fire Department, issue.

Respectfully,  
Mike C.

---

**From:** Molly Brooks <molly.rose.brooks42@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:16 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** voluntary ineligibility

ERACE Coalition's Housing Systems Team is concerned that your discussion during the study session was going in the direction of a voluntary ineligibility provision in the no-camping ordinance. Would this mean that people who were found to be camping when shelter beds were available to others but not to them could be charged with a misdemeanor? There are many reasons that a person may not be allowed to stay in the shelter. It can be anything from drug use to incontinence to aggressive behavior. None of those things are someone's fault. They are all caused by mental or physical illness. Are we really going to punish people for illnesses outside of their control? Instead, it would be better to have a designated campsite for these people to go to. That way they can be moved from whatever location is a problem without being arrested. This is all especially true because we don't have a low-barrier shelter, but even if we did we would have some people who would not be able to live in it.

We have a few other things we would like to bring up. we think it would be a good idea to have a City equivalent to the county housing and homelessness division housing manager. Someone who could work directly with us and all the volunteers on these issues. We also want the Mayor to act immediately to identify and prepare the site that people will be camping on even though people won't be moving there yet so that it is ready as soon as the shelter space is available. Thank you for reading this email.

ERACE Coalition Housing Systems Team

**From:** [Nicholas Simpson](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Requesting Alternative Homeless Encampment Locations  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 2:21:09 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler & Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing to request an alternative homeless encampment location to the one proposed near the Holy Trinity Church and the future Aquinas Classical Academy High School. An encampment located in the vicinity of a school, community center, grocery store or any other place where people, and especially children, congregate poses serious safety concerns.

Homeless encampments are temporary fixes to a much larger problem of substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to devise permanent solutions, on a case by case basis, to the root cause of the homelessness we have in the City of Bremerton.

In addition, if my information is correct, the center of this large parcel contains a water feature. What is the city's liability if any of the residents of the proposed encampment are injured or killed as a result of falling into this body of water?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas C. L. Simpson  
2128 Snyder Ave  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** [A Santiago](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 10:03:04 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. To be effective, the remedies should be well-staffed and thoughtful and not just move things out of sight. Is there a way to partner and further support the Kitsap Rescue Mission and/or the County's Pacific Building project?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick & Alma Santiago  
7633 Orcas Pl NW  
Bremerton WA 98311

**From:** Patrick Wheeler <patrickwheeler2196@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:11 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Designated Homeless Encampment Areas- Constitution

To whom it may concern,

My name is Patrick Wheeler and I am a property owner in Bremerton. I own a duplex that I currently rent out, but that I also previously lived in for 2 years. I have caught wind of the city's plans to allow unhoused individuals to reside in a couple of areas near my property on Constitution Avenue. I care about my tenants and about my old neighbors in the area, and because of this I am opposed to the action which the city is considering.

We are located very near a school and have many children living in our neighborhood. I do not mean to stereotype the homeless community, but there tends to be a correlation between the unhoused population and substance use. I don't like the idea of things like this happening so closely to children, our school, and our neighborhood.

These areas would also be harmful for my livelihood- my wife and I rely on the income we generate from our property, and having negative activity occur so near to our property would be harmful for our income. Not to mention, my current tenants, with whom I am particularly close, would not enjoy this and would likely vacate the property.

I simply ask that you consider the collateral effects of the actions you are considering. We take pride in the community our neighborhood has cultivated and in the friendly people who inhabit it. I ask that you find an alternate solution to the issue of unhoused individuals in Bremerton. Thank you for your time.

**From:** [PATRICIA MARZ](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Concerns Over Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 11:53:33 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Bremerton City Council Members,  
I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially our children.

Place an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. I urge both the Mayor and the Council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure the safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patty Marz

P.O. Box 4693

Bremerton, WA 98312

From: Rene Wyatt <[renewyatt16@gmail.com](mailto:renewyatt16@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:00 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Proposed homeless encampment

Dear Mayor,

I am most concerned about many things that our elected do, and the new homeless location that has been proposed near Holy Trinity church is a major one.

This is just a prime example of shuffling a problem and not solving it. The root of the problem is so much deeper than a location to put people who either desperately need help, or those that simply choose to live non productive lives. Those that choose that lifestyle can hardly be blamed either, as they watch the politicians not solve problems, but take the easy way. That is such a crime in our society today.

But for now, being the politicians are not working to solve the problems, but shuffle them around, we beg of you to find better locations than near children's schools.

It is easy to brush off our note because we do not vote in Bremerton. However, we are all on this earth together and serving mankind is a responsibility for all of us.

God help you and your work.

Rene and Charles Wyatt  
Supporter of Aquino's Classical Academy High School  
28433 Gamble Bay Rd NE  
Kingston, Wa 98346





**From:** [neptune@qwestoffice.net](mailto:neptune@qwestoffice.net)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 12:07:05 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear members of the Bremerton WA city council and Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School. A homeless encampment at this location and any location near functional youth activities poses severe and harmful safety challenges for the community, especially for our children. The recent activities surrounding similar environments in King County and Seattle are ample proof of how the good intentions of homeless camp developments become a danger zones that imperil our children.

Placing an encampment in this area or any other area near other schools offers a temporary solution, at best, and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health of the inhabitants of such encampments. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

I fear that your action and the actual construction of such encampments will turn Bremerton into an end point for other jurisdictions to ship or encourage their homeless population to make Bremerton an end point in their migration.

Thank you for every consideration in this matter.

Sincerely Yours

René LaMarche  
6615 Sunnyslope Rd SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

From: Rob Gudmundson <robert.gudmundson@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:30 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near Schools

Dear City Council Members:

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

The City of Seattle has followed similar strategies to the one you are considering and the result has been disaster and national ridicule. Placing an encampment in this area offers at best a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. At worst it will increase the problem of homelessness as it has done in Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, and other cities.

As a member of this community who works at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and attends church in Bremerton, I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rob Gudmundson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Robert Pielow <cougdad56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:25 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Camping Ordinance

Honorable Council Members,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed "camping" ordinance for the City of Bremerton. I feel the proposal simplistically kicks the can down the road and further entrenches a condition that calls for a serious approach to deal with mental health and substance abuse..

My immediate concern is a homeless encampment near our schools. One potential location is less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing health and safety challenges for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Pielow

**From:** Robert Shaffer <robertjshaffer@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:31 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: An Update on City Council's Amendment to BMC 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Councilman Coughlin, members of the Council-

First, thanks for all the time you put into the city. I know how hard you work and I appreciate it.

But it seems to me- please correct me if I'm wrong- this is a complete sellout to the "harm reduction" nuts on the council. These people aim to remove any enforcement, as you know.

I hope I'm wrong, but with tight shelter space in the city, this will make any enforcement of illegal camping on MLK uneven at best and nonexistent at worst.

I hope I'm wrong. Passage of an ordinance with no hope for change on MLK is a slap to our vibrant, multicultural neighborhood, families, downtown businesses and Bremerton's African-American community.

Robert Shaffer  
820 McKenzie  
206.355.3153

**From:** DAWN MICHELE <dm.wilson@soxbox.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:49 PM

**To:** jane Rebelowski <janerebelowski@yahoo.com>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; David.Nelson@kitsapsun.com

**Subject:** Re: Encampments

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

I would like to make it know that the Rock the Block team has been working vigorously along side of our Police in attempts to find resources to wrap around this family. The sad realty is..... there isn't any! On Friday 9/15 the police and I worked together to try to get them off the street. The REAL team was contacted in hopes they would be able to provide a hotel room for them. They showed up and stated they are unable to do so. Yesterday, 9/18, I personally went with the parents to the Housing Solutions Center to try to get them into KRM so they could get off the streets and would have some case management and at least have eyes on at all times. There is no room for them and they have been placed in a "pool" and KRM was unable to provide any assistance. KCR was also unable to provide a hotel voucher. While there, a KMH worker was also there to meet them as they are receiving services though them. I also asked them to provide a hotel voucher. They were also unable to do so!!!!

The Rock the Block team had to have a very hard discussion as to whether or not we could spend the donations that we have received from the community on a hotel for them.

Unfortuately, many of us are spending our own money to Rock the Block we only had enough funds to pay for the bill porta potty's. Its a gut wrenching position to be put into and one that could be avoided if there we ACTUAL resources available.

We as a city have to do better.....

**From:** [ronald thompson](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming Homeless Land Use Proposal Vote  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 2:50:23 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council members,

It's come to my attention that a proposed land use vote is coming up which will allow for homeless encampments. Without getting into why homelessness is increasing exponentially in the area, or the conundrum of how to deal with it, I'd like to take a moment to note that one of the locations being considered is very close to The Holy Trinity Church in Northeast Bremerton. This church is also the location of Aquinas Classical Academy High School, the only Catholic high school in the region.

Please do not approve of this particular location. A Quiet area with a small private school is no place to add a homeless encampment, along with the inevitable drugs and crime that would come with it. There must be other locations which could be used for such purposes.

Please consider this carefully and do what is best for the kids of the school and the residents of the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ronald G. Thompson  
Bremerton resident.  
[rongordo@hotmail.com](mailto:rongordo@hotmail.com)

**From:** Shae Ryalls <ryallss@aquinasclassical.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:51 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council  
<City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Homeless behind Holy Trinity

Dear Mayor and City Council of Bremerton,

I recently learned that you are considering allowing the homeless to camp on a 40 acre parcel of land that is adjacent to the property of Holy Trinity Catholic parish. Please vote against this. A high school has recently moved into the parish buildings, and students as young as 13 are on the campus during all regular school hours as well as for occasional after hours activities.

For their safety and the safety of the school and parish staff, please vote against allowing the homeless to camp nearby.

Thank you,  
S.Ryalls

September 19, 2023

Dear Bremerton Mayor and City Council:

SHARE is an organization made up of homeless and formerly homeless men and women. We run five self-managed indoor shelters and two self-managed sanctioned homeless encampments in Seattle. We were founded in 1990.

**We are writing to ask that you not pass a ban on homeless people camping in Bremerton.**

Our entire region is in the middle of a homelessness catastrophe.

People are not homeless by choice, they are homeless by necessity.

Blaming the victim does not change the problem.

Were the homeless people, in their Hoovervilles, in the Great Depression homeless by choice? No, they were there due to a massive, major economic crisis. A similar crisis of low-paying jobs and high rent is forcing people onto the streets. We look back now and condemn people for how cruel they were to victims of the Great Depression. No one looks back and praises the way desperate people were treated in that time.

We are asking you to stand on the right side of history. Refuse to condemn your neighbor for a failure of the system. Do NOT vote for a camping ban in Bremerton.

Sincerely,  
SHARE Strategic Planning Committee

*Jana Schroeder*  
*Charles Beavers*  
*to E TC-4*  
*Theresa Huddleston*  
*Muhle*



**From:** Share Shelters <[Shelters@sharewheel.org](mailto:Shelters@sharewheel.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:57 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Urgent Letter from the Homeless People of SHARE

Dear Bremerton Mayor Wheeler:

Attached is an urgent letter from the people of SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort) urging you NOT to enact a camping ban in Bremerton.

Sincerely,  
SHARE Strategic Planning Committee

**From:** [Share Shelters](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Letter from the Homeless People of SHARE  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:56:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [SHARE Letter to Bremerton Leaders 9-19-23.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton Councilmembers:

Attached is an urgent letter from the people of SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort) urging you NOT to enact a camping ban in Bremerton.

Sincerely,  
SHARE Strategic Planning Committee

September 19, 2023

Dear Bremerton Mayor and City Council:

SHARE is an organization made up of homeless and formerly homeless men and women. We run five self-managed indoor shelters and two self-managed sanctioned homeless encampments in Seattle. We were founded in 1990.

**We are writing to ask that you not pass a ban on homeless people camping in Bremerton.**

Our entire region is in the middle of a homelessness catastrophe.

People are not homeless by choice, they are homeless by necessity.

Blaming the victim does not change the problem.

Were the homeless people, in their Hoovervilles, in the Great Depression homeless by choice? No, they were there due to a massive, major economic crisis. A similar crisis of low-paying jobs and high rent is forcing people onto the streets. We look back now and condemn people for how cruel they were to victims of the Great Depression. No one looks back and praises the way desperate people were treated in that time.

We are asking you to stand on the right side of history. Refuse to condemn your neighbor for a failure of the system. Do NOT vote for a camping ban in Bremerton.

Sincerely,  
SHARE Strategic Planning Committee

*Jana Schroeder*  
*Charles Beavers*  
*to E TC-4*  
*Theresa Huddleston*  
*Muhle*

From: Shelley Agostino <[saagostino@yahoo.com](mailto:saagostino@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 3:50 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Protect our kids!

It has come to our attention that you want to put a homeless camp within 500 feet of a school.....take note of how well that has worked In Seattle! Terribly and the neighborhood has had more crime, more needles....not real safe for kids!

Please do not do it! Please start looking into providing care for the homeless who are mentally ill and addicted. Let's have Bremerton be the first to use an unoccupied hospital to benefit the homeless. Let's help them get well. Use your emergency powers to get a system going where these homeless can be accommodated with the services they require even if they don't want it.

Shelley Agostino  
Sent from my iPad

From: Stacy Miron <[stacymiron1@gmail.com](mailto:stacymiron1@gmail.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 1:28 PM

To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment Near a local Church and School(s)

Good afternoon Mr. Wheeler,

I am writing to you in regard to the recent proposal to set up a homeless encampment near Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Bremerton Washington, which includes the Aquinas Classical Academy High School.

I am very concerned about this proposed location, especially for the safety of our Children who will be attending the school and many activities at the Church. Also, for the safety of the surrounding community, including the Elderly.

As seen in many Washington State Counties, homeless encampments pose huge challenges including drug use and vandalism and will offer only a temporary solution that does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health.

I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Miron

4386 Dyes Inlet Rd NW

Bremerton, Washington 98312

**From:** [suzan hudak](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Over Proposed Homeless Encampment  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 3:46:10 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I am extremely concerned about the proposed homeless encampment you are planning to locate less than 500 feet from Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Aquinas Classical Academy High School.

This terrible decision poses great safety problems for our community, **especially for our children.**

Instead of this dangerous idea, I would seriously like to know your plan for a permanent solution to the plague of homelessness in our community. How will you provide mental health care for these people? How will you address their drug abuse? What about hygiene?

Placing an encampment in this area is simply NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Sincerely,  
Mr. and Mrs. George Hudak  
11890 Central Valley Rd. NE  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

**From:** sggriffith@fastmail.com <sggriffith@fastmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 9:29 PM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: An Update on City Council's Amendment to BMC 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff, thank you for your intelligent comments. While you are clearly articulate, I am feeling the lack of any deep concern for our disadvantaged citizens. Though we are not a huge governmental entity, we can still care. We can still set a model for caring for those of us who need shelter and medical attention.

Small but mighty, remember,

Suzanne Griffith  
350 Hill Ct.

**From:** [TIMOTHY POLSIN](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** homeless on north side of Warren ave bridge  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 7:50:51 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor, City council,  
There is a growing homeless encampment on the North east side of Warren Ave bridge. When are you all planning to clear out that encampment?  
It is an eyesore and it has only grown bigger in the past month. I have to look at it everyday on my ride home.  
Tim



**From:** [Tracy Hogg](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Homeless Encampments  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 6:59:09 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Tracy Hogg <cookiehogg@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us <greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 at 06:52:50 PM PDT  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of the Kitsap County area, specifically the city of Bremerton.

My family has lived in this area for the past 23 years and counting. We have raised two daughters here and have made roots with friends and neighbors. In recent years the tentacles of the homeless population have crossed to this side of the pond from Seattle and other neighboring areas into our beautiful community. I have compassion for people. I am a Hospice worker and have seen families in pain and am there to grieve with them the best I can. Placing the homeless population in areas of city-owned land is not really showing compassion, but just placing a band-aid on a gaping wound. What these people need are job coaching, basic life skills, and for some, perhaps rehab. The list could go on and on for the needs of this population. What they need is a hand-up.

Some of the locations of the proposed land sites are too close to churches and schools. We have heard the stories of other homeless encampments where crime is typical, such as rape, and fires being set. By setting up these encampments, it would do great harm to our community. I know we should do something about our homeless brothers and sisters, but giving them land to do their drugs and God only-knows-what doesn't help any of them either. I know that this is a complex situation. The state has programs to help people seek job skills to go toward building a better life for themselves and their families.

I urge you to please DON'T designate the city land to homeless encampments. It would be a great disservice to the community and to the homeless population as well. It would only be enabling them and not helping them in any way.

Thank you for your time.

Tracy Hogg  
Concerned Citizen

**From:** [Victoria Baty](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 11:00:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Deer Mayor Wheeler and City Council members,

I wish I was writing for happier reasons, unfortunately I was recently informed of an ordinance the city council is voting on soon to relocate unhoused individuals to different city owned lots. Two of those lots are located on my street, S. Constitution Avenue, and I am panicking at the thought of such a significant change to my family friendly, quiet street.

I live at 430 S. Constitution Avenue, so one lot is directly next to me. I have owned my home for almost 10 years and hoped to live here much longer, but I can't see how my family, with small children, can live so close to a homeless camp. I have very little faith that the encampment will stay on the very small city lot, it for sure will spill onto mine, whether it's trash, drug paraphernalia, or people loitering. I of course could always move away, but who would even buy my house? I'd be stuck here with few options. The only upside would be that hopefully my property taxes would go down because my home value would plummet.

The other lot on S. Constitution Avenue where Farragut Street comes to a T is an incredibly irresponsible location for a homeless encampment. That trail shares a property line with a preschool and elementary school. Will the people living at this empty city lot be checked to be sure they are safe and allowed to be near a school? Seems like an accident waiting to happen. The trail through the lot is used by numerous, unsupervised children going to and from school. I have been in contact with some of the children's parents that traverse this route and they had no idea about this ordinance and the potential future danger.

I hope you elected individuals realize that cleaning up the downtown area by simply shuttling unhoused people to a more inaccessible area doesn't fix the problem or help people in need at all, it just puts a tremendous strain on the suburban community.

Victoria and Justin Baty  
Long time Bremerton residents

**From:** [Vivienne Clemen](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns about Proposed Homeless Camps Near Schools  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 8:38:52 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler/City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed homeless encampment near our schools and residences. One such location is less than 500 feet from Aquinas Classical Academy High School, posing safety challenges for this community, especially for our children.

Placing an encampment in this area offers a temporary solution and does not address deeper issues like substance abuse and mental health. Additionally, this solution does not seem properly planned and funded to ensure the safety and provide for the hygiene needs of those in the camps as well. I urge the council to consider alternative strategies that tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure safety for all residents. If they decide to use an encampment as a solution, then do not make it a half baked one. Plan it, fund it, and consider not curb appeal but safety in its location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vivienne Clemen  
8800 SE Overaa Rd  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

**From:** [William Kipp](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns over Homeless Encampment near schools.  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023 8:42:44 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

I am writing you to request that you reconsider the proposal for Homeless Encampment(s) near any schools here in Bremerton. An unfortunate fact when dealing with homeless people is the high rate of drug use and hazardous waste that gathers around areas they inhabit. This is already starting to happen on Broadway Avenue between 6th and 8th Streets with the tents that have popped up there.

Please help keep our kids and communities safe.

Thank you,  
William Kipp

**From:** Yukari Endo <[bonjourway@yahoo.com](mailto:bonjourway@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:19 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Yukari Evans <[bonjourway@protonmail.com](mailto:bonjourway@protonmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Dear Mayor Greg Wheeler regarding to the homeless encampment

Dear Greg Wheeler

I am a resident of city of Bremerton. My name is Yukari Evins. I am also a former long term resident of Seattle king county for two decades until 2021. My original heritage where I come from is Japan.

I know exactly how Seattle was pushed into the current corruption while living there since 1999. Thank you so much for reading my letter that explained why I am opposing the proposal of homeless encampment.

I have three children who are 16 years old son, 11 years old daughter and 6 years old daughter. We just found out that there will be homeless encampment proposal done by city of Bremerton where it is pretty close to our beautiful safety neighborhood. It is one of the biggest reason why we chose to be in our current neighborhood in Bremerton.

When I saw the proposal map for the encampment that is marked as green, I was so shocked to see that my home is also showing on the edge of the map. All of my neighbors and even my friends in Jefferson and Clallam, Pearce, Mason and King county are so worrying about what we are facing.

I should also mention about my entire families in Franklin, Williamson county Tennessee are so much worry. Especially my mom in law Mary Pearce who has three grand children live in Bremerton had immediately left a voice message to opposing the proposal to the Bremerton city council.

She told me that She would also write an opposing letter to the Bremerton City council as a grandma of three. What we are facing is absolutely her issue due to her loved grandchildren live close to the planned map for the homeless encampment.

I told my husband about the situation and talked to our neighbors. I am not happy at all about the proposal that we have been suddenly pushed with short notice. I will not be able to accept this proposal since I have had enough of being put myself in the dangerous situation in Seattle.

I am writing this letter to express the reason why I am absolutely opposing short noticed extreme insane proposal to the hard worker residents and citizens and

wonderful community regarding the homeless encampment without any law enforcement on them.

I and my husband along with our three children moved out From Seattle back in 2021 May. We found and bought our current home in Bremerton back in 2019 before the covid closure in the world.

Yet We had already seen the mess of homeless encampment in Seattle King county for a long time that the city had pushed encampment into our safe community where it was exactly just like our safe neighborhood in Bremerton.

King county and Seattle lied big to us about homeless encampment.

The fact is that Most of majority of them are drug addicts Who knows drug cartels sneaked into our beautiful safe community and the town had destroyed. I have seen and heard of it in Seattle residents that is why I am so much concerned. City claims as homeless encampment but actually many of them are drug addicts. It is Very sad and horrible.

We left from Seattle because we fell in love with our current neighborhood in Bremerton. The number one reason why we made the decision to purchase our house is absolutely the safe environment and our beautiful neighbors.

Another reason why we left from Seattle is to absolutely protect ourselves and children from the worst high rise "drug and crime " surge in to the metro due to the encampment that had been forced by the city of Seattle. Street drug like Fentanyl and Tranquil became the issue in Seattle due to the so called " homeless encampment" city of Seattle had forced the residents to pay high tax to homeless encampment. In another words, now I feel that the city of Seattle forced taxpayers to support the drug activities by asking to help homeless.

At that time, Our neighborhood of Magnolia and Queen Anne community had opposed the short noticed proposal just like what we are having right now. However the city voted yes to the encampment in our neighborhood without any hesitation. Soon after the encampment was released, the whole area was in danger including kids' playgrounds and parks and parking lot and even small businesses had been threaten by drug and criminals.

I have seen and had eyewitness those crimes everyday by driving and walking.

One day, Just before moving out from our house in Magnolia, two of my children's bicycles had stolen from our fenced backyard. It had been always safe until the city

forced the neighborhood to create the encampment. My neighbor's bicycle was also stolen that the same time.

It means that criminal broke into our backyard at night while we were sleeping.

I have another big reason why I am so much concerned and opposing the proposal is that one of my very good friend who used to own a Japanese restaurant was murder by the drug addicts from the homeless encampment.

He was a very famous sushi chef who worked so hard everyday while he was alive. His body was found on the street by a SPD police officer. Many of former Seattle Mariners' baseball players used to come to his restaurant. He had served the baseball players everyday.

Here are my questions to the Bremerton city council officials with the chair Jennifer Chamberlin.

Have you ever seen Seattle's homeless encampment?

Have you ever heard about what is happening in Seattle by local news?

Have you ever seen Portland's situation?

How about excessive growing numbers of drug and mental illness issues in Philadelphia and Los Angeles and NY due to the homeless encampment without any enforcement at all?

No law enforcement means that anyone can do anything what they want on the camp site while we the taxpayers follow the law and rule by state of WA.

Can you imagine what this mean? Probably Your homes are not close to the encampment proposal map so nothing worrying about any situation to you all.

How about the children who live just edge of the encampment border line ?

One of my daughters friends at Pine crest elementary school was telling everyone at the bus stop the other day that we will not be safe at bus stop anymore because of drug people are coming. Who will be responsible for the safety issue of children? In fact that The ck school board officials have to also deal with this situation. They are also responsible if the encampment is passed.

Also The fact and the reasons why tremendous members of police officers have left from Seattle long ago is because of the homeless encampment.

I know that the police officers in Seattle who worked hard for the residents. However one of the officers told me and the neighbors that he completely lost his passion on

making the safety for the community due to the outrage endless crime from encampment.

He said that He needed to protect himself first while on duty before the residents and he finally made the decision to leave from Seattle. He told us sorry to leave from Seattle. It means that We will also lose many police officers from Bremerton.

Have you also ever seen the drug outrage issue among in homeless encampment In Vancouver BC and Victoria BC?

If you have seen what the cities have dealing with the crime and murder and drug ,why you even pushed and announced in public for this nonsense with dangerous proposal to the city of Bremerton among your residents?

Also Please do not forget our respect towards Navy and military veterans who live in Bremerton. It is not a city of huge corporations like Seattle at all. Please listen to their voices as well.

If the proposal is voted yes in 20th, we as the community can no longer trust the elected officials. Please don't make the same mistake just like Seattle king county.

I had enough of enough from Seattle where none of the elected city councils and officials work for the residents at all but just do the task with the big companies and keep taking anything from what the companies asked the councils. I hope that the city of Bremerton is not yet this way.

Downside of all this is we the taxpayers ending pay the bills created all the homeless. And there are many who are homeless by choice. Homeless encampment led to never ending drug addicts and endless high rise crime.

Again i want to stress that I have eye-witnessed while living in Seattle .

Who is responsible for the current situation in Seattle?

Was the former City councils in Seattle?

The city councils who voted for homeless encampment have already gone from the office along with the former mayor. So the fact is that nobody is responsible for the crime in Seattle.

It is a endless game with homeless encampment.



All I have seen while I was the resident in Seattle was Crime after crime without any enforcement on the drug camp. I called Seattle Police department many times but nobody showed up. I absolutely don't want to see the "dejavu" in Bremerton.

What the city of Seattle Forced the residents is shifting the homeless problem from one part of town to another part of town without solving it. Endless.

I have been asking myself a big question Who really gain from this?!

If we the resident have no ability to say no at this point with many mistakes we saw in the last, I imagine less than 10 years from now would be corrupted by the time my youngest one will be 16 years old.

I don't want my children to experience anything like Seattle anymore so I am absolutely opposing the homeless encampment with my actual experiences in the past.

If I don't speak up individually, I will regret as a mom, as a human, as a woman and as a parent who is definitely responsible to take care and protect my children first before me no matter what.

I need to stress that where the city proposed homeless encampment is insanely close to our neighborhood. Seems like that the back of the wooden hidden street might be connected to our secured private property.

If anyone intoxicated sneak into our property, our property will be at risk for being targeting arson. Just like some of the housings in Magnolia was fired by arson from the homeless encampment.

Also we already started to having the issue of campers down by the hill where it says private property by Dyse inlet. Some of Homeless campers break into our shared private property. And one of our residents are having the problem as they can spot and see the campers down from their top of balcony.

If we the residents can't say no and stop to the ridiculously short noticed sudden forced proposal at this moment, so called "homelessness" and drug and mental illness along with crime will keep moving forward to all entire kitsap to even Jefferson and Clallam counties where many of my friends live in. They are also concerned and speaking up for a long time.

I am opposing the proposal for Homeless encampment all entire Bremerton.

Sincerely yours,

One of the residents of city of Bremerton  
Yukari Evins

3484 Sulphur springs LN Bremerton WA  
98133

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** City Council

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:29 AM

**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** FW: Mitel voice message from +13604767906 for mailbox 5280 (Kyle Tormanen)

Attn: Council VP Chamberlin

The attached message was received from Kyle Tormanen who was concerned about proposed camping. A Kitsap Parcel Search showed his address as 498 NE Nantucket Street.

Mr. Tormanen may be contacted at (360) 476-7906 or [kdtormanen@gmail.com](mailto:kdtormanen@gmail.com).

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 3:55 PM

**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +13604767906 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13604767906 for mailbox 5280.

Message length is 00:01:47. Message size is 837 KB.

**From:** City Council

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:24 AM

**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** FW: Mitel voice message from +13207668679 for mailbox 5280 (Robert Millebrand)

Attn: Council VP Chamberlin

The attached message from Robert Millebrand (Nantucket Avenue) included comments against proposed camping. Mr. Millebrand may be contacted at (320) 766-8679.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mitel Voice Mail <[shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 4:49 PM

**To:** Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Mitel voice message from +13207668679 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13207668679 for mailbox 5280.

Message length is 00:01:08. Message size is 534 KB.

From: Amanda Larson <amanda.parzonko@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:56 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless camps in a residential family community.

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

First and foremost, (being formerly transient myself as a child & Teen) I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children.

Also, curiosity strikes me as to ask – wither this parcel cited has been afforded other potential opportunities?, such as – recreational hiking, recreational hunting, etc.?

My concerns center around the following points:

1. Safety: The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. Mental and Emotional Impact: Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. Access to Services: While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. Property Values: The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.

2 / 2

3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Blessings,  
Amanda Larson  
Homeowner on Sinclair Way

From: Angelique <amirabal95@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:58 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless encampments

I am so appalled that the city is considering letting homeless people surround our neighborhood (the reserves). That would rank our home value, increase crime in our area. This is absurd and can not be allowed! Leave our quiet, clean area alone.

-Angelique Neri

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <[noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 6:27 AM  
**To:** WebMaster <[WebMaster@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:WebMaster@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>;  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Comment Form

## Comment Form

### Comments

An article in the Kitsap Sun "A look at areas in Bremerton that may be authorized to allow public camping" was published 9/12/23 and discussed how City Council would be voting on available lands designated for camping for unhouse individuals. My concern is that the article directed the community to view the map in the City Council meeting agenda packet however there are several barriers for the community and the individuals this map would directly effect if approved.

- The agenda packet is difficult to find and cumbersome to navigate, over 300 pages.
- The presented map shows designated allowed/not allowed camping in red and green. However the agenda packet available online is in black and white negating the effectivity of the exhibit.
- A search of the City website did not quickly yield the map which was discussed at the 9/6/23 council meeting.

Given the sensitivity of the topic, the underserved population it will impact, and the restrictive accessibility of the document, I believe City Council is welcoming negative feedback by not clearly advertising this discussion topic to impacted citizens, businesses, and surrounding community. If the content is published elsewhere, it is not easily found.

Please consider this email a request for City of Bremerton start publishing City Council Agenda Packets in color.

Thank you for your time and service to the community, a response is not needed.

---

Email Address [anthoburgess@gmail.com](mailto:anthoburgess@gmail.com)

---

Other Contact Information *Field not completed.*

---

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



**From:** Anton Preisinger <anton@nwhospitality.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:50 AM  
**To:** Alma Singleton <chip55munk@hotmail.com>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless in Bremerton

Thank you for getting in touch, Alma.

I'm of the opinion that no new ordinance is needed. The causes of homelessness are vast and complicated but the solutions are there for the taking if our city would simply prioritize them and build the service network from the ground up.

A Declaration of Emergency would make all of the following much more attainable but probably isn't absolutely crucial. At the community meeting I attended on the 11th, the Mayor, Councilmember Chamberlin, the housed residents, advocates of the unhoused community (myself included), and the Chief of Bremerton's Police all included complaints about insufficient housing, mental healthcare, and treatment resources within the city. It was mentioned that we have 300+ unhoused people within Bremerton city limits (600+ county-wide) and the best the Mayor can have us looking forward to is Salvation Army opening its doors with a ~70-bed capacity for the winter months. All this together makes it evident that there is an emergency, we need help, and it's nothing new. City leadership keeps claiming that more capacity is coming but it has taken years to get a 70-bed shelter almost to completion in Port Orchard and the other projects in the works for Bremerton don't sound like they begin to approach the kind of capacity we need to adequately serve everybody living unhoused in our community.

Like you, I would love to see the city and/or county \*properly\* provide sanctioned encampment spaces for people to move to where they can be provided services, have the opportunity to connect with resources, and avoid harassment. Tacoma has a successful model right now (after declaring an emergency) where their contained encampments are greatly reducing all of the negative impacts you are so reasonably concerned with, all while being incredibly successful at producing positive outcomes for people who participate. That is never a solution for everybody but a few locations like that - properly staffed & funded - would serve the vast majority of our neighbors and give law enforcement the local infrastructure to properly enforce the laws without conducting incredibly damaging sweeps.

Absurdly, nothing at all in the proposed ordinance addresses the provision of any types of services at the locations identified. They are proposing unenforced camping areas simply to justify sweeps. The damage this policy will cause to our housed communities and our unhoused neighbors is hard to describe or even imagine, but it can be seen easily enough by taking a quick visit over to Seattle.

There are so many ways for the city to respond appropriately to the challenges they're facing. We have organizations doing the work without the city's support every week and these orgs know the people and what needs to be done but the city does not listen. It's exhausting but we'll keep fighting for what's right because we've actually looked at the problem and are now compelled to act toward solutions, the city needs to take its blinders off so that we can keep you safe and secure while giving people what they need to succeed from the streets.

Wishing you all the best as we hope together in futility that some sort of rationality will prevail in all these discussions. Take care,

Anton Preisinger  
Founding Executive Director  
Northwest Hospitality  
888-222-5240  
[www.nwhospitality.org](http://www.nwhospitality.org)



----- Original message -----

From: Alma Singleton <[chip55munk@hotmail.com](mailto:chip55munk@hotmail.com)>

To: "[anton@nwhospitality.org](mailto:anton@nwhospitality.org)" <[anton@nwhospitality.org](mailto:anton@nwhospitality.org)>, City Council#3 Council  
<[city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:city.council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Subject: Homeless in Bremerton

Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 4:48 PM

Hello,

I'm home owner on ML King Way just off Pacific Ave. I have read your email to City of Bremerton and agree with some of your concerns. I'm old military female and do not have much sway with politics here. I'm hoping the City will put some ordinance in place until better solutions can be engaged. But we have to move soon, because the Ninth District Court has put the hammer down that homeless can be anywhere if local governments don't provide some controls.

Moving homeless to a few parcels and providing water, bathrooms seems all we can do. The crime and drug action has caused fires, break ins, etc., and danger to anyone out walking, shopping, etc.

Relocating is crucial to me. A shake up is eminent and winter this year may be hard. I wish I lived in the mountains like I used to years ago. Many of these homeless choose to disassociate with their families, foolish. My take is those in the Pine Street area, the 40 acre parcel, should take the most of the peaceful ones. The drug abusers, dealers should be locked up. Downtown we have had our fill.

Thanks for trying.

Sent from my iPad

From: ARAVIOUS WILLIAMS <aravious.williams@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:10 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Cc: wana2178@gmail.com  
Subject: Encampment The Reserve at West Hills

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

First and foremost, (being formerly transient myself as a child & Teen) I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children.

Also, curiosity strikes me as to ask – wither this parcel cited has been afforded other potential opportunities?, such as – recreational hiking, recreational hunting, etc.?

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.

2 / 2

3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

The Williams Family

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Brandon Oliver <brandon.r.oliver@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Against homeless encampment

Against the homeless encampment proposed location.



I am a Bremerton resident, and oppose two of the proposed homeless camps: the one located along Sinclair Way and one off 3rd avenue West, both near Pendergast Regional Park. I live in the housing development on Sinclair road, dozens of children live in this housing complex and frequently play outside unsupervised. Additionally, the Pendergast Regional Park, also where children frequently play, is nearby, which makes these inappropriate locations for a homeless encampment.

Thank you,

Brandon Oliver  
615.390.0664



**Bremerton Elks Lodge No. 1181**

4131 Pine Rd NE  
Bremerton, WA 98310

Phone: (360) 479-1181  
FAX: (360) 377-4131  
Email: [secretary@bpoe1181.org](mailto:secretary@bpoe1181.org)

Received by Bremerton City Council Office

Date 9/18/23

A Fraternal Organization

September 15, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Chamberlin  
City Councilwoman for District 1  
Norm Dicks Government Center  
345 6th St., Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Dear Councilwoman Chamberlin,

As Exalted Ruler of Bremerton Elks Lodge #1181, I want to personally thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and other community voices on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the potential homeless encampments, specifically the 40-acre plot in the Tracyton Area of Bremerton.

This proposal directly affects our Lodge and its 900 members. Our concerns include security, public safety, maintaining property value, damage to our structures, encampment creep, and unauthorized attempts to use our pavilion and/or RV park facilities. We carry liability insurance for our members and their guests, but this cannot extend to unauthorized trespassers. There is also a major concern about the hygiene of this encampment that lacks running water and restroom facilities.

My job, as Exalted Ruler, is to ensure the protection of our members, buildings and property, and we believe that having this encampment on our doorstep will hinder the safety and retention of existing members and the attraction of new members. We have served Bremerton for more than 100 years and have been on this property since 1977. This proposed homeless encampment is perceived as an existential threat to the well-being and future of our Lodge. We strongly request that other options be considered in lieu of these encampments.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Finley".

Robert S. Finley  
Exalted Ruler

- Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A. -

**From:** Brian Burwell <brian.g.burwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:40 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed Camping Sites

Hello,

I have concerns about your proposed camping sites in the Navy Yard City / Charleston area. Broadly - these sites would have direct impact on community members outside of city limits and who have no political recourse regarding Municipal policies. I have significant concerns about an initiative that is so close to home for my neighborhood, where I have no representation.

Specifically, though, I hope the site at Constitution & Farragut listed in the Kitsap Sun article is somehow in error. That site is within yards of West Hills STEM Academy. The path you can see in attached image is used by neighborhood children to access the school. My kids walk that path every afternoon. There is also vulnerable wetland adjacent to the path that would almost certainly be impacted. If this site is indeed being proposed, it needs to be reconsidered. Presumably the adjacency to the school was an oversight - otherwise I would encourage you to walk the path and decide for yourself. It is simply too close to the school.

Personally, I disagree with the whole endeavor. But it seems to have enough momentum to go forward. There are likely more practical sites in the area. If the city was willing to make commitments to insuring the safety of campers and residents and sanitation of the site, I would be willing to work within the neighborhood to find a civil and humane response. Specifically, the Viewpoint Park at the end of McCall Blvd or a large vacant lot off of Arsenal Way. These are outside of the city, but the proposed site off of Charleston Beach Rd seems to be as well. With regularly serviced Porta Potties, water delivery, and safety patrols one of these sites could likely create a contained and safe space, although those nearest the area would need to be consulted and assured.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brian Burwell  
Navy Yard City resident

**From:** brittyarber <brittyarber@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 2:50 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Encampment approval

Good afternoon,

I am writing to address my concern for the possibility of a homeless encampment near Sophie St. In Bremeton. I am a homeowner that lives in the adjacent homes. There are many reasons why an encampment should not be allowed here. First and foremost the safety of our children. There are many children in this neighborhood that walk to the bus stop, ride their bikes and play outside. I could not with any certainty allow my children to walk or play outside knowing they'd be safe. The danger of crime and drugs is not something I want near my home. We have had an encampment in this area before that resulted in a fire that the fire department responded to. As well as transient people walking through our neighborhoods leaving paraphernalia and trash. Allowing an encampment here would not only put our properties at risk for things such as fire, theft, trespassing but also dramatically impact the safety of our children. Please consider this before a decision is made. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Brittany Yarber



From: b52jensen8@icloud.com <b52jensen8@icloud.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:41 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Unauthorized camping ?

Dear Mr Mayor Wheeler, Eric Younger and the rest of the City Council,

My grandchildren , friends and family are grateful for all the progress the City has done in cleaning up Kitsap Lake,

However, the PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION of the unauthorized camping areas seems to be a DEFINITE STEP IN THE WRONG direction.

The initial process to clean up the lake , if I remember correctly, was to blame the LAKE'S blue-green algae SICKNESS on the FAILED septic systems of the tax payers.

This was a nonissue as they all passed inspection, I believe Then new containment basins were placed to capture road waste on Harlow Drive

BUT

Now the city is willing, after all the time and money spent, to allow human and animal waste to be allowed to enter into the lake directly.

Is the city providing honey bucket service and monitoring? Waste Management dumpster service ? No wait that won't work!

Since, the encampments I have driven by seem to be if you no longer want it just drop it! Someone else will pick it up. Dumpsters could become homes on the positive side.

I am reasonably sure they would not be picking up after their pet . And if they did where would they deposit that?

These proposed city lots seem to be PRISTINE UNDISTURBED WETLANDS. Home to various wildlife animals and VERY damp and mucky year round which seems very unfit for human habitation !

Next I wish to address the routes these individuals would/could transit in between proposed properties through Dockside? Reducing property values and city revenue.

Example: My property had been assessed by the bank, LOWER because of the proximity of the Mobile home park on the other side of Dockside, what would a destroyed forest and encampment due to that process?

From Pendelton Place and other facilities on Kitsap Way trampling through the hallowed ground of the cemetery? Dropping various potently dangerous things on the playground of Kitsap Lake Elementary? Hazardously walking up Wilmont with the two 90 degree corners

We ,as well as probably everyone, in Dockside purchased our homes here knowing it was probably the SAFEST and SECURE area of Bremerton. Some place where the children were safe to walk to school, play in their yard, and the elderly home owners safe and secure on their property or in their home.

We have a neighbor who is moving for that very reason.! Feeling this neighborhood will soon be UNSAFE for them and their little children.

Is there not any US government properties nearby that are more suited for human habitation? Camp McKean, NAD park, vacant buildings , etc.

PLEASE Mr Mayor and Council members REJECT THIS flawed and potentially dangerous PROPOSAL !!!!

Bruce Jensen

From: cnkildow@gmail.com <cnkildow@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 7:08 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless Encampments

Good evening,

My name is Cheyanne Nguyen and I have been a resident in Bremerton for 4 years. It has come to my intention that city plans on allowing homeless encampments in various areas around Bremerton. Unfortunately one of those areas is directly next to my house on Nantucket street. This wooded forest is located at the very end of Nantucket street in case you are wondering which one I will be speaking about. I am going to be out of town for the September 13 meeting, so I wanted to send our representative, Jennifer Chamberlain, an email to make sure my voice, and my families voice is heard. When we arrived in 2019 we searched for months for a house that my husband and I could grow our family in. We looked for a house in an area we felt safe, and where our kids would feel safe growing up. Our neighborhood always has children out playing, families enjoying the outdoors and walking our animals. Allowing the homeless to create a camp in the wooded area next to our houses threatens our safety, and completely destroys everything my family has worked for. There are so many reasons this cannot be allowed to approved. 1. The end of Nantucket is a dead end street, and it is already difficult for emergency vehicles to get in an out in a timely manner. With the homeless in that area there may be medical emergencies they need to get to and that will be difficult. With it being a very forested area I would also worry about fires, and the damage they would cause to the area, including all of our homes. 2. I have seen many encampments around Bremerton, and they are all dangerous. The amount of drugs, needles, and trash lying around is not something I want anywhere near my home. My three year old son runs around outside constantly, and I cannot fathom having to live in an area where I have to worry about these things. We have a baby on the way as well, and I do not want to worry about my safety throughout the day or even at night. My husband may deployed at times, and my house is the second house from the forest. Being that close definitely threatens my own safety, and my children's safety. 3. We will have the homeless rummaging through our trash cans and messing with our property, the property we work hard to maintain. 4. Behind our home is an empty area that is easily accessed from that wooded forest. This homeless population would basically have access to my backyard. It's a hidden area, so who know what it could be used for. But it may be unsanitary, and they may cause harm to my pets or property. 5. Again, safety is my biggest concern. I have worked in Bremerton and have seen the types of crimes the homeless population get arrested for. They aren't just small crimes, but there are a ton of very violent and scary crimes. The chance of these happening right outside my front door is not okay. While the biggest concern is safety, I am also concerned for the value of my property. My family works hard to live in newer housing, in a nicer area, and having the homeless urinating and using drugs feet away from our home defeats the purpose of everything we have worked for. The last thing I want to mention is that based of maps and speaking to others in the area, our street would be the main access point for this camp. So they would constantly be walking up and down our streets where the children play. We should have to worry about the safety of our children more than we already do, and allowing this camp would mean many of us forcing our children to stay indoors away from this population. Overall, this is a very serious issue and there is a lot to be discussed. I hope that our voices are heard and that the homeless encampment will not be allowed in the wooded area at the end of Nantucket. Thank you for your time.

-Cheyanne Nguyen

**From:** Christion Torres <christiontorres@icloud.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:51 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** City council meeting comment 9/13/23 authorized camping

I am writing due to my concern of the potential use of city property for “authorized camping” aka homeless encampment located within the proximity near or adjacent to the Gorst Watershed area and Union River Reservoir (all areas west of Sherman Heights road and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W.). This area has been protected for over 100 years and is Bremerton’s source water supply. Also concerning is the surrounding wetlands and protected Salmon streams. Allowing an encampment will be inviting garbage, drugs such as fentanyl, methamphetamines, human feces/biohazard but will include abandoned cars and RVs that already litter our streets. The main cause of concern is the leaking car batteries, radiator fluids, AC refrigerants and hazwaste leaching or draining into our protected streams and lands. This is an unacceptable option to locate any camping near or around this area especially without considering an environmental impact study first considering the effects on our drinking water that will be contaminated by known hazardous waste that is produced by these types of authorized camping. I recommend and propose both City and County conduct an Environmental Impact Study considering the above prior to consideration of this area.

Respectfully

CT

**From:** Christion Torres <christiontorres@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:14 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** City council meeting 9/13 “authorized camping”

I am writing due to my concern of the potential use of city property for “authorized camping” aka homeless encampment located within the proximity near or adjacent to the Gorst Watershed area and Union River Reservoir (all areas west of Sherman Heights road and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W.). This area has been protected for over 100 years and is Bremerton’s source water supply. Also concerning is the surrounding wetlands and protected Salmon streams. Allowing an encampment will be inviting garbage, drugs such as fentanyl, methamphetamines, human feces/biohazard but will include abandoned cars and RVs that already litter our streets. The main cause of concern is the leaking car batteries, radiator fluids, AC refrigerants and hazwaste leaching or draining into our protected streams and lands. This is an unacceptable option to locate any camping near or around this area especially without considering an environmental impact study first considering the effects on our drinking water that will be contaminated by known hazardous waste that is produced by these types of authorized camping sites. I recommend and propose both City and County conduct an Environmental Impact Study considering the above prior to consideration of this area.

Respectfully  
CT

**From:** Clif Hutchinson <clif.hutch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:11 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unhoused camping ordinance

Dear honorable city council members,

I attended the informal hearing yesterday evening in East Bremerton regarding the proposed authorization for encampments in the 40 acre forest area in the East Bremerton/Tracyton area. My family lives in this area, adjacent to the green belt. I appreciate our city officials' participation in the event, and understand the complexities of homelessness, mental health, addiction, and economic hardships.

Over the past three years, our neighborhood has seen homeless people spending at least some time in this particular wooded area attempt to break into cars in our neighborhood and act erratically, resulting in concerned parents and residents contacting law enforcement (KCSO personnel responded on each occasion).

I echo the concerns expressed by the neighborhood residents last night – (1) we have already seen an increase in criminal activity in this area, (2) this parcel is high risk for conflagration in the likelihood of some accidental or intentional fire, endangering all immediate residents in an area that lacks adequate fire suppression infrastructure (this trend has been experienced in Seattle in similar settlements), (3) much of the wooded area is extremely steep and treacherous, and would endanger not only homeless inhabitants but also emergency response personnel, assuming they could even access the area, (4) there is inadequate sanitation infrastructure (sewer, waste disposal), (5) there is inadequate mental health/human services support in this area (the corollary of which is that people who may want to inhabit this area would likely be the individuals declining government or nonprofit support and engage in dangerous or illegal activities due to the remote location), and (6) our city officials did not seem to offer a viable solution to the legitimate concerns expressed by our senior citizens and parents of young children as to how vulnerable populations would protect themselves if confronted or assaulted.

A point perhaps missed or misunderstood by our civic leaders was that we (the approximately 120 residents in attendance who turned out on short notice for the event) were not advocating for a delayed vote on unauthorized camping by the city council. We are advocating for a better plan that places camps in locations with better resource and infrastructure access. Clearly the 40-acre forest area in the East Bremerton/Tracyton area is not the best, or even an adequate solution, for the real issue at hand; providing safe and resourced living areas for the unhoused, while also protecting the citizens who already reside in this area.

Clif Hutchinson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Cynthia Diama <chryssidia8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:37 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Alternatives for Proposed Homeless Camp in Tracyton

City Council,

I suggest the following as solutions for housing people in Bremerton:

- 1) Build more homes--modeled after the successful project near Sylvan Way and Pine Road in conjunction with the Habitat for Humanity organization.
- 2) Model the City of Seattle's Tiny Homes villages projects to build temporary housing.
- 3) Seek homeowners who are willing to allow tiny homes be built on any vast or vacant acreage.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Diama

**From:** Dan Herron <dh913@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:01 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** my thoughts on the new "camping" ordinance

If the city identifies shelters for the homeless, the following are minimum standards if relocation is needed:

1. OPEN COMMUNICATION. The city should communicate its plans and intentions to the affected individuals, local advocacy groups, and service providers well in advance.
2. TRANSPORTATION. The city should work with other agencies and groups to help transport individuals to new designated shelters or "campgrounds". Provisions should be made to help individuals get to essential services including, but not limited to: healthcare, mental health, showers, laundry, etc.
3. WATER. The new shelter / campground should have water available for drinking, hand washing, toothbrushing, etc.
4. TOILETS. The new shelter / campground should have toilets of some kind.
5. WASTE DISPOSAL. There should be an adequate number of garbage cans available with appropriate times for pickup.
6. SECURITY. Ideally, there should be some basic rules at the shelter / campground so that individuals feel safe. Provisions can be made to deal with those who harm or disturb the peace of others.
7. OUTREACH. Efforts should be made by agencies / volunteers to help individuals improve their situation so they eventually can find stable housing and self-sufficiency.



Sincerely,

Dan Herron

6<sup>th</sup> District

Bremerton, WA

**From:** Darcy Oliver <darcyoliverdesign@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:06 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Against Encampments in Bremerton Community

Hello,

As a homeowner in Bremerton with a family living in The Reserve at West Hills, I am against allowing encampments in these "green areas". Please see photo attached.

There are too many families and children nearby and the last worry we need beyond the porch pirates and theft in our neighborhood is homeless encampments.

This would increase crime, drugs, lack of safety, and lower our property values. The proposed areas that would allow encampments would also endanger the wildlife and naturally occurring creeks and streams that could become polluted with encampments nearby. Our community is also next door to Pendergast Park and this would increase crime there, and endanger the lives of our community members.

Please vote against allowing of homeless encampments near neighborhoods and parks. This type of vagrancy should not be allowed.

Thank you,

Darcy Oliver

[www.darcyoliverdesign.com](http://www.darcyoliverdesign.com)

(317) 509-0516



Sent from my iPhone

From: David Gonzalez <subcookie3@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:56 AM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Council Meeting 9/13/23

Councilman Younger, as your constituent I do not support the proposal of a homeless encampment off of Lakehurst, however maybe the council could explore working with the Navy to open up some space at camp Wesley Harris, it's fenced and fairly remote, it could be set up on a trial basis between the county and navy on an MOU/MOA.

Respectfully ,  
David Gonzalez

**From:** Emerald O'Bryant <egreenobryant@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:14 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Possible homeless encampments near Sophie street in bremeron

Hello i am tax payer and resident of this newly developed neighborhood called the reserve at west hills. I am writing to express my voice on the possible encampment of the homeless near Sophie street in my neighborhood. I am highly disturbed and very i pleased with even the thought of this happening. Although i empathize with those that are homeless and are struggling i don't think they should be placed in the middle of a brand new residential areas with children and families who are working hard to pay for there homes and upkeep. The homeless should have better access to facilities that is more equipped To handle and shelter them for all of their personal needs. They should not be placed in a neighborhood that has homes that's cost over 500k and that people are striving to keep an esthetic of hard work and cleanliness. For the unhoused to be placed in the middle of our neighborhood would cause a rise in disturbed children, crime, and drug findings to increase in this area. It is very wrong for you all to place them here in a residential area instead of placing them in a facility that can better suit their needs. How about take all the anime's building around the area , fix them up to livable and place them in more shelters vs back outside on the street . Provide more places for them to be housed and can provide the actual help that they need vs forcing them into someone else's back yard or home. This devious needs to be reconsidered immediately and turned over. Do not allow this encampment placement to happen near Sophie, find a better suited losing or facility to place them.

Thank you,

Emerald

Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** Francisco Perez <franp2053@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:42 PM  
**To:** jeremymcg76@gmail.com  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless Encampment - Ordinance No. 5482

Hello. I believe there is an ordinance or constitutional amendment or law or Decree already in affect about how people cannot be living on or near your premises without your consent. For example, my neighborhood would not consent to homeless people living in the forest behind our homes.

Please check Washington State's current laws regarding rental agreements, and purchasing homes in the neighborhood surrounding the five mile radius around the Bremerrton City's water and sewage treatment center.

I also believe that there is a state-wide law that was part of the Washington constitution when it was drafted back when Washington became a state that did not allow homeless people on one's premises, or near the premises without written consent.

This city would not be able to change such an ordinance or law without voter opinion and election. The city would need to endorse a major state-wide election to see if voters wanted to change the law. It would mean that all the citizens of Washington state would have to vote on changing the law to allow homeless people to live on or near their premises.

Next thing is the wildlife in the forest behind our homes. I believed that the forest was a wildlife preserve for a reason. We have deer, raccoons, rabbits, and other wildlife that live in that forest. The nature and wild life preserve conservationalists are interested in protecting that area, and maintain it as a forest.

Finally, that forest is there for a reason, because of the water treatment center is right next to it. The landscape around the water treatment plant was designed, set out, and engineered so that it could help be a natural filter, air filter, and air purifier for the water and sewage treatment center. Any homeless people camping in that forest would interfere with that filtration process. I am against homeless people camping in these proposed green spaces, and seek to work with the city, and Mayor's office to find a different solution.

Best Regards,

Francisco Perez  
Master of Education  
1328 Cottman Ave  
Bremerton, WA 99312

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 10, 2023, at 8:16 PM, [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com) wrote:

Hello, Neighbors.

This email is a follow up on the door-to-door campaign I began in our neighborhood on Friday. Most of its content is printed out in a handout I delivered to some of you, as well as the homes vacant upon my visit. I have blind CC'd the 28 households to which I have spoken, all of which have expressed support of strong opposition to Ordinance 5482. If you have questions or would like something disseminated to the group, please reply feel free to contact me via email or phone.

It is crucial that all of us are proactive in asserting our rights as taxpaying citizens of Bremerton with the City Council.

The Bremerton City Council is voting to allow Homeless Encampments in the green areas identified on the map below on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Building in Downtown Bremerton. If they vote to implement this ordinance, it will go in effect ten days later, or on September 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year.

On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> the Bremerton City Council proposed Ordinance No. 5482 that would disallow homeless encampments throughout most of Bremerton in exchange for notifying them of city-owned locations on which they *will* be allowed to camp. Some of these locations are areas, identified as "Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended," on the areas located in green on the attached map. Note: the triangular area between Oyster Bay Ave. S and Roosevelt Blvd. is a public and school bus stop. It would likewise behoove the City to also note that the very narrow stretch of road that is Oyster Bay adjacent to the non-enforced area is frequently sped through without any sidewalk or easement between said road and proposed camping area.

<image004.jpg>

This means that the homeless encampments, such as those near downtown Bremerton (e.g. the one on Broadway behind Burger King and MLK Way) will be told to vacate and fined unless they do so. Your property taxes (in the form of higher rent if you are renting) will now go toward paying for them to be instructed to camp next door to you.

I have attached a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. 5482 which includes the full maps of the soon to be unenforced camping areas. In the maps you will see that in addition to the areas directly adjacent to us, there will be a larger encampment area on the other side of Hwy 3 on Oyster Bay Ave.

You can email Bremerton City Council with your feedback at [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

They already accepted public comment on this and will be putting it to vote in the next Study Session (not open to public comment) this Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. People showing support by attending and expressing their concerns would help as well emailing them and the mayor.

I am truly sorry to bear this news, but your action is required.

Sincere Regards,

<image003.png>

Jeremy McGinnis

1673 Bayview Dr. W

(360) 536-1282

[jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)

<Ordinance No. 5482.pdf>



**From:** Hanalora Geyer <hanalora@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:41 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** REJECT Legalizing Homeless Camps in Bremerton

Good afternoon,

I am a resident of Bremerton and am notifying your group to how unsatisfactory the proposed idea is to legalize homeless camps listing within the 40 acre forest region that covers Pinewood pool to the watershed and surrounding areas of Tracyton.

Allowing homeless people to have free range within suburban areas poses a greater threat to the safety of the majority with this community and is a mistake. This is not the solution that should be executed onto the public. Not only would this cause potential for physical safety issues, but it will cause threats to forest vegetation, community cleanliness and hygiene; something City Council members should maintain for those who actually provide to this community's success.

It's a false reality to think that this a good idea. Especially when new housing developments have begun construction, in hopes to elevate the worth of the community. This concept shows a lack of consistency in thought. How are you able to build up a community when areas keep scattering garage, needles, razors etc. This will increase crime levels that will nullify the efforts made to modernize and grow the community.

This concept will also cause greater strain on the Bremerton Police Departments time and attention; taking it away from important matters related to those who actually provide to this community's success.

I have lived in this area for over 20 years and have felt safe because of the low, to nonexistent, homeless issue within Bremerton. Do not take away the health of this community. Throwing homeless people into the woods and out of the streets of Bremerton does not fix anything!

Please clean up our community instead of wrecking it with lazy or false promises of community commitment. Stick your ears to the ground and become aware of the consequences this will have on Bremerton and Kitsap County as a whole.

DO NOT make Bremerton a parallel image of Seattle and Olympia.

V/r,

Hanalora Geyer

**From:** brunnerj9 <brunnerj9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:26 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Opposed encampment

Dear City council,

I am a Bremerton resident, and oppose two of the proposed homeless camps: the one located along Sinclair Way and one off 3rd avenue West, both near Pendergast Regional Park. I live in the housing development on Sinclair road, dozens of children live in this housing complex and frequently play outside. My kids also walks down to the bus stop with many other children. Additionally, the Pendergast Regional Park, also where children frequently play, is nearby, which makes these inappropriate locations for a homeless encampment.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Laskowski

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**From:** Jennifer Lombard <jennifer.lombard.ak@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:34 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Attn: Jennifer Chamberlin

Hello Jennifer!

My neighbors at NE Nantucket Street and I are very concerned about the proposed camping area in the city land adjacent to our street.

The concern is that if people are allowed to camp there, that some of those people could impact the safety and peace of our community, if they are drug users or are violent or disrespectful of people living nearby. They are also concerned for their children if people camping there access the area from our street.

There are other concerns about fire hazard and the landslide risk on that piece of land.

I am empathetic toward homeless people and know very well how close people can suddenly be to being homeless. One of my best friends lost everything and became homeless last year (fortunately he has an RV for now). I believe all people deserve to have a place to belong to, and not everyone who is homeless is a drug user or violent. I recognize there is a huge stigma against homelessness, but I also believe that my and my neighbors' concerns are valid and need to be considered.

One of my neighbors said that Mayor Wheeler mentioned the possibility of turning the area into a park or preserve, and I think some of us are going to look into that.

I will try to attend the september 20 meeting if I am able, but wanted to voice my concern now especially in case I can't be there.

Please consider these concerns when City Counsel works on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer S. Lombard

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <[noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 9:34 AM

**To:** WebMaster <[WebMaster@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:WebMaster@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kelsie Donleycott

<[Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Dave Sorensen <[Dave.Sorensen@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Sorensen@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Comment Form

## Comment Form

### Comments

Hello, I was informed that the city of Bremerton will be voting on providing lands owned by the city for homeless encampments within the Bremerton area. Before you make the stupid mistake of going the way of Seattle, and throwing public tax payers under the bus, you might want to reconsider. These homeless encampments traffic in stolen goods and illicit drugs. We've had our own ordeal on National Street where I live, where homeless encampments and RVs were parking one block away from Local elementary school in traffic and drugs all hours of the day and the police could do nothing about it because of the reckless, low IQ individuals running our city, prevented the police from doing such. The transient individuals are coming from Seattle and they are not locals. Your job is to represent your constituents which is us. It would be wise to remember who pays your salary. This vote flies in the face of your moral obligation and fiduciary duty to represent the public as a whole and you have no such responsibility for transients that are coming in from other cities, because of handouts that you stupidly would like to provide them. I would like a response , and it would be in the public's best interest if you voted against providing any sort of land or resources for transient individuals coming into our city. Protect protect your constituents, the taxpayers of the city.  
Jeremy

---

Email Address

[Jeremyburrier@hotmail.com](mailto:Jeremyburrier@hotmail.com)

---

Other Contact Information

*Field not completed.*

---

**From:** Jim Bluhm <jimbluhm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:44 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Tracyton Watershed Camp

Bremerton City Council Members,

I am writing you to express concerns regarding the city's plan to establish a 'homeless' (in the not to distant past they were labeled vagrants and laws prohibited their 'take over' of public areas) camp in the area of the Tracyton watershed.

Have you read the news lately of the problems (property damage, theft, physical violence, etc....) these vagrants have caused in Austin and San Francisco and Portland and Seattle, etc...? It's bad enough that Bremerton allows open public 'camping' but now the city wants to exacerbate the problem by providing a 'home' in the woods for people who (the majority) find personal responsibility and working for a living inconvenient. There will be an even greater influx from Seattle and other areas to this approved 'forest paradise'. The experience of other cities is undeniable - this area will be permanently damaged, made a public health hazard and negatively impact the adjoining residences and commercial areas in a very short time.

Have you ever cleaned up a 'homeless camp'? I have. In a small area we picked up hundreds of needless (mostly used), human filth and garbage. We hauled away truck loads of garbage and it took days to try and rid myself of the disgusting stench.

The city wants to 'hide' the problem that is currently near the downtown area by moving it to the Tracyton watershed woods instead of addressing the problem and getting these vagrants off the streets. Living in a tent with a bunch of drug addled vagrants is NOT the answer.

The Tracyton watershed is a tinder box and fires in that area will be an extreme hazard. Is there a plan to contain a devastating fire that has the potential for spreading to the neighboring homes? What about the impact to families who live in this area? By the way as elected officials they are your constituents and your responsibility to protect and serve.

Greedy builders (big bucks), real estate brokers (more commission) and city officials (more property tax money) are complicit in bringing this

problem to roost in Bremerton. Housing prices have been deliberately inflated. "Keep Building" seems to be the moto with no concern for the impact to the current infrastructure and limited resources (water and sewage mainly).

There are those who are on the streets due to legitimate circumstances beyond their own choosing. Public services should be provided to help those who reach out for an opportunity to better their lives. But, I find this to be the exception rather than the rule. Most are only looking for a place to hang out and get loaded with their crowd while others provide for them.

I suggest the City of Bremerton make more of an effort to get this problem under control. It will take time and the some very serious and impactful decisions.

Are my comments harsh. Yes. Is this problem going to go away by hiding it in the Tracyton watershed; a fragile wooded area adjoining a family friendly neighborhood? No.

9th Circuit Court judges are not legislators and should not be undermining city laws and governance.

I suggest you do your job and find some reasonable solutions to this 'homeless' (vagrancy) problem. That is what YOU as City Council members, elected by the tax paying voters of Bremerton, have been tasked to accomplish. Hiding this problem in the woods is not the answer.

Respectfully yours,  
J. Bluhm

**From:** Jo Walter <msjowalter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:42 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Voluntary ineligibility

I am very concerned about what looks like a decision to go with the voluntary ineligibility provision of the ordinance. Does this mean that a person who chooses to camp when a shelter bed exists but is not available to them, can be jailed for a misdemeanor if we determine that they have voluntarily made themselves ineligible to use the shelter bed? Wouldn't we really prefer to have people in one of our designated emergency campsites than in jail? That voluntary classification to me just feels similar to the thinking that says people are homeless by choice. If someone's been trespassed from the Salvation Army because they were drunk or high, maybe it's because they have an addiction, and who are we to judge if their addiction is an illness that they can't control or if they just felt like breaking the rules without regard for the consequences? Or if a person behaved in a belligerent way, who are we to judge if it was a mental illness that caused the behavior? There are so many reasons why a person might not be a good fit for a shelter. If my world fell apart, I can imagine that I might prefer the dignity of independence in my own cold wet tent, than to submit to the restrictions required to earn a sleeping space in unwelcome intimacy with strangers of all genders. Please let's just stay on the maintaining human dignity track you're on, and make allowances for the small minority for whom shelter beds won't work. Please.

Thank you,

Jo Walter

Mr. Goodnow, as my council person, will you please send me a response to let me know if my understanding about the council's intention about voluntary ineligibility is correct? I don't want to call on others to contact you to protest your intended actions if I'm wrong about what y'all have in mind!  
Thank you

From: Joel Ellis <ellis.jt85@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:04 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Approval of unauthorized encampments

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.



Date 9/18/23

15 September 2023

Esteemed Bremerton City Council,

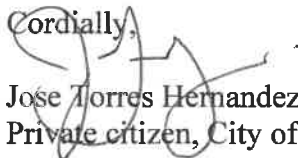
There is no doubt in anyone's mind that homelessness is serious matter nationwide. Recently, this issue has been brought to the doorstep of many concerned Bremerton residents. Some see homelessness as a faction of the population that simply is not willing to participate in gainful employment. Still other perceive this dire situation as members of society that would rather engage in criminal activity than participate in efforts that positively contribute to society. Moreover, interwoven into the fiber of this particular public affair are sensitive circumstances that often times get overlooked: substance abuse and undiagnosed ailments associated with mental health.

I am not claiming to have the answer to homelessness but perhaps the idea of placing homeless encampments in the thickets of city-owned parcels may not be the most ideal. Perhaps a more compassionate approach to aiding the needy, in this respect, would be to allow such encampments to exist on properties synonymous with offering environments that nurture fellowship. Our churches.

A great number of churches are positioned throughout our city. With proper consent and authorization, maybe designating a certain portion of these premises (e.g., parking lot) for the establishment of said encampments would be a better option. These areas are not only vast but often times remain unused from the late evening hours and onto the following morning. Portable lavatories could certainly be erected but will call for candid discussions between property owners and city officials in organizing their funding.

As a private citizen, I ask that you please consider discussing my suggestion amongst yourselves, not to mention, including pertinent key stakeholders. The unfortunate truth is that the topic of homelessness is one that is here to stay. Exploring and ultimately finalizing the most helpful option herein will only transpire thru constructive, continued open dialogue that is welcoming to every member of the community.

Cordially,

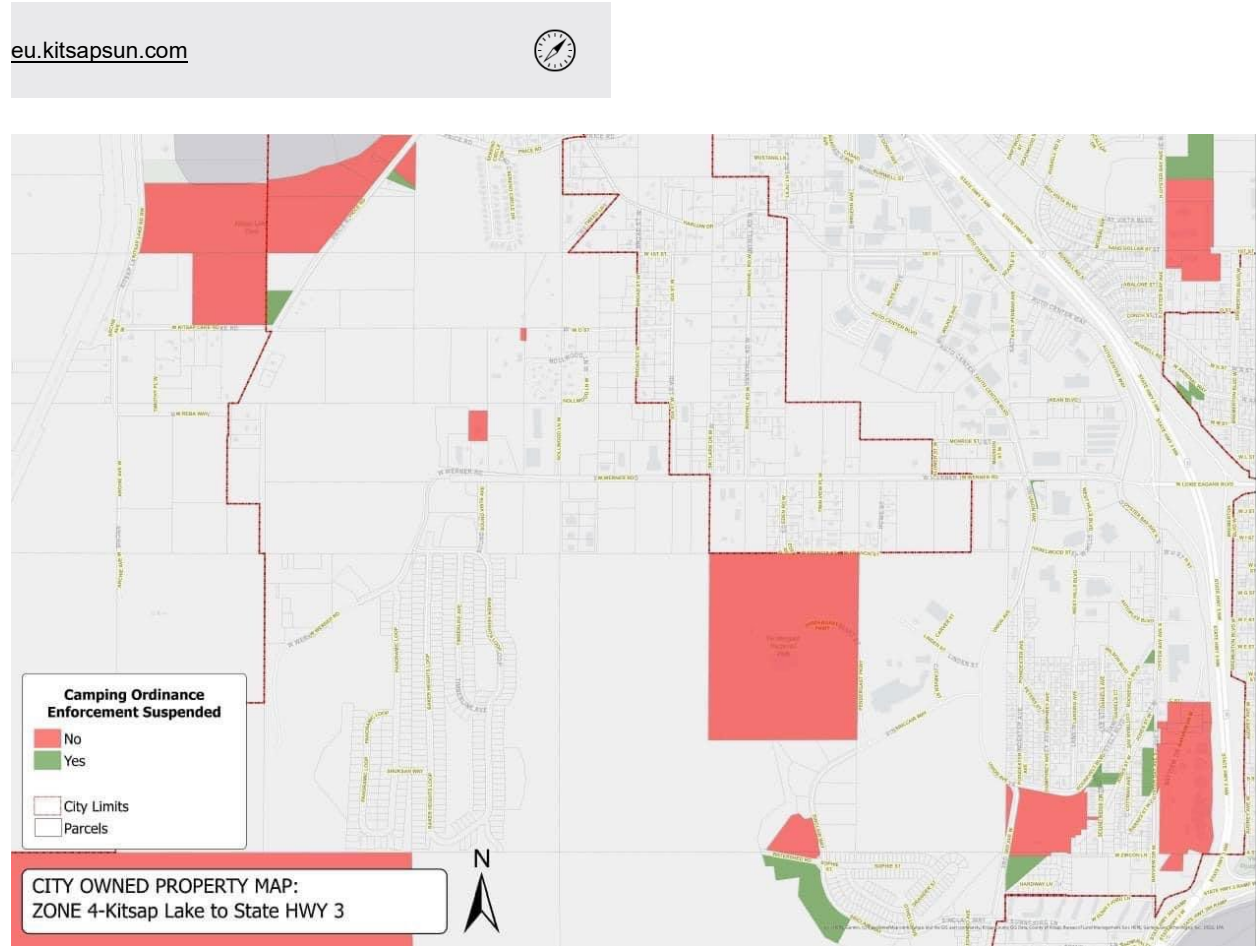
  
Jose Torres Hernandez  
Private citizen, City of Bremerton

3629 Reagan Avenue  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** Joshua Deming <joshuad206@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:25 PM  
**To:** City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us.  
**Subject:** Approval of Unauthorized Encampments

Bremerton City Council,

The fact that you thought this was ok in a residential area blows my mind. The city doesn't even allow for parking on Sinclair for the residents in the community yet, you'll allow an illegal encampment that's going to bring crime and drugs into an area with children?? The average house in our neighborhood is 500k pumping thousands of property tax and local sales tax into the economy. If this goes through, I can give I WILL vote no on EVERY tax/request for additional funding levy this city puts out. Come election time I WILL remember who voted for this. This is ridiculous.



Joshua Deming  
City of Bremerton Resident/Taxpayer/Voter

**From:** Katherine Kemper <katylea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:56 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Update Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended Areas

Council Members,

Thank you for addressing the many grievances of my neighbors on Dr. ML King Way. I am concerned, however, that I will soon share their experiences as my home on Arvon Ave is adjacent to the green portion of your map for zone 2.

If asked, I would prefer to give a portion of park land for sanctioned camping. I can avoid a park for my own safety. I cannot avoid my home.

Besides my own welfare, I think allowing camping on this portion of Burwell sends a poor message to the many who commute from Highway 3 to our ferries. They will see any encampment there on their daily commute, front and center. I also worry this may hamper revitalization efforts in the nearby Callow neighborhood. They have recently experienced vandalism and are still working to recover and continue growing the community. I don't want to see the vibrant First Friday events I walk to in decline before having the chance to reach their full potential.

Please update your map for Zone 2 to indicate the portions of Burwell street near Burwell Place, Olympic Avenue, and Arvon Avenue in red before enforcing this ordinance. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Katherine Kemper

**From:** Armstrong, Keith W CIV USN NUWC DIV KPT WA (USA) <keith.w.armstrong2.civ@us.navy.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:36 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Lakehurst Drive Homeless encampment.

Mr. Younger,

I am writing to express my displeasure of the potential location of a homeless encampment on Lakehurst Drive. I personally live in Dockside. The potential location is on a dead end street and the woods where the camp would be are designated wetlands by Kitsap County. With its close proximity to Kitsap Lake, a lake that the City of Bremerton has spent thousands of dollars improving as well as the close proximity to Kitsap Lake Elementary, in my opinion this would be a complete failure to locate the encampment there. There are million dollar houses located across the street from the potential location and many families use Lakehurst drive daily for outdoor activities. In your bio you specifically talk about pushing for funds to improve Kitsap lake. This encampment will greatly set that back, the potential for human feces, drugs leaching into the lake is high, we all know what comes with homeless encampments, drugs, trash and trouble. I hope you will be our voice when this comes up on the City Council Agenda. Please don't turn Bremerton into another Seattle.

Keith Armstrong

Keith W. Armstrong, CDM  
Procurement Lead  
SURTASS-E / DSS  
Code 52 NUWC Keyport  
☎: (360) 328-8321  
Work Hours M-F 0600-1430

NIPR: [keith.w.armstrong2.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:keith.w.armstrong2.civ@us.navy.mil)  
SIPR: [keith.w.armstrong@navy.smil.mil](mailto:keith.w.armstrong@navy.smil.mil)



From: Kelsey Stedman <kelsey.e.stedman@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:39 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Comments on draft camping ordinance and Mayor criminalization request

Hello Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I wanted to write to state a few things for public comment re: the camping ordinance. Mainly, I feel the vote should be delayed until all issues are addressed and more details are available.

1. I do not feel there is adequate information for the current ordinance to go into effect. Many communities have brought issues to City Administration related to the "green areas" in the proposed map that, based on the responses heard at the Community Meeting for the 40-acre parcel, were not known to City Administration when the map was released. For example, the 40-acre parcel is mostly a ravine, and contains two water retention ponds, as well as being within 3 blocks of a school. Another site is 300 feet from the wastewater treatment facility (Oyster Bay), and another is wetlands (Kitsap). These sites should be removed.

2. There is still no clarity or direct answer from the Mayor's office (asked in a previous email of mine as well as by many other citizens) re: the sanitation and trash plan for any of the green areas. As the property owner allowing camping on their land, the city will be responsible for assuring these issues are addressed. I repeat my previous question: will the city be held to the same permitting standards as any property owner or agency wanting to allow camping on their land? Which permit process will apply? The permit requirements outlined in the draft camping ordinance or the current 20.46.090 which has more extensive requirements?

3. Once passed, does the draft ordinance go into effect in 10 BUSINESS days or 10 CALENDAR days?

4. Going straight to a misdemeanor will lead to inequitable enforcement of the ordinance. While some officers may give warnings, others may not. I understand the issue with 3 infractions before a misdemeanor, my recommendation is a middle ground of 1 written warning or infraction and then a misdemeanor.

5. As highlighted in previous email and my public comment at last week's meeting, the definition of "available shelter" is not realistically enforceable. To speak to Councilperson Frey's comments last week, it is based on false assumptions, leading to a scary place to make action. I suggest the council request input from the county human services division and/or the Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Coalition for input in this definition and the realities of what "available shelter" means.

6. There is still no packet online for this evenings study session, which does not allow time for public input on any changes since the last meeting.

Best,

Kelsey Stedman, RN, MSN, CWCN  
360.908.6751

From: Kristi <kristi5602@att.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:37 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Proposed encampment

Hello-

I am writing to express our deepest concerns regarding a proposed homeless encampment off Sinclair in Bremerton adjacent to the housing community where my family resides. We moved to this city from San Diego with a job at the where I work daily to support the heart of the city of Bremerton, the shipyard and Navy. We did not spend over half of a million dollars on our new home to live next to a homeless encampment where our housing value would certainly go down and worry we would never be able to sell, live in worry and fear over crime developing in our neighborhood that is full of hard working families with many small children that actively play outside, as they should be able to.. I hope our voice is heard and this is not voted to come to fruition as I would not wish this on anyone.

Ken and Kristi Gamos  
5154 Sophie Street  
Bremerton

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kevin Paul Bigalbal <kevin\_bigalbal@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:19 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Please do not authorize encampment in our neighborhood!

Bremerton City Council,  
I am a resident in the neighborhood of Sinclair Way/Sofie Street. Please do not authorize homeless encampments in our neighborhood as it is highly a concern for the safety our children. We have many young children in our neighborhood who walks to and from the bus stop daily. This is not safe for them! Please do not authorize! Thank you!

Respectfully,  
Kevin Bigalbal (Resident)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kim Flores <kimflores710@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:11 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homeless encampment

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children.

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.
3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.



Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Flores

5182 Sophie St. resident

**From:** Kim Stewart <kimstewart@windermere.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:09 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Winfield and Wheaton Tent Camping

To; Bremerton City Council Members, Mayor Greg Wheeler, & Jeff Coughlin,

I was recently made aware by a neighbor of mine on lower Winfield the City of Bremerton is considering allowing temporary tent camping on the vacant lots where Wheaton & Winfield Ave meet. I personally think it's a bad idea for safety reasons for both the campers and community. I live on Winfield and people tend to speed on both roads plus Winfield lacks sidewalks on both sides of the street. I myself have seen at least 4 serious crashes. There are many walkers, runners, cyclists, electric scooters, children and elderly who use this area to get to the ferry, go to school, catch the bus, go dining, shopping or get their exercise. The vacant lots are not large enough for the purposes of safe tent camping with all the surrounding activity.

I was told the City of Bremerton owns other parcels on bus lines that are much larger and safer but they are not being considered such as Olympus Dr near the fire station or off of Oyster Bay.

I am puzzled why the city would even consider these two parcels and I am disappointed Mayor Wheeler would give his approval. Also, I am curious do the people who make the determination of what areas would be deemed good camping sites even live in Bremerton?

I realize this is a sensitive matter and needs careful consideration. I do hope after reviewing these facts the city will remove the Wheaton and Winfield lots from the list.

Sincerely,

Kim Stewart



**KIM STEWART**

Broker

*"Real Estate with Heart and Knowledge"*

WINDERMERE REAL ESTATE/WEST SOUND, INC.

OFFICE: 360-692-6102 | **MOBILE: 253-225-1752**

9939 Mickelberry Rd NW | Silverdale, WA 98383

Kimstewart.withwre.com | [kimstewart@windermere.com](mailto:kimstewart@windermere.com)

**From:** Kimberly <lampingkim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 8:29 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** DELAY VOTE Ordinance #5482

Dear city counsel,

I strongly urge you to delay the vote on ordinance 5482. This vote will have a significant impact on our community. We need more time to consider sustainable solutions to this issue.

name is Kimberly Lindberg and I'm a resident here in Bremerton. We recently bought a house here in this county specifically because it is safer, cleaner and more affordable than King County.

Ordinance #5482 affects me as I live in the neighborhood along the 40 acre lot on Sugar Pine Drive.

I have concerns for safety, sanitation and environmental impact not only for my neighborhood, but for all other neighborhoods near these public green spaces.

While I have empathy for those who struggle with homelessness, sending them to live in the woods or on public green spaces is not an appropriate long term solution for lack of housing. They are still homeless. They are just out of sight and out of mind. Except for the people who live near them.

Here's a list of solutions off the top of head:

- Why not build or purchase/renovate a homeless shelter somewhere near public amenities and away from neighborhoods? There are lots of empty buildings in downtown Bremerton.
- Why not establish networks to help these people get appropriate medical and psychological care and help get them off the street permanently?
- Instead of using the 40 acres to allow homeless people to camp permanently, why not sell the property to the Illahee Preserve Rotary? Use the funds and property taxes from the transaction to specifically go towards homeless programs/shelters.

No more band-aide fixes for homelessness. We need sustainable solutions.

Thank you,

Kimberly Lindberg

**From:** Kitsap Lake Group <kitsaplakegroup@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:47 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** jjs69cougar@gmail.com; Chandra Davenport <candydavenport69@gmail.com>

**Subject:** City of Bremerton's update to Ordinance No. 5482 to BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping"

Dear Bremerton City Council Members,

I'm writing to you in regards to the proposed changes to Ordinance No. 5482 to BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping". First, I would like to thank you and all of your staff for all of the work you have already done on this extremely difficult matter. As a resident in district 7, and before you think this is another "Not in my back yard" request, I would like to explain why I believe the property at 1312 Lakehurst Dr property (172401-1-056-2009) should be designated "No" for the Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended for Ordinance No. 5482 to BMC Chapter 9.32. As a member of the Kitsap Lake Small Group for the past couple of years, we have seen tremendous investment and improvement to our lake. I know the city is committed long term to keeping the lake clean for everyone and have invested a substantial amount of money in the process, which is why it shocked us that the previously mentioned property could even be considered for occupation as a homeless encampment. This is a designated wetlands (Kitsap County Department of Community Development map [https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/DCD%20GIS%20Maps/Critical\\_Areas.pdf](https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/DCD%20GIS%20Maps/Critical_Areas.pdf)) and as such should not be used for any type of housing, whether temporary or permanent under the *Unauthorized Camping* ordinance. The property in question has a year-round stream that feeds directly into Kitsap Lake (less than 200 feet). The only viable access to the property is from Lakehurst Dr since private properties border it on 3 sides (two developed, 1 undeveloped). Access even this time of year requires muck boots to get into this "heavily wooded area". I've attached a couple pictures referencing the year-round stream.

Additionally, this property is downhill from Harlow Dr via Lakemont Ln which is only a few hundred feet (~400") away from Kitsap Elementary School. I would hope that the proximity to schools, especially elementary schools, would *and should* be a factor in deciding if a property is qualified as a shelter space for unsheltered housing/camping.

Please reconsider the 1312 Lakehurst Dr property as "No" for Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended.

Additionally, Chandra and I both support the mayor's recommendation to make the first contact a misdemeanor.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

James "J" O'Connor and Chandra (Candy) Davenport



**From:** Kristen Moore <bluemoon224@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:08 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** NO HOMELESS CAMPING OFF SUGAR PINE

My home is located off Sylvan near Pine, very close to the proposed homeless camping site. Bremerton has been my hometown my entire life. It's a tragedy what is happening to the country these past ten years in regards to poverty, crime, and homelessness. It's not isolated to Kitsap, or Washington, or the coast or blue states. It is a nationwide problem. The solution isn't to just keep shuffling the homeless under the rug all the while more and more become homeless. Unfortunately, with homeless camps comes crime and drug-use. It's a fact.

Average, hard-working citizens should not have to foot the bill (in terms of losing property value, peace, and safety).

Could the old Harrison Hospital be transformed into a shelter? It's sitting there abandoned and would provide hundreds of rooms for people in need. I'd like to see alternatives be proposed and thinking outside the box vs just moving the camps from neighborhood to neighborhood.

**From:** LINDA MUSEUS <LEMUSEUS@msn.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:45 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Proposed changes to Bremerton Ordinance re camping on city property

Dear Mr. Mayor and Eric Younger:

I recently learned of the proposed changes to the above-referenced ordinance and have read the rationale for it (Johnson v. City of Grants Pass) and the letters written, mostly against these changes. I would like to add my own thoughts for your consideration.

My first thought was to wonder why this was being considered now, before any real planning to what should be done about the increasing number of homelessness in Bremerton. I read the opinion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and realized that the plaintiffs, in this civil action, were homeless people in Grants Pass. Wondering how they got together to get a lawyer and file a class action suit (that took a lot of money, which they obviously didn't have), I read that they were backed by a group that was organized to advocate for the homeless.

**From:** Lindsay Crichton <lindsaycrichton101@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:55 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless housing parcels

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns and reservations regarding the recent list of potential camping parcels for the homeless population in our city. While I fully support efforts to address homelessness and provide shelter to those in need, I find the proposed parcels to be inappropriate for several reasons.

Firstly, the size of many of the parcels allocated for camping are incredibly small, which I believe raises concerns about the safety and well-being of the individuals who would be residing there. Providing insufficient space not only compromises the dignity and comfort of our homeless residents but can also lead to overcrowding and potential health and safety risks.

Moreover, many of the suggested parcels are situated in areas that pose significant safety hazards due to heavy traffic and environmental concerns. The safety of these individuals should be a top priority in considering locations, and placing them with high traffic volumes or environmental hazards such as thick wilderness or flooding is counterproductive and potentially dangerous.

As an example, I'd like to highlight the suggested space located on the beach. While the idea of providing housing near the beach may seem appealing, it is unrealistic due to the dynamic nature of coastal environments. During high tide the beach is flooded to almost the road itself, and the coming winter will only make this more dangerous. This poses a serious risk to the individuals who would be residing there and raises concerns about their safety and well-being. Does it really make sense to move them to somewhere that would just bring them harm and further stress the hospitals?

I urge the City Council to reconsider the current list of potential camping parcels and prioritize the safety, dignity, and well-being of our homeless population. It is essential that we find suitable locations that provide adequate space and do not expose individuals to unnecessary risks.

I appreciate your commitment to addressing homelessness in our city, and I hope that together we can find more suitable and sustainable solutions for those in need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Crichton  
2012 Parkside Dr.  
Apt. 248  
Bremerton WA. 98310



**From:** Lindsay Edward <linds.edward@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:58 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed Homeless Encampments

City Council Members,

I am a homeowner at the newly built Reserve at West Hills where you have proposed zoning TWO homeless encampments gingerly surrounding our neighborhood. Firstly, are you crazy? Each of our over 100 homes in a brand new single-family community is over a half a million dollars, and contributing thousands in property and sales taxes into our economy. This will absolutely TANK our brand new property values, and endanger our budding community.

Secondly, from a humanitarian standpoint and in the interest of offering options, how dare you? Camps are not solutions. Roofs, buildings and renovations are solutions for the homeless population. We have ample abandoned or run-down buildings that could be repurposed much closer to other resources to provide adequate accommodations for the unhoused. Winter is coming - camps in the woods are not a viable solution, but will only lead to crime and misfortune.

Our community is holding strong in opposition - we are keeping our ears to the ground and eyes on you. We will not forget what occurs in the coming days. We will let it influence our votes, our spending, and our support of this larger community that we wish to call home. If money talks better than humans, we will let it.

Please, do not lay waste to the place I have chosen to call home.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Edward  
Granger St, Bremerton 98312

**From:** Loretta Longsine <mrsincredible7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:51 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment proposal

09/13/2023

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members. I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children. I would like to make sure you understand there are many children under the age of 5. This seems like a big risk for our families.

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, and petty crimes, all of which have previously taken place. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals. Which is currently taking place in downtown Bremerton.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services. I would like to point out that downtown Bremerton has several buildings not being used. Why not make use of facilities already in place with water, sewer, and permanent shelter with heat or cooling as needed.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative

impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

- Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
- Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.
- Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate and trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,  
Loretta Longsine  
5087 Granger St. @ The Reserve at West Hills

**From:** Lucas Hedglin <lucashedglin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:54 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless losers near my home.

I own a home on Arvon Ave. There will not be a homeless shelter located this close to my children without a fight from the hard working people who actually deserve to live here. The neighborhood will be forced to monitor this space on their free time and call the police at any moment the need for law enforcement presents itself. This is a huge waste of hard working peoples time. Keep the homeless scum downtown or send them to Seattle. I have spoken to lawyers already and am getting in touch with every local news station I can. If it makes you guys happy I can buy the largest tent that REI has to offer and occupy the space myself to keep the kids safe from these disgusting people.

From: Megan Marchetti <mmarchetti\_85@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:50 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Cc: Greg ❤️ Rodriguez <greg\_orio15323@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Concerned citizens

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. As a Registered Nurse for almost 10 years and a current Nurse working for the Office of Veterans Affairs, I (Megan) have worked with and cared for countless unhoused individuals over the years. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children.

Also, curiosity strikes me as to ask – wither this parcel cited has been afforded other potential opportunities?, such as – recreational hiking, recreational hunting, etc.?

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. Having been personal witness to the effects of illegal drug use, this is not something I would want in the vicinity of children and families. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.
3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,  
Megan Marchetti & Greg Rodriguez  
Residents of The Reserve at West Hills

From: [mwebbqwe1@comcast.net](mailto:mwebbqwe1@comcast.net) <[mwebbqwe1@comcast.net](mailto:mwebbqwe1@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 5:24 PM  
To: Legal <[Legal@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Legal@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Lions Field safety concerns/ housing homeless

Hello

I work as a Registered Nurse Case Manager in our community ER at St. Michaels Medical Center.

I live by Lions Field and have for 20 plus years.

I am unfortunately aware of the many illegal and unsafe practices in the homeless community in Bremerton.

With your proposed legal encampment by our community park at Lions Filed, I will after all these years need to leave the area.

What a huge disappointment. I am an advocate for persons experiencing homelessness- but also an advocate for safe green space to bring our children, grandchildren, dogs, etc.

Michelle Webb

327 E 28th St

Bremerton Wa

98310

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Zehua Zhou <zehua6666@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:09 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concerns for your homeless plan

I heard you proposed a plan to relocate homeless people to the wetlands in various east and west Bremerton areas. These areas are generally adjacent to backyards of hard working middle class communities. I strongly object to this plan, and I request that you give me the names of people who proposed these plans, so I can talk to all of my friends and make sure we vote them out.

Yours sincerely,  
Mike



**From:** M chip <[mchip@outlook.com](mailto:mchip@outlook.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 11:55 AM

**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Relocation of Homeless to Tracyton Watershed

Ms. Chamberlain,

My intent is that this letter creates notice and dialogue for my neighborhood and our concerns. It is important that I have finally heard from you.

The city council and mayor have an obligation to each and every citizen along the watershed about plans for the unhoused population and issues in Bremerton. Furthermore, Ms. Chamberlain, since it directly impacts your district, you have a greater responsibility to the residents. This would be in line with your door-to-door canvassing and statements made during your campaign for city council.

You have asked for facts regarding the information about the grave concerns that impact the residents. Here are just 3:

Violent rape of a woman in parking garage by unhoused man. He is set to be released back to Bremerton with charges dropped by state.

A man and his wife bludgeoned with a roofing hammer while they slept in their home by an unhoused man. Western State Hospital has deemed him unrestorable and dropped charges.

Most recently an elderly man was stabbed in the Winco parking lot by an unhoused man who does not have ties to our community.

Increased fires have been occurring within this community which will lead to a greater risk of fires that will have a detrimental outcome to life and structures causing more community danger.

Have you done research on any of these? How about a PDR to find out what is happening in the community? I first hand have seen these traumatic events and it's why I am so vocal about protecting myself and my fellow neighbors. I imagine that if others had to view these horrific events, they too would be as passionate as I am in protecting others— this includes the unhoused. I encourage you to do more research yourself. The resources are available and I imagine part of your role serving in the legislative branch of our City government is to do your due diligence.

Why would moving an unhoused community out of sight, but directly impacting single family dwelling homes, putting citizens at risk be a good idea?

Do you see value in delaying this ordinance vote until the citizens' voices are heard? This way all information and alternatives could be considered. Do you think this would be a better way of representing your constituents?

Instead of a phone call with me or any individual concerned resident, let us organize an in-person meeting. This will allow all of us who are very concerned to be heard. We can use my cul-de-sac, stand (or sit) and share ideas and information. With the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, this has made things tricky but not impossible. There are many other cities that have come up with really solid solutions, have you looked into them? This can be homework for all of us before we meet.

What are some good date/times that work for you?

Kind regards,  
Mitchell Chapman

**From:** Nigel Neaves <nneaves22@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:11 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council  
<City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Approved Encampments around Kitsap Lake

After reviewing and watching the video from the last city council meeting I was very disappointed to see two pieces of land approved for encampments. The first being the property on Lakehurst drive which the city attorney did not take into consideration that a stream running to kitsap lake currently runs through that property and with no bathrooms human waste would be contaminating the water and additionally this property is roughly 400 yards away from Kitsap Lake Elementary School! The second one on the end of Kitsap Lake is also less than 100 yards from a school bus stop. Our kids need to be protected and I do not feel I should have to explain to my daughter why it's okay for all the garbage and used drug paraphernalia to be left around there. Not more than 2 weeks ago some homeless people set up camp behind our house along the railroad tracks and the trail we often take to get into the woods and left used drug paraphernalia, underwear and a massive pile of garbage. along with two other large dumpings of trash on the south end of the lake. The country was quick to come pick those up and alert the Navy to the trash on their property and encampment. approving land for them to trash and turn into a garbage pit is unacceptable. you should be using your time and resources to build a new shelter or reopen the old salvation army. Giving them permission to camp in nice neighborhoods and bring in their trash is unacceptable. These people are not mentally capable of keeping these properties clean and you know it. Shame on you and your council and the city attorney.

**From:** Pamela Carriffee <pjcarrifee@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:16 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Dear City Council,

I live within a block of the small parcel along Warren Ave and Winfield and the possibility of allowing the homeless to set up a camp there does concern me. I am all for the city helping these people but I want ACTUAL help, not just a rule that says "you can camp here". If there are any parcels that will allow camping then I want the city to pay for the necessary needs the users will require such as toilets, hand washing, trash collection, etc. The problem will not go away on its own. A comprehensive solution needs to address this and that means permanent or temporary housing. Tents are NOT the answer. A serious look into tiny home villages which include 24/7 staffing, indoor laundry, communal kitchen and bathrooms and access to services like job counseling and physical and mental health is a good start.

In the meantime, the city needs to support Kimmy Siebens and her volunteers that help the homeless in the area.

Pamela Carriffee  
2007 E 15<sup>th</sup> St  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** patrick g <[pmgriffin7@hotmail.com](mailto:pmgriffin7@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments

Dear Mayor,

I am writing you because I am very disappointed by the city's response to the homeless situation. A year ago, Bremerton had two homeless shelters downtown and the current situation didn't exist. Due to the city's excessive regulations, which made it impossible to operate the Salvation Army and the Kitsap Rescue Mission, those places are gone now. This resulted in bums taking over Dr MLK Way, a city owned street. The street is a dump, there's tweakers everywhere, they're smoking fentanyl in public and the area is a drain on police and emergency services. You politicians are turning Bremerton into a shithole place to live. Your extreme permissiveness and lack of care for city property is clearly and obviously exacerbating the situation. Your solution is to spread the tweakers throughout the city over a dozen city parcels. This plan is even dumber than the one before. One of those parcels is at the corner 11<sup>th</sup> St and Pacific Ave where I live. This city property has 3 ft high grass, because you people can't even be bothered to mow even once a year, but now you want to put an encampment there. Last week, a tweaker drove his truck through this property and through our fence, a section of which was obliterated. There wouldn't even be a fence separating us from this proposed tweaker encampment, but you want to move these people here. Of course, I guarantee there won't be a tweaker encampment next to the mayor's house. In our neighborhood, we're already dealing with a tweaker house across the street from us, homeless people constantly roaming about causing problems and homeless people are already staying in their cars on the street for as long as 6 months at a time.

Please get rid of encampments on public property altogether. Don't turn this city into Portland, Seattle or all the other liberal hellholes. If this doesn't happen, I will be voting for a new mayor and new city council next election.

Bremerton resident,

Patrick Griffin-Hall

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** Paul Nettleton <paul\_nettleton@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:29 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Katelyn Nettleton <katelyn\_eevee@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sophie Street Unhoused Persons Council Letter 09122023

Sent from my iPhone -PEN

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Paul Nettleton <[Paul\\_Nettleton@hotmail.com](mailto:Paul_Nettleton@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** September 12, 2023 at 15:03:09 PDT  
**To:** Katelyn Nettleton <[katelyn\\_eevee@hotmail.com](mailto:katelyn_eevee@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Sophie Street Unhoused Persons Council Letter 09122023

Review and let me know your thoughts.

Sent from my iPhone -PEN

---

Subject: Concerns Regarding Unhoused Individuals in Residential Areas with Children

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

First and foremost, (being formerly transient myself as a child & Teen) I want to emphasize that I am a compassionate individual who recognizes the severity of the homelessness crisis and supports efforts to provide assistance to unhoused individuals. However, I believe that we must strike a balance between addressing this crisis and ensuring the safety and security of our residential neighborhoods, especially those with a high concentration of families with children.

Also, curiosity strikes me as to ask – wither this parcel cited has been afforded other potential opportunities?, such as – recreational hiking, recreational hunting, etc.?

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.
3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Paul Nettleton

Kitsap County Resident

**From:** Paula Sunkel <psunkel.wa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Kitsap Sun Article

"The city council has proposed an ordinance that would allow camping at approximately 25 city owned properties."

My issue with this is by having designated sites available for "authorized" camping, you are in fact PROMOTING this camping instead of addressing the problem. This is a bad Band-Aid to a serious problem.

Quoting a FB post regarding this:

"I hope there has been a study to determine the cause of homelessness. Can't afford housing, drug alcohol related, mental illness etc. And then determine how to address and "fix" the problems, largest percentage first rather than just find a place for encampments to terrorize the people living near these encampments. Has this study been done and a plan established to address and "fix" the causes? If not, why not? And who is paying for this and what is the plan to clean up and rehab these people into productive members of society? Plan and timeline please? Please publish these plans."

--

Paula Sunkel

360.340.3518

"If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?" – Abraham Lincoln





Received by Bremerton City Council Office

Date 9/10/23

P. O. BOX 1071  
TRACYTON, WA 98393-1071

Commissioner William Wright  
Commissioner Brian Davison  
Commissioner Ken Griffin

September 14, 2023

City of Bremerton  
Attn: Mayor and City Council  
Norm Dicks Government Center  
345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #100  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Subject: Homeless Encampments

Dear Mayor and City Council of Bremerton,

We are writing on behalf of the Port of Tracyton to object to your proposal to utilize vacant property within our boundaries for homeless encampments. We are concerned about the negative impacts that these encampments would have on our community, and we believe that there are better alternatives for helping those in need.

Recent actions by other governments have shown that homeless encampments are not a solution to the problem of homelessness. In Seattle, the city has been forced to tear down encampments due to health and safety concerns. The Governor of Washington has also ordered the removal of encampments from state property.

These actions demonstrate that homeless encampments are not sustainable or safe. They create a host of problems, including:

Public health hazards: Encampments can attract rodents, insects, and other pests that can spread disease. They can also be a breeding ground for mold and mildew.

- Safety concerns: Encampments can be magnets for crime and violence. They can also be a fire hazard.
- Property damage: Encampments can lead to littering, vandalism, and damage to public property.

- Decreased property values: The presence of homeless encampments can decrease property values in the surrounding area.

We believe that there are better alternatives for helping those who are homeless. We support the development of permanent supportive housing, which provides affordable housing with on-site services to help people get back on their feet. We also support the expansion of job training and placement programs, as well as mental health and addiction treatment services.

We urge you to reconsider your proposal to utilize vacant property for homeless encampments. We believe that there are better ways to address the problem of homelessness that will be more beneficial to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Port of Tracyton

*Bill Wright*

District #1 Commissioner

*Brian Davison*

District #2 Commissioner

*Ken Griffin*

District #3 Commissioner

**From:** randall buchanan <randoman2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:07 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp on Kitsap Way

Eric, As your neighbor on Madrona Pt Dr. I am opposed to having a homeless camp off Kitsap Way behind the Chevron Station. From an economic stand point my guess is that a lot of these people would congregate at the WinCo Store, which would make it unsafe and drive away business from that store which generates revenue for the city. Others on our street are opposed to this site also.

Best regards.

Randy Buchanan

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** RASHELLE GEYER <momimageyer@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:40 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Legal Homeless camps

Good evening council members,

As a member of the Kitsap County community, it is appalling to hear that you are considering (or have decided) making Legalized Homeless camps in upstanding community neighborhoods like Pinewood Pool area and Tracyton.

I've lived in this area for over 25 years and felt safe to walk my neighborhood with my children and not have to worry about drug addicts, thieves and whatever else a homeless camp bring about.

Governor Jay Inslee says he needs more money to clear homeless camps from state right of ways. They've allocated \$143,000,000+ to the effort to date. So far, only 1,299 people have been swept out of camps. 870 of those accepted housing. Only 126 have successfully exited the system. That means it cost taxpayers \$1,137,256 to get one person out of homelessness.

If Mr. Inslee is working on 'CLEARING' homeless camps, why are you trying to create MORE in Kitsap County? Is anyone one on the council a member of these communities that are being suggested for homeless camps? You need to lead by example and offer up your back yards first.

The Bremerton Council needs to figure out a safer way to deal with the homeless situation that has been created by our Governor or let the homeless stay in INSLEE's back yard, NOT ours!!

George and Rashelle Geyer  
Kitsap County resident

Date 9/10/23

New city sanctioned Homeless Encampment proposal at 11th & Warren

This letter is my notice to you, that if the city intends to locate a sanctioned homeless encampment on a city owned, open parcel of land, located at 11th st and Warren ave, I intend to take whatever legal action I can to prevent this from happening.

I have lived in this neighborhood since 1986 when I purchased my house on Broadway ave. In 1989, I had a violent home invasion break in, that easily could have turned deadly.

I believe that locating this homeless encampment near by, will only tend to bring more violent and drug impaired criminals into the area. The very idea of moving the existing homeless encampment from MLK way to 11th st and Warren ave solves nothing, and is just kicking the can down the road. The existing homeless encampment along MLK way is an area of almost constant disorder, with violence, open drug use and dealing, prostitution and fighting, to name a few. This illegal activity goes on day and night and endangers all the home owners and renters who sadly have to live near by. People who live there, are afraid to leave their home for any amount of time, fearing their homes will be broken into, and fear for the safety of their children and/or personal property.

The city Police have been told not to enforce and ignore anti camping laws, so this issue remains unabated.

These encampments also quickly become hazards to the public health, with swarms of rats, human waste, and piles of festering garbage.

I am actively seeking others in this neighborhood who want to join  
in this possible lawsuit against the city of Bremerton.

If you wish to discuss this matter with me, I can be reached by phone  
email or mailed letter.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray H. Lein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Raymond H. Lein

1210 Broadway ave

Bremerton, wa 98337-1631

rhlein1949@gmail.com

(360)377-5210

# Bremerton pauses encampments vote

## Council presents list of potential sites

**Kai Uyehara**

Kitsap Sun

USA TODAY NETWORK

Discussion on the Bremerton City Council's draft ordinance limiting unauthorized camping will continue, after the council did not vote on new rules at its

Wednesday night meeting. The council did present a map of city owned property where encampments will be allowed, however, as it continues to listen to public feedback about the issue of homelessness in the city.

A draft ordinance, initially presented in August, would outlaw camping at parks

and streets, sidewalks and the space between streets and sidewalks when there is no overnight shelter space available. Instead, homeless campers will be able to set up in undeveloped city-owned parcels where the ordinance will not be enforced.

Homeless campers and their advocates called for a list of the parcels to be made public before the council enacted the ordinance, worrying that campers wouldn't know where they could move

before being cleared out of their encampments.

The council intended to vote on the issue at their September 6 meeting, but announced Wednesday that discussion of the ordinance would continue and suggested amendments would be presented at a study session Sept. 13.

The city did provide a map of the areas

**See COUNCIL, Page 2A**

## Council

Continued from Page 1A

where the ordinance would not be enforced, with city attorney Kylie Finnell highlighting some of its locations.

"These (parcels) are spread out throughout the city," Finnell said at the meeting. "There aren't very many big chunks of land."

Most of the parcels identified on the maps are slivers of area or single lots, and are found in West Bremerton, West Hills, off Kitsap Way, downtown, near Lions Park, in East Bremerton off Wheaton Way and in Manette. The smallest parcel is on a street corner in Manette at Wheaton

council, enforcement would go into effect ten days afterward to ensure homeless campers are given time to move to the undeveloped parcels.

When there is overnight shelter immediately available for individuals to be referred to, however, camping anywhere in the city will be outlawed at all times.

Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler echoed his continuing effort to have overnight shelter available at the Salvation Army on November and to find a location for another overnight shelter, transitional housing or an outdoor shelter for camping, complete with facilities.

Wheeler also requested that the council consider amending the ordinance's policy on violations. There is an infraction fine of \$25 for unauthorized camping

in the current draft, and three or more violations would result in a misdemeanor. Wheeler asked the council to make the penalty for violation a misdemeanor immediately, in order to encourage compliance among campers.

"It could take months before three infractions are found committed and a person violating the ordinance is facing a misdemeanor," Wheeler wrote. "This means the person reporting a violation (law enforcement) could have to wait months for the person violating the code to move or be moved even when there is another place to go or another shelter available."

The proposed changes will be discussed at the City Council's next study session, scheduled for Sept. 13.

From: Robert Millerbernd <rmillerbernd1979@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:25 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: "Your Proposal"

Dear reader,

The city council isn't addressing the real problem here. Instead, it's an "appearance fix" by "opening" multiple locations around Bremerton to send them all out. Also, I'd invite ALL Council members to "explore" the 40 acre water shed area and see how feasible it is for ANY types of services, Fire, Medical, Police, Salvation Army etc.... As well as the environmental impact. Why did the health dept get involved with Illahee?

Sincerely,  
Robert Millerbernd

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** rdm3525@comcast.net <rdm3525@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:24 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Camping ordinance

I'll try to keep this short and to the point regarding the proposed camping ordinance.

The ordinance doesn't specify who is going to oversee this just that any Director may be allowed to make decisions.

Currently in parks if you want to use a facility for the day there's a permit that needs to be applied for and a nominal fee. This ordinance has no requirement for such and I wonder how are you going to regulate individual campers?

There's no requirement for campers/homeless to keep the area free of garbage. Given the amount of proposed sites the city has listed, you will need to assign 2 people to visit and clean up after these people on a daily basis. Sending 1 person isn't safe.

Someone will need to contact each camper/homeless person on a regular basis to find out what the individual needs are if you expect to help these people. Who's going to do that? If the homeless don't want or accept help, the city needs to document these issues

Given the number of fires we've seen from these encampments in king county why would you designate a heavily forested 40 acre tract to be used? They will have fires in there.

Where's the Health Department regarding all the hygiene issues surrounding the homeless? I only heard one person last council meeting ask about the Health Department.

I feel the current ordinance as written is somewhat short sided.

The real solution to this issue is to have enough beds available so if they don't accept the help, the city/county can start the next level of enforcement escorting them from the city/county.

Ron McKiernan  
Resident of Bremerton  
District 1

**From:** Rose Pearson <RDuffy@starbucks.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:04 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Concern with Homeless Encampment

To whom it may concern:

This is Rose Pearson; I am working from home & living in Bremerton nearby Pine Rd NE and Sylvan Way since 2021. I wanted to express my concern about the end street where I live, there is a forest that leads to down hill to Tracyton area that it is visibility open to anyone can go. However, there is no made trail or path that anyone can walk due to steep/downhill so with I really want to protect the area due few reasons. We have multiple families with children live in our street that we need to be safe, I myself a Deaf person which do not have advantage or opportunity to hear if someone try to come to knock at our door, I walk my dog around and accident step on a drug needle and last thing, if the people happen to camp in the forest and winter is coming wants to build a fire to keep warm but if something happen then fire can spread all over uphill to the house and possible damages or not. So, I wish not would have anyone except who our residents reside the street walk through the forest or on the street on Nantucket St.

Rose Pearson – Analyst, Sr HR Operations, PROSS  
[rduffy@starbucks.com](mailto:rduffy@starbucks.com)



**From:** ross mccllland <rossamac@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:16 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** homeless encampments

Good afternoon Bremerton City Council I am here to voice my dissenting opinion to gifting the "homeless" population "camping" locations or indefinite camping permits in and around the city of Bremerton. The following is my reasoning.

We need to love our neighbor as Bremerton citizens & Bremerton administrators. Bremerton citizens include both the Bremerton tax payer and the Bremerton homeless persons. This includes respecting home owners' reasonable expectation for safety and tranquility around their home. Introduction of a homeless population to a neighborhood is a failure to love homeowner citizens. At the same time this could be a blessing to current home owners or property owners as a homeless population is removed from one area. The Bremerton administrators (City Council and Mayor) are extensions and servants of the Bremerton citizens to promote good order and justice in our fair city.

There is objective beauty and there is objective flourishing of humanity. The homeless population consists of three different populations of overlapping demographics. There are the mentally unstable, the drug addicted, and the down on their luck people who failed to make ends meet somewhere. The homeless are usually some combination of the two or a combination of the three. Drugs and mental instability often reduce people's capability and productivity to that of children.

The goal of human life is to glorify God and enjoy him forever, this requires humanity to flourish and make things beautiful. We can judge the quality of homeless populations' lifestyle on aesthetics alone, but we can also judge it on its record of safety, or desirability by homeowners for the homeless to be their neighbors. No homeowner wants to be in the vicinity of one of these camps, which will quickly become an above ground landfill, with needles, empty booze bottles, broken tents, discarded toilet paper, human feces, and other filth. Only children are so capable of a wonton generation of filth and destruction. Enabling people to persist in these "camps" is in fact coddling childish and not encouraging maturation.

It is a disservice to the tax paying citizens of Bremerton to pay for the childish and filthy way of life the "homeless" have chosen or ended up in, and is ridiculous. If the "homeless" are incapable to pay for their life, why should they get to enjoy the freedom the rest of us taxpayers pay for. The implicit agreement between citizen and government is that the citizen can live without molestation by the government until the citizen fails to meet cultural expectations, then the citizen is fined or imprisoned for failing to meet those cultural expectations. Now we propose to change this implicit agreement when the homeless citizen does not meet American cultural expectations. Now when the homeless citizen by failure to clean up, to respect property rights, and obey the law, they should receive additional services and resources, why?

Yes, the encampments should be cleaned up from our public streets. What should happen is the homeless should be housed and meagerly fed while they provide some menial function or functions, perhaps pick up trash and sweep streets. This menial function is not intended to rob people of their self respect but by giving them the opportunity to restore self respect as they fulfill obligations to the community around them. There should be a cost of time and effort from the homeless population, for the services they use a trash service or latrine service. Any

humanitarian effort made should have the aim of maturation of our fellow citizens, maturation without substance abuse, maturation as they are able the mentally handicapped. The mentally handicapped that cannot achieve maturation should be returned to their family, it is not the responsibility of the government to adopt adult children. The aim of aid efforts cannot be only to provide housing for them, that is far too low an aim and does not address the actual issues of mental illness and substance abuse. Childhood is a phase we pass through and not a never ending lifestyle. The homeless are not Peter Pan and lost boys and Bremerton is not neverland.

very respectfully  
Ross McClelland  
4413 Petersville Rd Ne  
Bremerton WA 98310

**From:** Samantha Allen <sam\_allen85@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:31 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Tracyton

Bremerton City Council,

I live in the neighborhood next to the 40 acre parcel of the Tracyton watershed. I do not want a homeless encampment to be established in the Tracyton watershed land. I am a homeowner, mother to a young child, and gladly pay my taxes to have the ability to walk through my neighborhood without fear of assault or harassment. Should you allow the homeless to occupy this land, you would essentially be opening the floodgates of crime into our neighborhoods. I attended the neighborhood meeting on September 11th and based on the conversations, I do not feel the city has the resources to keep our neighborhood safe once criminals are able to hide in the depths of the woods or behind our homes. In relation to safety, what will happen when fires get out of control? Once again, the city does not have the resources to combat a wildfire. Campfires are inevitable especially as we begin entering the colder months.

I understand the people who are homeless require compassion and understanding, however, it would be impossible to reach those in need when they are moved behind the walls of the forest. Please do not allow this area to become a homeless encampment as this area is not suitable for such purposes.

Thank you,

**From:** Samuel Linton <samueltlinton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:52 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Opposition to New Ordinance

Hello Bremerton City Council,

My name is Samuel Linton, I am a local business owner, and a resident of Bayview Dr in the West Hills neighborhood for the past two years. I am writing regarding the new ordinance that would setup designated camping areas for the homeless in our neighborhood. These camps would be less than a block away from where I live.

While this is a very complicated subject matter, and I understand how challenging of a position this must be for the city council, I believe this move to be gross negligence on behalf of our elected policy makers.

Without citing any sort of evidence that such a change would improve the lives of the homeless, or the local community, it is unclear how this policy would be anything close to beneficial for anyone impacted. At this point I cannot see any data showing that moving these populations from the inner city, to our neighborhood on the outskirts, would be in any way positive. There is no precedent for this action.

Besides the obvious lack of any upside, this move would come with MANY downsides, not only for the people living our neighborhood, but for the homeless as well.

Our neighborhood is a family community, of my block, we are the only household that I have met that does not yet have children. People in this neighborhood chose to move here, partly because of how safe and family friendly our corner of Bremerton is. Introducing a drug filled population to this neighborhood will impact families feelings of safety and well-being, and comes with real world risks.

I understand that it is a matter of empathy, and I do believe the homeless deserve a place to live. The problem is not a problem of homelessness though, it is a drug problem. There are many shelters here in the Puget sound that have open beds for these people, so long as they stop doing drugs. Allowing them to live free of charge as our next door neighbors is not a solution, it is enabling destructive behavior.

Please reconsider this move. There are multiple solutions that will not have such a negative impact on the people of Bremerton.

Regards,

Samuel Linton  
360 337 0347 cell  
1655 Bayview Dr W,  
Bremerton, WA, 98312

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <[noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 8:01 PM

**To:** WebMaster <[WebMaster@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:WebMaster@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Comment Form

## Comment Form

Comments

This site is horrible. Can you provide me plans for expansion of homeless sites versus where the committee lives. It better match up because it's ridiculous to keep expecting the downtown area to absorb it all. Homeless camps need to also be expanded to Kwanis Park near that school and the mayor's house at a minimum.

---

Email Address

[Sdtasso@hotmail.com](mailto:Sdtasso@hotmail.com)

---

Other Contact Information

What else do you need?

---

**From:** Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:43 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; colleen.keltz@ecy.wa.gov;  
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov  
**Cc:** mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov; consumer@kiro7.com  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment near wetland and children

The proposed homeless encampments near this family development is outrageous. There are several children that live in this neighborhood along with the Pendergast park adjacent that also has many families and children. These children seeing needles, garbage, hearing screaming, fighting, yelling from these homeless people will devastate them and cause a lasting impression which could lead to suicide, drug use, and jail. I disapprove of these proposed areas. The areas are also in a wetland zone and a buffer zone that has creeks and streams running through the area along Sinclair way. These homeless people will pollute and destroy these protected areas for years to come which will lead to a bigger problem. we have already had a problem with homeless people camping here starting fires and shooting weapons, and needles, trash, etc..



Thank You!

Shane Reed  
Cell: 360-340-7548



**From:** Sheldon <scherrey@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:56 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; kwalters@kitsap.gov

**Subject:** Homeless relocation

One of the areas that has been mention is the forested area at the end of our street (Nantucket st) is city land and the city is proposing to make that land (and some other areas in Bremerton) legal to camp on. It could impact our community, partly because the main access points.

I live on NE Nantucket st, this would most likely become the main access point from Pine Rd. I certainly do not want that. Does the Mayor or any City council want this in their community? Of course not.. Out of site out of mind.

The largest is a 40-acre forested parcel behind Sugar Pine Drive, just west of Pine Road at city limits. I believe this area is designated a geological hazard, so now if someone were to "temporally" reside/camp who would be liable for personal injury or property damage?

Would a building type of shelter be a better solution with winter coming up?

This a forest, who would clean up?

How often?

Where will the clean up funds come from? If ever?

What are the thoughts of the Kitsap County Commissioner office? Will the county be responsible for crime response and fire response?

I certainly hope no fires were to start and get out of control due to the location and no access points to combat any potential fires.

Regards,  
Sheldon Cherrey

**From:** Stephanie Richards <richardsstephaniel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:03 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** kkylew@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp Proposal Concerns - Sinclair Way

Hello,

My husband and I own a home located on Sinclair way, across from a proposed homeless encampment. I have attached a photo here for reference. I am concerned about the city allowing a homeless encampment within a few feet of 110 homes filled with children and families, my husband and I included, as we are about to welcome our first child. I am rightfully concerned for the safety and well-being of the homeowners here with the expected increased in crime and drug activity that homeless encampments bring. It would be greatly appreciated if my concerns can be passed along and or addressed on follow-up.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Wright



**From:** Stojko Bijelic <bijelic2981@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:45 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:**

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed presence of unhoused individuals within residential areas that are home to many families with children. (Sophie Street, referenced in Kitsap Sun Article, by Kai Uyehara – Published 09/12/2023 @ 1315). While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need, I believe that it is equally crucial to consider the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community's youngest members.

My concerns center around the following points:

1. **Safety:** The safety of our children should be our top priority. The presence of unhoused individuals can sometimes result in an increase in incidents that may pose risks to children, such as drug use, public disturbances, or petty crimes. This creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and discomfort for families and children who live in the area.
2. **Mental and Emotional Impact:** Young children may be emotionally affected by the sight of unhoused individuals living in their neighborhoods. It's essential to consider the potential long-term psychological effects on our children, who should feel safe and secure in their homes.
3. **Access to Services:** While supporting unhoused individuals is essential, it is equally crucial to ensure that they have access to the necessary services and resources, such as shelters, mental health support, and addiction treatment centers. Placing unhoused individuals in residential areas may not be the most effective way to connect them with these services.
4. **Property Values:** The presence of unhoused individuals in a neighborhood can sometimes lead to a decline in property values, which can have a negative impact on homeowners and their investments. An unlikely consideration given to the Council's directed assessors teams, nor reflected in the upcoming taxation of parcel values.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider alternative solutions that balance the need to address homelessness with the concerns of families with children in residential areas. These alternatives may include:

1. Identifying suitable locations for homeless shelters and supportive services that are away from residential neighborhoods with a high concentration of children.
2. Ensuring that law enforcement and social services agencies are adequately equipped to address any potential issues that may arise in residential areas with unhoused individuals.

2 / 2

3. Encouraging community engagement and dialogue to foster understanding and cooperation among residents and unhoused individuals.

I appreciate your dedication to our community and your commitment to addressing homelessness. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns of families with children in residential areas while continuing to work towards effective and compassionate solutions to this pressing issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and actions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Stojko Bijelic  
5142 Sophie St.  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** jsauce4 <jsauce4@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:53 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless camping on Lakehurst ave

Please do not allow camping on Lakehurst. This area is a wetland and feeds directly into Kitsap Lake. It is hilly wet and very close to Kitsap Elementary School . Thank you, Sue Sawyer

**From:** Sue Sue <suesuepv@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:00 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** UNHOUSED ENCAMPMENTS

City Council,

I wish to hereby object to spreading the unhoused through Bremerton, on small undeveloped lots, near 11<sup>th</sup> and Pacific where the statues are located as a park like setting, or on undeveloped lots on Burwell. That is just creating more impact on residential neighborhoods. Until the City of Bremerton produces more "free" housing for the unhoused, please do not spread them out through the City and create more of a negative impact on the tax paying hard working citizens of this town. As the aid workers say at the encampments in Seattle, it is a drug problem rather than a housing problem. I dread to think that is what is happening here. And while the ML King Library is closed, I had to go to the East Bremerton Library. The number of RV's camping made me afraid for my safety as I was yelled at by some of them when going into the Library.

Thank you,

Susan P. Venard, P.E.

*Susan P. Venard, P.E.  
1722 Gregory Way  
Bremerton. WA 98337  
(360) 981-9190 Cell*

**From:** Teri <tlj59@live.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:32 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Eric Younger

Hi, Eric,

I'm writing to you about the proposed homeless encampment on **Lakehurst @ Kitsap Lake**.

1) The city of Bremerton and many of us home owners have spent many hours and thousands of \$\$ to clean up the lake.

An encampment of homeless would fill the lake with pollution of many kinds, if you know what I mean!

The past 4 years of hard work would be lost. The lake is getting back to great health again~

We don't need human waste, needles, garbage etc. ruining it.

2) **Kitsap Lake elementary** is just yards away from Lakehurst.

We can't have homeless people near the school.

**PERIOD!**

3) The homes all around here are very nice, neat and tidy. We pay loads of property taxes to live here.

The property values would plummet. Dockside and the surrounding homes ALREADY are dealing with vandalism and break-ins. Adding homeless to the area will only make the situation worse.

4) Not only is Lakehurst being considered but the south end of Kitsap Lake, too?

Why is the city council proposing to spoil Kitsap Lake?

You guys are proposing two spots around the lake!

What the??

That's my 2 cents worth~

Thanks for your time,

Teri

**From:** Tracee Costa <ctracee986@outlook.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:14 PM

**To:** jeremymcg76@gmail.com; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless Encampment Ordinance No. 5482 (Jeremy McGinnis)

Hello,

While rushing to get out of the door to my son's first pee wee football game, I had a visitor at my door. He informed me that the city council and the Mayor think it's a great idea to relocate multiple homeless encampments near residential homes. First let me explain the impact this news has had on me as a new widow with children still at home. I now live alone with my children. My partner of 20 years is dead and can no longer keep our family safe. The ordinance will not allow law enforcement to intervene in the encampments. I come from rape trauma- raped by four males- beaten, brutally raped, and shoved in their trunk naked. My partner kept our family safe. The news of these multiple encampments being relocated next to my home have triggered my rape trauma for the past three days. I no longer feel safe in my home. I no longer feel safe to walk out of my house every morning. I no longer want to open my blinds and curtains. I have fought agoraphobia for years due to my trauma and now the city wants to move multiple encampments next to my house. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KEEP MY FAMILY SAFE?

Your words: "The lack of shelter space is first and foremost a travesty for those who are unsheltered and desperately need that shelter, along with the lack of resources to treat many of the leading causes of homelessness such as poverty, drug addiction, and mental health issues. At the same time, folks who live, work, and learn next to the unregulated encampments that now exist in many parts of the city are experiencing all the negative side effects that come with these encampments, because of the lack of shelter space."

Secondly, in this new proposed plan, our homes have folks who work, live, and learn too and will be negatively impacted with this poor decision to relocate multiple encampments. How dare all of you for thinking that moving them near any residence is okay. That is not fair and equitable for any party involved. How ironic when the city is so focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Where is the data showing improvement by moving encampments from one residential area to another as a positive impact?

Please give the details and data on those who are homeless and choose to remain homeless. Disparity does not exist when a person chooses to live the way they do otherwise the city council should be taking a look at why renters are gouged for less than living spaces. Isn't that also a disparity worth looking at? The working class poor- one paycheck away from homelessness- who often lose their food and cash benefits because working one full time job is still not a sustainable living wage. Your council plans need to change from management to prevention. While the writing of a new ordinance, please be sure to also include how changing the zoning laws could positively impact the sheltering of the city's homelessness.

Please give the details of said three months research of locations. While you are apt enough to share the statistics of homelessness in Kitsap County- where are statistics and data on crisis prevention not crisis management regarding what other cities have done?

Interesting that you are publicly okay with naysaying the Mayor's involvement, when one of your council members publicly humiliated a citizen for organizing a neighborhood informational meeting.



The solution is simple-find another area away from residential homes. Look at the zoning and make amendments on those ordinances to allocate a more appropriate space.

You asked folks to reach out to their local, state, and federal representatives. Please furnish us with those those contacts.

Signed,  
Tracee Costa

You are worth more than every battle you are fighting....keep fighting.

**From:** Valerie Mercado <valerie@trueaba.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:36 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments in Bremerton

Hello,

I am concerned about the proposed encampment near Ridgetop Ct and Halsey Ln. in Bremerton. I do not want homeless camping in my back yard, I have young children with autism and the complaints currently revolve around the trash and drug paraphernalia they leave around. My children don't need the temptation of a needle laying around or a crack pipe to play with. I don't feel it is right that my house, and my family are in danger. My husband and I work HARD for what we have we should not be penalized for this. Already there is people pan handling on the corner of Sylvan and Pine that never were there before. Who proposed this site for the encampment? I would like to know so we can vote that person out.



**Valerie Mercado B.S, BCaBA, LaBA**  
Clinical Supervisor, True ABA

☎ 360-620-5063

🌐 [www.trueaba.com](http://www.trueaba.com)

✉ [valerie@trueaba.com](mailto:valerie@trueaba.com)

📍 711 Commerce St. Tacoma, WA. 98402

From: Verna Marie Bigalbal <verna.bigalbal@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:24 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Concern about encampment along Sinclair Way

Good afternoon,

I am a resident located along Sinclair Way road. Please do not authorize for encampments in our neighborhood as I am concerned most about the safety of our children as they walk to and from the bus stop daily and this would be very unsafe for our children. I truly believe that this location is inappropriate for a homeless encampment for many reasons. Please do not authorize! Thank you!

Respectfully,  
Verna Bigalbal

Sent from my iPhone

For your consideration

Dear Councilmembers Mayor,

This is true leadership. Gavin Newsom has joined the fight to clean cities by acknowledging the perverse interpretation and ruling of the court in the Boise, Idaho case by US Magistrate judge Donna Ryu. Filing an amicus brief and pushing this all the way up to the supreme court is the right way to address this problem of tent cities on our streets. Disbursing them around the city and chasing them around and giving them citations or trying to build enough housing for them is not the answer. It is more of a drug control, not gun control, issue. The more you make it feasible to stay on the streets or campgrounds, more will come, and the problem will only get bigger.

If we consider that the City of Bremerton is like a house with a family in it, would the family accept a stranger that behaves badly in the back bedroom? I think not. We as a family must set the rules and demand control over our home.

Please read the article I am sending you and follow his lead by enjoining the amicus brief and fighting the bad court ruling by the Idaho judgement and file a challenge to the 9<sup>th</sup> circuit courts bad ruling.

We need real solutions and not little band aids on a nationwide problem that seems to only grow bigger as the drugs flow like a river into our country.

Don't change our ordinance making it weaker and unmanageable for our city departments.

# Newsom says Calif. will intervene in encampments case

## Federal government is blocking San Francisco's clearing, cleanup efforts

Kathleen Ronayne  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday the state will intervene in an ongoing federal court case that's barred San Francisco from cleaning up homeless encampments until more shelter beds are available, saying the judge has gone too far and is preventing the state from solving a critical problem.

"I hope this goes to the Supreme Court," Newsom said. "And that's a hell of a statement coming from a progressive Democrat."

Newsom made his remarks during an interview with news outlet Politico in Sacramento. He previously blasted U.S. Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu in an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle but had not disclosed his administration's plan to file an amicus brief supporting the city's efforts to overturn the ruling.

Ryu granted the injunction in December after homeless advocates argued the city had been violating the law by clearing homeless encampments without offering shelter and improperly throwing out peoples' belongings such as cellphones and medication.

Her decision has drawn rebuke from Democratic leaders in San Francisco, who argued in appellate court last month for a reversal of the decision. They say the ruling has made it nearly impossible to clean up the city's streets and that more people are refusing shelter even when it is available.

Newsom, the former San Francisco mayor, said he's personally worked on cleaning up three encampments near San Francisco but that his staff stopped him from cleaning up a fourth due to a

court ruling. More broadly, Newsom said federal judges are ruling with a "perverse interpretation" of a court ruling stemming from a case in Boise, Idaho, that said cities can't prosecute people for sleeping on the streets if they have nowhere else to go.

"I think they've gone too far," he said.

California is home to roughly one-third of the nation's population of homeless people, a problem that has dogged Newsom since he took office.



Newsom

Newsom touted that his administration has spent billions aimed at cleaning up streets and housing people but acknowledged the stubbornness of the issue.

"People's lives are at risk; it's unacceptable what's happening on the streets and sidewalks," he said. He added, "We're now complicit, all of us, at all levels of government and all branches of government."

In the interview, Newsom reiterated his support for Democratic President Joe Biden to run for reelection. He has repeatedly said he has no plans to challenge Biden or run for president, instead traveling the country as a surrogate for Biden. He's also been raising money and campaigning alongside Democrats in Republican-led states, a move that also serves to build his national network of political support.

Newsom also said he plans to travel to China in the coming weeks to discuss joint efforts to tackle climate change. He provided no additional details.

Newsom was asked about the newly disclosed effort by Silicon Valley billionaires to build a new city between San Francisco and Sacramento. He said the project's leaders need to win back trust from officials if they hope to move forward after keeping the project secret for years as they bought up massive amounts of land in Solano County.

NO

HOMELLESS

ENCAMPMENT

AT 11TH ST &

WARRREN AVE

CALL RAY @  
(360) 377-5210

**From:** Jeremy Burrier <jeremyburrier@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:10 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Vote to provide city owned land for homeless encampments (Jeremy Burrier)

Hello Jeff,

Although I understand the position as a city public servant, it doesn't address any of my questions or concerns. You speak like a bona fide politician, and I don't mean that as a compliment.

The "needs of the city" are in fact, the needs of the tax paying public. Do not conflate transient population that's come over from Seattle bringing drugs, rampant crime, and theft with "needs of the city." For those homeless that can actually be traced back to originating from here, that's one thing, and that's where you need to address the public as to how we as the tax payers want to address that issue. For those coming into our county, seeking easy handouts after they've drain Seattle dry, that's not our burden to bear and you failed to address that issue.

You absolutely gutless bureaucrats don't have the balls to bring it to a vote to the public, but rather behind closed doors, and in secret, would rather try and come up with solutions against the best interest of the tax paying public. Likely because you know what the answer would be.

You're not serving the needs of the entirety of the public, but rather giving amnesty and preferential treatment to those who bring a lot of crime into the community.

Often times the homeless who are not seeking help and have no intention of changing lifestyle, but know that the public and local businesses, here are easy prey. We have personally had to deal with this in our own neighborhood, and I've had individuals high out of their minds on our property, stealing goods off of our land, and the police can do nothing about it. It's a widespread issue throughout our entire neighborhood. The police force has been kind enough and honest enough to inform me that unfortunately, Olympia and our own mayor of Bremerton are in fact the guilty parties, when it comes to tying their hands, and not allowing them to make drug related arrests, and incarcerating those who are pushing drugs, one block from our local elementary school. It's the absolute dip shits in your office that are propagating the problems that we have to deal with is the public.

Moving them to a public block, nestled among our neighborhoods in another part of town can't even generously be called a Band-Aid to the issue, you're simply not solving the problem because you're not going to the root of the issue. And you know you're not going to the root of the issue and you know this isn't going to solve anything. For God sake's, Our so-called leaders can't be that stupid to not understand that what they're doing is pointless.

Why won't you address the concern of crime, which you damn well know is a rampant problem with the transient population that's recently come to our county?

Root of the problem, prosecute crime, and put people in jail, and eventually prison who are trafficking drugs until they're rehabilitated. Don't incentivize more of this behavior by giving them free reign in our communities at our expense!

All the you did in your email is ramble on about the legal implications, but never addressed the actual root of the issue and common sense solutions because the whole lot of you are functionally useless at our expense. Do you not understand why your constituents are so damn sick of the waste of space occupying, our city councils?

When you have a common sense solution to addressing the root of the issue in the rampant crime, let me know. I have zero tolerance for a loquacious bureaucratic spiel about how you can't do anything.

Jeremy



Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:46:28 PM

**To:** Jeremy Burrier <[jeremyburrier@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremyburrier@hotmail.com)>

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Vote to provide city owned land for homeless encampments (Jeremy Burrier)

Hi Mr. Burrier,

I wanted to thank you for writing in on this issue, and I know the Council understands your concerns. I want to give you a short history of what's been going on and what the future looks like.

The current ordinance, on the books since 2004, basically says no camping is allowed in the city, at any time, at any place. The Ninth Circuit Court has ruled that such ordinances cannot be enforced when there is not enough available shelter space. Unfortunately, Bremerton has not had enough shelter space for a while, and without shelter space, we cannot enforce the current ordinance.

The City Council made it a priority this year to craft a new ordinance — one that recognizes that legally there must be a place on city property for folks to go when there is no shelter space available, but also recognizes the effects that unregulated encampments have on those nearby. We knew this was going to be a hot button issue with no solution that would make everyone happy, but we decided to tackle it and take heat from many sides for the betterment of all Bremerton.

The Council has now spent about 3 months' worth of meetings researching what's possible, what other cities have done, and most importantly, gathering public feedback. And we've had to do it unfortunately without any input or proposal by the Mayor, except for a very recent suggestion to update the enforcement clause from 2004. While the City Council ultimately passes laws and budgets, by the City Charter, the Mayor is tasked with making recommendations for Council consideration and action regarding the needs of the City.

Based on the public feedback up to that point, a majority of Council converged on a draft ordinance that would ensure that at no time, regardless of shelter space or not, would camping be permissible on 1) streets, sidewalks, and the places in-between, 2) in public buildings like parking garages, 3) in city parks at night, and 4) in other city-owned locations normally off-

limits, like culverts and the watershed.

So, what does that leave? Unimproved city-owned properties in a few locations throughout the city. Council asked for maps and a list of these properties at its August 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session. The Mayor, whose administration has the data and expertise to produce them, released the maps of these properties to the Public and Council the day of our last meeting on September 6th. Without enough time to review the maps, and the Mayor's last-minute call for updating the enforcement clause, Council decided to gather even more public feedback and spend yet more time working on this.

We'll be meeting again in study session this Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> to keep working on this ordinance, taking into account yours and everyone's public feedback. I recognize that no solution the Council comes up with will make everyone happy, but I do want you to know your Council has been working hard on this difficult and complex issue, and does listen.

In the meantime, I hope the Mayor can get shelter space available soon, and I encourage you to reach out to your county, state, and federal representatives to advocate for regional solutions so that Bremerton, the poorest per capita city in Kitsap, with 17% of the county's population and the residence of 60% of those experiencing homelessness in the county, does not have to bear the burden alone.

Thanks for speaking up.



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** Jeremy Burrier <[jeremyburrier@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremyburrier@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 9:20 AM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Vote to provide city owned land for homeless encampments

Hello, I was informed that the city of Bremerton will be voting on providing lands owned by the city for homeless encampments within the Bremerton area. Before you make the stupid mistake of going the way of Seattle, and throwing public tax payers under the bus, you might want to reconsider. These homeless encampments traffic in stolen goods and illicit drugs. We've had our own ordeal on National Street where I live, where homeless encampments and RVs were parking one block away from Local elementary school in traffic and drugs all hours of the day and the police could do nothing about it because of the reckless, low IQ individuals running our city, prevented the police from doing such. The

transient individuals are coming from Seattle and they are not locals. Your job is to represent your constituents which is us. It would be wise to remember who pays your salary. This vote flies in the face of your moral obligation and fiduciary duty to represent the public as a whole and you have no such responsibility for transients that are coming in from other cities, because of handouts that you stupidly would like to provide them. I would like a response , and it would be in the public's best interest if you voted against providing any sort of land or resources for transient individuals coming into our city. Protect protect your constituents, the taxpayers of the city.  
Jeremy

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Rebecca <denny3@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:15 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless (Rebecca O'Neill)

Council members

I do appreciate all of your responses to my concerns .

It still does not address the fact that this Kitsap lake plan is an unsatisfactory answer to the problem . The crime, filth and problems it will bring so close to the lake and the elementary school, within a few blocks not to mention the neighborhood itself.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 13, 2023, at 8:52 AM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good morning Rebecca,

I believe it will be important to understand that even with a shelter opening, until there is an updated no camping ord. there is nothing to enforce. Conditions would remain just as they are although some would choose the shelter as an option. In addition, based on citizen expectations of encampment removal the council may be reconsidering their original proposed draft that would require months of police contact with campers prior to any removal of a camp. I have proposed an amendment calling for higher enforcement that would reduce the number of police contacts from 4 down to 1 speeding up the process. The council will be discussing this tonight also.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** Greg Wheeler  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:22 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Rebecca <[denny3@hotmail.com](mailto:denny3@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment - Homeless (Rebecca O'Neill)

Good afternoon,

Thank you, Council President Coughlin, for including me in your response to Rebecca. Rebecca, I really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with the City Council. Not only am I grateful to hear your concerns but it is extremely important that you shared your sentiments with them as they are the ones ultimately responsible for creating laws in our city. As you are probably already aware, the city currently does not have a legal camping ordinance due to recent 9th circuit court rulings. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance and will continue deliberations on this subject Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I just want to reinforce that creating laws in Bremerton belongs to the legislative branch (City Council) and ensuring those laws are enforced is administrations (Mayor's) responsibility. That is an important distinction as I always appreciate being included in correspondence from the community; but when it comes to this new proposed city legislation, it is extremely important that comments, questions, and concerns regarding the camping ordinance be shared with the city council also, as you did, since they are the ones crafting this new law. As a side note, the city currently has no shelter capacity since the Salvation Army (SA) closed in May. You may have noticed the problem was exacerbated by the SA's closure. I am working on standing up another shelter in the city. This will require funding and partners. In my role as Mayor, I have briefed the council and public at large (Community Meetings, City Council Meetings, Kitsap Daily News and Kitsap Sun interviews/articles) on several occasions that I am working on multiple scenarios that involve a shelter, tiny home transitional housing, and regulated outdoor shelters. The next Kitsap Sun article coming out soon will most likely reinforce my efforts. I have established the partnerships and will be meeting with team members this week and next to discuss funding, development, acquisition, and operations strategies. I would also like to share that am also currently working on moving up the reopening of the Salvation Army winter shelter to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This effort would also increase their hours of operation to 24 hours a day versus overnight only. Thank you again Council President and Rebecca for the opportunity to provide more information. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:15 PM  
**To:** Rebecca <[denny3@hotmail.com](mailto:denny3@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless (Rebecca O'Neill)

Hi Ms. O'Neill,

I wanted to thank you for writing in on this issue, and I know the Council understands your concerns. I want to give you a short history of what's been going on and what the future looks like.

The current ordinance, on the books since 2004, basically says no camping is allowed in the city, at any time, at any place. The Ninth Circuit Court has ruled that such ordinances cannot be enforced when there is not enough available shelter space. Unfortunately, Bremerton has not had enough shelter space for a while, and without shelter space, we cannot enforce the current ordinance.

The lack of shelter space is first and foremost a travesty for those who are unsheltered and desperately need that shelter, along with the lack of resources to treat many of the leading causes of homelessness such as poverty, drug addiction, and mental health issues. At the same time, folks who live, work, and learn next to the unregulated encampments that now exist in many parts of the city are experiencing all the negative side effects that come with these encampments, because of the lack of shelter space.

We rely on the Mayor to work with partner organizations, the county, and the state to ensure we have enough shelter space, but for over 6 months, this has not been the case.

The City Council made it a priority this year to craft a new ordinance — one that recognizes that legally there must be a place on city property for folks to go when there is no shelter space available, but also recognizes the effects that unregulated encampments have on those nearby. We knew this was going to be a hot button issue with no solution that would make everyone happy, but we decided to tackle it and take heat from many sides for the betterment of all Bremerton.

The Council has now spent about 3 months' worth of meetings researching what's possible, what other cities have done, and most importantly, gathering public feedback. And we've had to do it unfortunately without any input or proposal by the Mayor, except for a very recent suggestion to update the enforcement clause from 2004.

Based on the public feedback, a majority of Council converged on a draft ordinance that would ensure that at no time, regardless of shelter space or not, would camping be permissible on 1) streets, sidewalks, and the places in-between, 2) in public buildings like parking garages, 3) in city parks at night, and 4) in other city-owned locations normally off-limits, like culverts and the watershed.

So, what does that leave? Unimproved city-owned properties in a few locations throughout the city. Council asked for maps and a list of these properties at its August 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session. The Mayor, whose administration has the data and expertise to produce them, released the maps of these properties to the Public and Council the day of our last meeting on September 6th. Without enough time to review the maps, and the Mayor's last-minute call for updating the enforcement clause, Council decided to gather even more public feedback and spend yet more time working on this.

We'll be meeting again in study session this Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> to keep working on this ordinance, taking into account yours and everyone's public feedback. I recognize that no solution the Council comes up with will make everyone happy, but I do want you to know your Council has been working hard on this difficult and complex issue, and does listen.

In the meantime, I hope the Mayor can get shelter space available soon, and I encourage you to reach out to your county, state, and federal representatives to advocate for resources so that Bremerton, the poorest per capita city in Kitsap, with 17% of the county's population and the residence of 60% of those experiencing homelessness in the county, does not have to bear the burden alone.

Thanks for speaking up.

--

<image001.png>

*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

From: Rebecca <[denny3@hotmail.com](mailto:denny3@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2023 3:19 PM  
To: City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Who can we contact about the purposed  
Homeless camping on and around Kitsap Lake.

I live here and am very unhappy ... we've put slot into our neighborhood and getting the kale cleaned up .. Do not lite this happen ever to such a nice place.  
This is wrong and will be a big safety issue in many ways!!!  
Thank you for you help in this matter .

Sincerely  
Rebecca ONeill  
2069621169

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:34 AM  
**To:** Alison Loris <asloris@gmail.com>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: tent city

Hi Alison,

I appreciate you sending a copy of the Op Ed, and it was nice to chat with you the other day.

If a regulated encampment with the services you describe were created, the draft ordinance by Council would allow that to satisfy the definition of available shelter space. And in fact the city has had on the books a provision for any entity, e.g., a non-profit with a parking lot, to operate a regulated encampment for quite some time.

However, the creation of such a regulated encampment with the services you mention fall within the purview of the Mayor and his administration to establish, or work with partner organizations to establish. I support your efforts to encourage the Mayor to work with the city's partners to create the much needed shelter space.

Cheers,  
Jeff

--



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** Alison Loris <[asloris@gmail.com](mailto:asloris@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:35 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** tent city

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

*This is an op-ed I just wrote for the Sun. I'm sending it to you in advance of the study session because it conveys my proposal for an authorized Tent City.*  
*Alison*

At last week's Bremerton City Council meeting, Jeff Coughlin, the Council president, announced that the Council wanted to hear public comment, but was not ready to vote on a new ordinance that would allow the city to remove the downtown

encampments of unhoused people by giving them someplace else to go. Not shelters: there are still none open in Bremerton; but for the time being, camping would be permitted *de facto* on various city-owned lands. That is, the occupation would be technically illegal, but no anti-camping rules would be enforced until alternatives were available. These properties range from tiny corner lots to a forty-acre parcel off Pine Road.

Several citizens spoke with understandable anguish or rage about the effect of the present encampments on their neighborhoods, noise, filth, disturbances by deeply disturbed people. My own comment focused on the logistics of the move. Referring to the downtown campers as my neighbors, I mentioned that they'd made use of every discarded chair in the area for many months, saying, "Even homeless people need to sit down sometimes. I suggested that, as most of the campsites were fairly remote, the campers be given assistance moving their furniture to their new sites. I also proposed that, as several campers have said they moved away from the main village on MLK Way to another street to escape drug use, that one sizable camping area be designated drug-free, with violators to be removed when residents complain. Finally, I said that I hoped the portable toilets, for which city funds have been budgeted, could now be placed in the new encampments.

The immediate consequence of my statement was another attendee phoning my husband at our business to announce that they would never shop with us again, and would urge all their friends to shun us, because I "support homeless people." Not sure exactly what they meant by that: that I support unhoused people's right to exist, or support their right to sit down on chairs, or to have toilets to use – all of which is true. But okay. We're all free to vote with our wallets.

Next day, on a streetcorner in downtown Bremerton, I ran into Jeff Coughlin in conversation with the Kitsap Sun's editor, David Nelson. I deeply appreciate the ongoing coverage here [in the Sun] about the issue, and the human faces, of our unhoused neighbors, and I do love living in a small city where citizens and public officials can get to know each other.

I took the opportunity to ask Jeff about the toilets. He agreed that the legal problems with placing them downtown – impeding traffic, proximity to a community center, etc. - no longer applied. (In the meantime activist Kimmie Siebens has negotiated use of a nearby property and raised funds for two toilets and some hand-washing stations in the neighborhood.) But he said that placing them in the new encampments raised the issue of camping being authorized there, as opposed to being illegal but with the laws unenforced.

My question is: why not authorize a new tent city on the large site? Authorized tent cities in our part of the world have faced problems of permission to use the location (most often church property), assessment of neighborhood impact, etc. But here we have a large city-owned parcel, no permission needed.

There would be plenty of room for a perimeter between the encampment and its neighbors, a safe off-street location for amenities such as the toilets (!). An old portable or heated tent could house ongoing social services outreach of the kind that moved so many people out of homelessness from the big shelter at the Fairgrounds during the Pandemic. Mobile medical, dental, and veterinary clinics would have a centralized point for serving people in need.

Even if/when the Salvation Army's downtown winter shelter opens, we've seen perennial volunteer shortages affecting service in recent years. Besides, there are

unlikely to be enough beds for everyone who needs one. Let's not be that city where our unhoused neighbors die of exposure in the streets. Let's get a stable Tent City in place before winter hits.

Authorize, folks, authorize.

Alison Slow Loris

Alison Slow Loris  
Writer & Adventuress  
Bremerton, WA

~~~~~

"All we ever have is here, now."

~ Ursula K. Le Guin  
~~~~~

**From:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** Barb&WayneNelson <waybar2@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Ordinance on Homeless camps

Hello Mr. Nelson,

Thank you so much for your feedback. I appreciated being part of that community discussion.

Regarding the old hospital: That building is private property (owned by CHI) and the water supply is tainted by legionnaires.

Please let me know if you would like to connect again with any concerns or questions.

Jennifer Chamberlin  
Bremerton City Council Vice President  
District 1

---

**From:** Barb&WayneNelson <[waybar2@comcast.net](mailto:waybar2@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Ordinance on Homeless camps

Hello Jennifer,

We were at the neighborhood meeting Monday in Pinewood. I just wanted to give you my input on the situation.

I fully support a pause on Voting on this ordinance. There is still much information and data that needs to be collected before moving forward. Moving homeless camps to other areas does not solve anything. In fact, moving them from areas that already are near services they need (food, health care, police and fire services, etc.) would prove more harmful than good. You will just impact other neighborhoods with the same issues that are ongoing at downtown Bremerton locations.

My thoughts are that the City needs to communicate with county and state officials to see if there are solutions both monetarily and others that can solve this issue. Also, lets not forget our own Community resources for partnerships. I mentioned CHI Franciscan and their site at the old Harrison Hospital as one. Many business entities in our county could be willing to partner with the city to help solve the homeless problems now there.

I will be contact County, State, and our Federal representatives to address funding, etc. regarding this. I hope many others will also.  
Thanks for your time.

Wayne Nelson

Wayne & Barb Nelson  
[waybar2@comcast.net](mailto:waybar2@comcast.net)

**From:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Cavalluzzi, Martin <mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu>  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor Wheeler: FW: - proposed city-sanctioned homeless camp at 12th + Warren

Good afternoon Dr. Cavalluzzi,

Thank you for your email. I really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me. Not only am I grateful to hear your concerns but it is extremely important that you share your sentiments with City Council (included in my reply) also as they are the ones ultimately responsible for creating laws in our city. As you are probably already aware, the city currently does not have a legal camping ordinance due to recent 9th circuit court rulings. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance and will continue deliberations on this subject Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I just want to reinforce that creating laws in Bremerton belongs to the legislative branch (City Council) and ensuring those laws are enforced is administrations (Mayor's) responsibility. That is an important distinction as I always appreciate being included in correspondence from the community; but when it comes to this new proposed city legislation, it is extremely important that comments, questions, and concerns regarding the camping ordinance be shared with the city council also, since they are the ones crafting this new law. As a side note, the city currently has no shelter capacity since the Salvation Army (SA) closed in May. You may have noticed the problem was exacerbated by the SA's closure. I am working on standing up another shelter in the city. This will require funding and partners. Related to enforcement, available shelter space (capacity) will be an important aspect of the new ordinance. In my role as Mayor, I am working on multiple scenarios that involve increasing capacity that includes a shelter, tiny home transitional housing, and regulated outdoor shelters. I have established the partnerships and will be meeting with team members this week and next to discuss funding, development, acquisition, and operations strategies. I would also like to share that am also currently working on moving up the reopening of the Salvation Army winter shelter to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This effort would also increase their hours of operation to 24 hours a day versus overnight only. Thank you again Dr. Cavalluzzi for sharing your comments, questions, and concerns with me and providing me the opportunity to share an update. Take care, enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** Cavalluzzi, Martin <[mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu](mailto:mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:51 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Mayor Wheeler: FW: - proposed city-sanctioned homeless camp at 12th + Warren

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler,

Please see the email below.

Sincerely,

*Marty*

*Marty Cavalluzzi*  
President  
Olympic College  
Office: 360-475-7100  
Email: [mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu](mailto:mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu)  
<http://www.olympic.edu>  
1600 Chester Avenue, Bremerton, WA 98337-1699



**From:** "Bryant, Harriette" <[hbryant@olympic.edu](mailto:hbryant@olympic.edu)>  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 10:16 PM  
**To:** "Cavalluzzi, Martin" <[mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu](mailto:mcavalluzzi@olympic.edu)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] - proposed city-sanctioned homeless camp at 12th + Warren

Hi Marty,

See see the email below.

**Harriette Bryant**  
Chair | Olympic College Board of Trustees

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jordan Gunkel <[wjg@creellawgroup.com](mailto:wjg@creellawgroup.com)>  
**Date:** September 8, 2023 at 1:56:00 PM PDT  
**To:** "Bryant, Harriette" <[hbryant@olympic.edu](mailto:hbryant@olympic.edu)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] - proposed city-sanctioned homeless camp at 12th + Warren

Harriette – I am reaching out as a neighbor of Olympic College’s student housing at 12<sup>th</sup> + Broadway. Recently I was made aware of the City of Bremerton’s plans to allow a homeless camp to set up at 12<sup>th</sup> + Warren (the pedestrian/bicycle exit to ferries/downtown from the Olympic College student housing and our entire neighborhood). Are you familiar with the map just released where they essentially propose these small parcels for non-enforcement of the camping ban?

I don’t really know the next steps to begin this dialogue but I am concerned on many levels about this proposal. The primary being how dangerous of a site this would be for our most vulnerable neighbors to navigate across what is one of the busiest intersections in the entire county. Not to mention the very very very close proximity to a residential neighborhood. There are no city services on this side of the intersection for this vulnerable population so they would be constantly having to navigate back towards downtown. This seems to take those experiencing trauma and create conditions where that trauma is going to spread to innocent members of our community through vehicle accidents, and more. I’m sure we can both envision other dangerous aspects of this proposal beyond this.

I don’t have the data to know what is an appropriate buffer from residential parcels but surely 10 inches isn’t it. These designated lots abut directly to residential housing, some with very young children. And of course the Olympic College property a block west.

Would you be available next week to chat for a few minutes? I’m sure there’s been discussion with Olympic College leadership on this proposal and I hope we can open honest and respectful dialogue.

All my best,  
Jordan  
1025 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bremerton, Washington 98337

512 560 9340

**Wm. Jordan Gunkel**  
*Senior Attorney*

SBOT 24072133  
WSBA 53182





From: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:01 AM  
To: Heather Diane Pugh <pughhd@gmail.com>  
Cc: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: RE: Tracyton Watershed for Camp

Good morning Heather,

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your experiences from living in Ballard previously. I really appreciate your insight! It will be important to share your sentiments with the council also as they are the ones ultimately responsible for creating laws in our city. As you are probably already aware, the city currently does not have a legal camping ordinance due to recent 9th circuit court rulings. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance and will continue deliberations on this subject Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I just want to reinforce that creating laws in Bremerton belongs to the legislative branch (City Council) and ensuring those laws are enforced is administrations (Mayor's) responsibility. That is an important distinction as I always appreciate being included in correspondence from the community; but when it comes to this new proposed legislation, it is extremely important that comments, questions, and concerns regarding the camping ordinance be shared with the city council also since they are the ones crafting this new law. Fortunately, major law changes do not happen in the city very often. As a side note, the city currently has no shelter capacity since the Salvation Army (SA) closed in May. You may have noticed the problem was exacerbated by the SA's closure. I am working on standing up another shelter in the city. This will require funding and partners. Take care, I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather Diane Pugh <[pughhd@gmail.com](mailto:pughhd@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 7:40 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Tracyton Watershed for Camp

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Greg,

I recently learned that the Tracyton Watershed may be one of several sites selected for temporary homeless encampments. As someone who moved to Bremerton 5 years ago from Ballard in Seattle (where we lived through a surge of homelessness), I have thoughts to share.

We moved here because it appeared that Bremerton had a decent approach to addressing the unhoused. When Seattle grappled with the fast growing issue, decisions were made that seemed to create larger ones down the road. It's the greenbelt areas in particular that I want to share my experience with. We lived near a camp and many of our friends lived adjacent to others.

Once greenbelt camps were established (even temporarily) they really didn't go away. When there is limited access by law enforcement, fire department, services, etc. everyone was exposed to risk, both the campers and surrounding neighbors. Where greenbelt encampments were located, including the one in proximity to us, there were explosions, visible fires, needles, and so much more. We had to stop utilizing trails entirely due to safety concerns. I saw this time and time again in Seattle proper and surrounding area green space encampments. They didn't go away, and in fact became even more established. Limited access and their remote locations contributed to a lack of oversight of those properties. Some became so large that even armed SPD individuals didn't relish entering them. So as I reflect on our 20 years in Seattle, a large property like the Tracyton Watershed being utilized as an encampment is concerning.

Thanks for listening,  
Heather Pugh

**From:** Mwebbqwe1 <[mwebbqwe1@comcast.net](mailto:mwebbqwe1@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:46 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Cc:** Legal <[Legal@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Legal@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Lions Field safety concerns/ housing homeless

Hi Greg,

Thank you for your response. I will also add that my husband is retired Navy and ready to retire from his 2nd career as the customs and immigration Firearms Lead instructor.

We truly never expected to live here this long. However, I have worked at Harrison / St Michael since 1999- and I will stay in the ER for as long as this community provides a decent quality of life.

My husband is African American and I am Canadian. Our children attended Bremerton High. My daughter is a successful in her tech job, while my son is still finding his way.

But, Mr. Wheeler, it has been the grandchild, that has caused my family to consider how much longer we hold out - before selling our tiny little rambler on E 28th street. The kids want us to stay here forever. We have our beloved Alaskan Malamute and my daughters beloved pit bull (rescued from Kitsap Humane Society) buried in the back yard.

My neighbor Linda has lived here longer than me. Her daughters babysat for my babies when my husband was out at sea and I worked night shift at the hospital.

Linda's tells me her daughter is afraid of the proposed site near her children's school in the other large space in East Bremerton.

I support whatever decision is made, as I have considered myself a guest in this amazing country- USA. My family, husband-kids can be the deciding factor when I pose the question " What are you willing to accept- and do you feel this tiny home on E 28th street is worth keeping in our family for future generations?"

Warmly

Michelle

---

On Sep 11, 2023 at 10:08 PM, <[Greg Wheeler](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good evening Michelle,

Your email was sent to the Legal Department, but I wanted to take a moment to provide some comments. As you are probably already aware, the city currently does not have a legal camping ordinance due to recent 9th circuit court rulings. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance and will continue deliberations on this subject Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I am including the City Council in my reply for their consideration and potential follow up as they work on crafting a new camping ordinance (law). I appreciate reading your comments, questions, and concerns and I'm sure the City Council does also. As you also may be aware, creating laws belongs to the legislative branch (City Council) and ensuring those laws are enforced is administrations (Mayor's) responsibility. The city currently has no shelter capacity since the Salvation Army (SA) closed in May. You may have noticed the problem was exacerbated by the SA's closure. I am working on standing up another shelter in the city. This will require funding and partners. Take care, I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

From: [mwebbgwel@comcast.net](mailto:mwebbgwel@comcast.net) <[mwebbgwel@comcast.net](mailto:mwebbgwel@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 5:24 PM  
To: Legal <[Legal@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Legal@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Lions Field safety concerns/ housing homeless

Hello

I work as a Registered Nurse Case Manager in our community ER at St. Michaels Medical Center.

I live by Lions Field and have for 20 plus years.

I am unfortunately aware of the many illegal and unsafe practices in the homeless community in Bremerton.

With your proposed legal encampment by our community park at Lions Filed, I will after all these years need to leave the area.

What a huge disappointment. I am an advocate for persons experiencing homelessness- but also an advocate for safe green space to bring our children, grandchildren, dogs, etc.

Michelle Webb  
327 E 28th St  
Bremerton Wa  
98310

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:54 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; jjones@kiro7.com  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Homeless Encampments (Shane Reed)

Here is some more disturbing and alarming information the government needs to address ASAP!

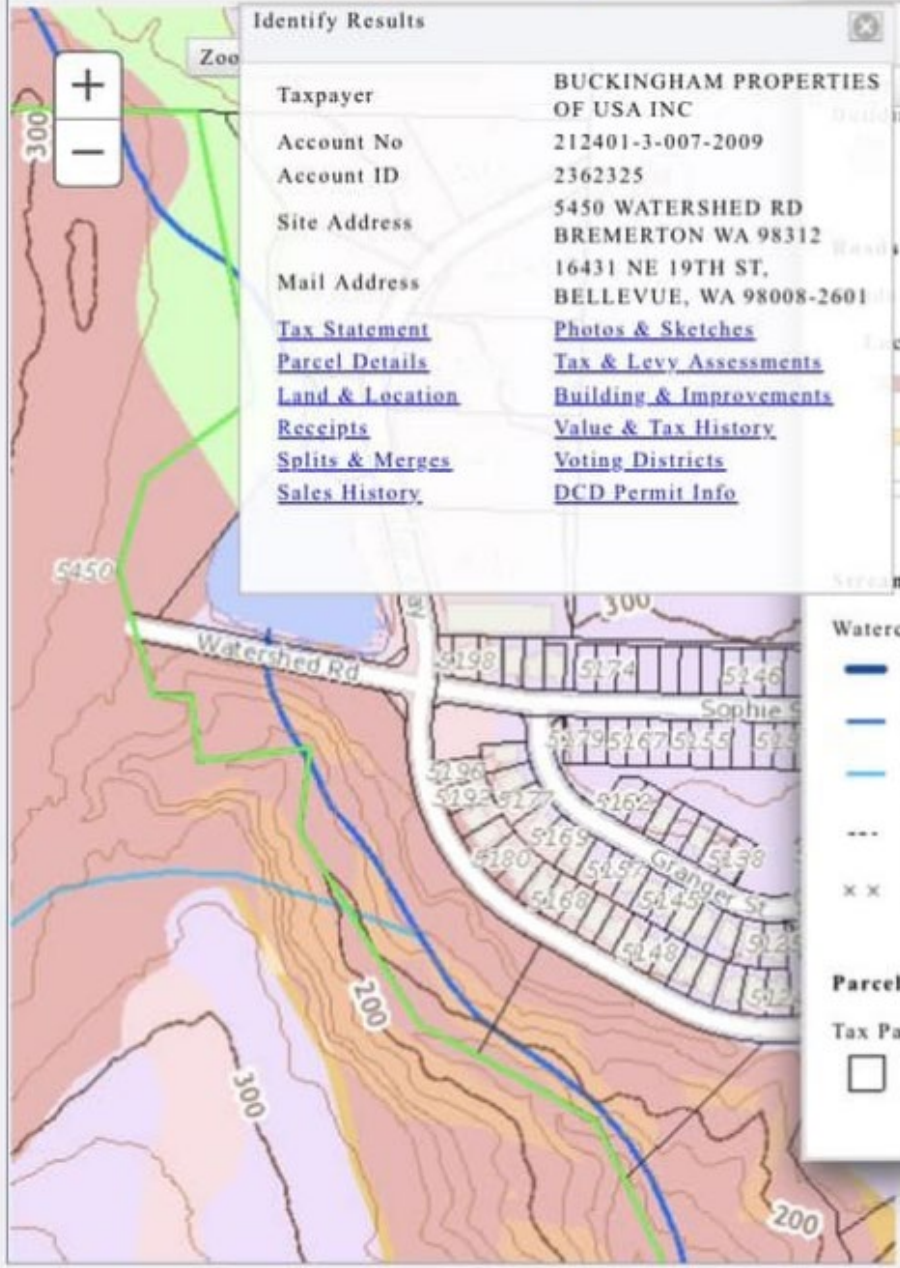


### Search Options

- Parcel No
- Site Address
- Mail Address

Zoom In Zoom Out Full Extent Prev Extent Next Extent



Identify Results	
Taxpayer	BUCKINGHAM PROPERTIES OF USA INC
Account No	212401-3-007-2009
Account ID	2362325
Site Address	5450 WATERSHED RD BREMERTON WA 98312
Mail Address	16431 NE 19TH ST, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-2601
<a href="#">Tax Statement</a>	<a href="#">Photos &amp; Sketches</a>
<a href="#">Parcel Details</a>	<a href="#">Tax &amp; Levy Assessments</a>
<a href="#">Land &amp; Location</a>	<a href="#">Building &amp; Improvements</a>
<a href="#">Receipts</a>	<a href="#">Value &amp; Tax History</a>
<a href="#">Splits &amp; Merges</a>	<a href="#">Voting Districts</a>
<a href="#">Sales History</a>	<a href="#">DCD Permit Info</a>

Layers

- List
- Building Footp
- Woods
- Local Roads
- State
- Colle
- Loca
- Streams
- Watercourse - I
- (S) Desi
- (F) Fish
- (N) Non
- (U) Unk feature
- No Char
- Parcels
- Tax Parcels Ou



### Search Options

- Parcel No
- Site Address
- Mail Address

Zoom In Zoom Out Full Extent Prev Extent Next Extent



### Manage Layers

Layer List Legend

#### Building Footprints



#### Roads

##### Roads

##### Local Roads

- State Highway
- Collector / Arterial
- Local Roads

#### Streams

##### Watercourse - DNR and Wildfish Com

- (S) Designated Shoreline of the Lake
- (F) Fish Habitat
- (N) Non-fish Habitat
- (U) Unknown, unmodeled hydrologic feature
- No Channel as depicted by DNR

#### Parcels

##### Tax Parcels Outlines



**From:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:13 PM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <[shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil)>

**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: Public Comments - Homeless Encampments (Shane Reed)

Good evening,

Thank you, Council President Coughlin, for including me in your response to Shane. Shane, I really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with the City Council. Not only am I grateful to hear your concerns but it is extremely important that you shared your sentiments with them as they are the ones ultimately responsible for creating laws in our city. As you are probably already aware, the city currently does not have a legal camping ordinance due to recent 9th circuit court rulings. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance and will continue deliberations on this subject Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I just want to reinforce that creating laws in Bremerton belongs to the legislative branch (City Council) and ensuring those laws are enforced is administrations (Mayor's) responsibility. That is an important distinction as I always appreciate being included in correspondence from the community; but when it comes to this new proposed city legislation, it is extremely important that comments, questions, and concerns regarding the camping ordinance be shared with the city council also, as you did, since they are the ones crafting this new law. As a side note, the city currently has no shelter capacity since the Salvation Army (SA) closed in May. You may have noticed the problem was exacerbated by the SA's closure. I am working on standing up another shelter in the city. This will require funding and partners. In my role as Mayor, I have briefed the council and public at large (Community Meetings, City Council Meetings, Kitsap Daily News and Kitsap Sun interviews/articles) on several occasions that I am working on multiple scenarios that involve a shelter, tiny home transitional housing, and regulated outdoor shelters. The next Kitsap Sun article coming out soon will most likely reinforce my efforts. I have established the partnerships and will be meeting with team members this week and next to discuss funding, development, acquisition, and operations strategies. I would also like to share that am also currently working on moving up the reopening of the Salvation Army winter shelter to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This effort would also increase their hours of operation to 24 hours a day versus overnight only. Thank you again Council President for the opportunity to provide more information. Shane, thank you again for taking the time to voice your concerns. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:49 PM

**To:** Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <[shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil)>



**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Homeless Encampments (Shane Reed)

Hi Mr. Reed,

I wanted to thank you for writing in on this issue, and I know the Council understands your concerns. I want to give you a short history of what's been going on and what the future looks like.

The current ordinance, on the books since 2004, basically says no camping is allowed in the city, at any time, at any place. The Ninth Circuit Court has ruled that such ordinances cannot be enforced when there is not enough available shelter space. Unfortunately, Bremerton has not had enough shelter space for a while, and without shelter space, we cannot enforce the current ordinance.

The City Council made it a priority this year to craft a new ordinance — one that recognizes that legally there must be a place on city property for folks to go when there is no shelter space available, but also recognizes the effects that unregulated encampments have on those nearby. We knew this was going to be a hot button issue with no solution that would make everyone happy, but we decided to tackle it and take heat from many sides for the betterment of all Bremerton.

The Council has now spent about 3 months' worth of meetings researching what's possible, what other cities have done, and most importantly, gathering public feedback. And we've had to do it unfortunately without any input or proposal by the Mayor, except for a very recent suggestion to update the enforcement clause from 2004. While the City Council ultimately passes laws and budgets, by the City Charter, the Mayor is tasked with making recommendations for Council consideration and action regarding the needs of the City.

Based on the public feedback up to that point, a majority of Council converged on a draft ordinance that would ensure that at no time, regardless of shelter space or not, would camping be permissible on 1) streets, sidewalks, and the places in-between, 2) in public buildings like parking garages, 3) in city parks at night, and 4) in other city-owned locations normally off-limits, like culverts and the watershed.

So, what does that leave? Unimproved city-owned properties in a few locations throughout the city. Council asked for maps and a list of these properties at its August 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session. The Mayor, whose administration has the data and expertise to produce them, released the maps of these properties to the Public and Council the day of our last meeting on September 6th. Without enough time to review the maps, and the Mayor's last-minute call for updating the enforcement clause, Council decided to gather even more public feedback and spend yet

more time working on this.

We'll be meeting again in study session this Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> to keep working on this ordinance, taking into account yours and everyone's public feedback. I recognize that no solution the Council comes up with will make everyone happy, but I do want you to know your Council has been working hard on this difficult and complex issue, and does listen.

In the meantime, I hope the Mayor can get shelter space available soon, and I encourage you to reach out to your county, state, and federal representatives to advocate for regional solutions so that Bremerton, the poorest per capita city in Kitsap, with 17% of the county's population and the residence of 60% of those experiencing homelessness in the county, does not have to bear the burden alone.

Thanks for speaking up.



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <[shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 9:42 AM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I am writing you today to address my concerns and comments on the homeless crises. I was born and raised in Bremerton WA and the homeless situation has got out of hand immensely. There are so many areas that are completely destroyed by these individuals everywhere they stay.

Property values continue to go down wherever these homeless people stay and is very unsafe for our children and families. I have witnessed countless times drug activity, yelling, fighting, drinking, stealing, damage to others property and even squatting in residences including my own and the police DO NOT DO ANYTHING. Only way to get them out is to squat on the squatters in your own home and change the locks and be armed for intruders.

A solution to this matter is to move these derelicts to the abandoned hospital in Bremerton off of Cherry. The building is closed and has enough rooms for every person to get off the streets. It has places that can be secured and watched with security as well as a full kitchen for people to feed them. It can be regulated to make sure that drugs are not being used in or around the facility and if they were then they should be booked and jailed just like the taxpayers would be.

These green areas that you have proposed are a horrible and disgusting idea and a slap in the face to us taxpayers and homeowners. The revenue in the city will go down if you allow this to happen as people coming here will see this and RUN. There has been several instances that females have been harassed and followed on their way to and from work at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Bremerton needs to stop taking in Grants because you are enabling these people to come here and making our city poor and a horrible place to live. We do not need any more low income (that is what brings the crime and transients) Bremerton is no longer a family oriented town and I hope you heed the warnings all of these individuals tell you. How would you like it if these homeless people came and squatted in your house or on your dwelling because that can and will happen very easily, all it takes is someone to give them the idea that it is a good situation and there is nothing anyone can do, because that is what is happening.

Just look at places with good mayors and electors such as Bainbridge Island , Gig Harbor, etc.. you will never see that there and those places are booming. These places are great for kids and families but Bremerton is not and I cannot even walk certain areas with my family unless I am ready for a fight or something else because those people yell and scream and pull weapons out on you.

So you need to house them all in one location like a secured environment such as the old Bremerton Hospital, Surround it with security and mental health personnel to get these people right and give them the opportunity to get a job and succeed in life, because what you have proposed is not going to work there is no running water, meals, beds, and these people need a routine and stability.

Thank You!

Shane Reed  
360-649-4974

**From:** jeremymcg76@gmail.com <jeremymcg76@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Eric Younger <eric.younger@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment - Homeless Encampment Ordinance No. 5482 (Jeremy McGinnis)

Mr. Coughlin,

Thank you for your response. I have bcc'd the 30 residents (and growing) I have contacted within the immediate vicinity of the previously enclosed map specific to the green areas directly across the street and up from from the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Some of those residents, along with myself, were in attendance at the meeting at Ridgetop Ct. yesterday. Though not our district, our concerns are the same and the meeting made it clear that the community is almost unanimously against Ordinance No. 5482.

I am grateful for the attendance of the Mayor and Police Chief Tom Wolfe at yesterday's meeting. Like you, Chief Wolfe mentioned the 9<sup>th</sup> circuit's decision with the addition of touching upon law enforcement agencies' fights against that decision; a sentiment with which the crowd (and no small amount of other district Supreme Court Judges) seem to agree.

While I, too am disappointed in the lack of services in Bremerton, and understand the current climate resulting from the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit's decision, neither playing the blame game nor earmarking city properties for approved encampments are viable solutions. Currently, the homeless is staying in areas that do not belong to them, for which we pay through taxes, without the city's approval. So the solution this ordinance proposes is to move them to other people's neighborhoods WITH the city's approval.

On my way home from the meeting last night, I drove past a child walking home down Oyster Bay where it turns into Bayview right across the street from the water treatment plant. This child often walks their little sister home to their home on Cottman from the bus stop on Oyster Bay and Roosevelt Blvd. Both the wooded area by which those children walk and the school bus stop itself are identified as unenforced areas on the enclosed map below.

Furthermore, the woods themselves are identified as easement for odor abatement from the Water Treatment Facility. It's bad enough that we live so close to the Facility *without* an encampment across the street from it.

To issue an ordinance, based upon a disputed ruling, that puts the health and safety of the community's children at risk is short-sighted at best and grossly negligent at worst. I certainly hope that is not the course down which this Council decides to travel.

Respectfully,

Jeremy McGinnis

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:59 PM  
**To:** [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Homeless Encampment Ordinance No. 5482 (Jeremy McGinnis)

Hi Mr. McGinnis,

Thanks for writing in on this issue, and I know the Council understands your concerns. I want to give you a short history of what's been going on and what the future looks like.

The current ordinance, on the books since 2004, basically says no camping is allowed in the city, at any time, at any place. The Ninth Circuit Court has ruled that such ordinances cannot be enforced when there is not enough available shelter space. Unfortunately, Bremerton has not had enough shelter space for a while, and without shelter space, we cannot enforce the current ordinance.

The lack of shelter space is first and foremost a travesty for those who are unsheltered and desperately need that shelter, along with the lack of resources to treat many of the leading causes of homelessness such as poverty, drug addiction, and mental health issues. At the same time, folks who live, work, and learn next to the unregulated encampments that now exist in many parts of the city are experiencing all the negative side effects that come with these encampments, because of the lack of shelter space.

We rely on the Mayor to work with partner organizations, the county, and the state to ensure we have enough shelter space, but for over 6 months, this has not been the case.

The City Council made it a priority this year to craft a new ordinance — one that recognizes that legally there must be a place on city property for folks to go when there is no shelter space available, but also recognizes the effects that unregulated encampments have on those nearby. We knew this was going to be a hot button issue with no solution that would make everyone happy, but we decided to tackle it and take heat from many sides for the betterment of all Bremerton.

The Council has now spent about 3 months' worth of meetings researching what's possible, what other cities have done, and most importantly, gathering public feedback. And we've had to do it unfortunately without any input or proposal by the Mayor, except for a very recent suggestion to update the enforcement clause from 2004.

Based on the public feedback, a majority of Council converged on a draft ordinance that would ensure that at no time, regardless of shelter space or not, would camping be permissible on 1) streets, sidewalks, and the places in-between, 2) in public buildings like parking garages, 3) in city parks at night, and 4) in other city-owned locations normally off-limits, like culverts and the watershed.

So, what does that leave? Unimproved city-owned properties in a few locations throughout the city. Council asked for maps and a list of these properties at its August 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Session. The Mayor, whose administration has the data and expertise to produce them, released the maps of these properties to the Public and Council the day of our last meeting on September 6th. Without enough time to review the maps, and the Mayor's last-minute call for updating the enforcement clause, Council decided to gather even more public feedback and spend yet more time working on this.

We'll be meeting again in study session this Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> to keep working on this ordinance, taking into account yours and everyone's public feedback. I recognize that no solution the Council comes up with will make everyone happy, but I do want you to know your Council has been working hard on this difficult and complex issue, and does listen.

In the meantime, I hope the Mayor can get shelter space available soon, and I encourage you to reach out to your county, state, and federal representatives to advocate for resources so that Bremerton, the poorest per capita city in Kitsap, with 17% of the county's population and the residence of 60% of those experiencing homelessness in the county, does not have to bear the burden alone.

Thanks for speaking up.



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com) [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 8:16 PM

**To:** [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)

**Cc:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Subject:** Homeless Encampment - Ordinance No. 5482

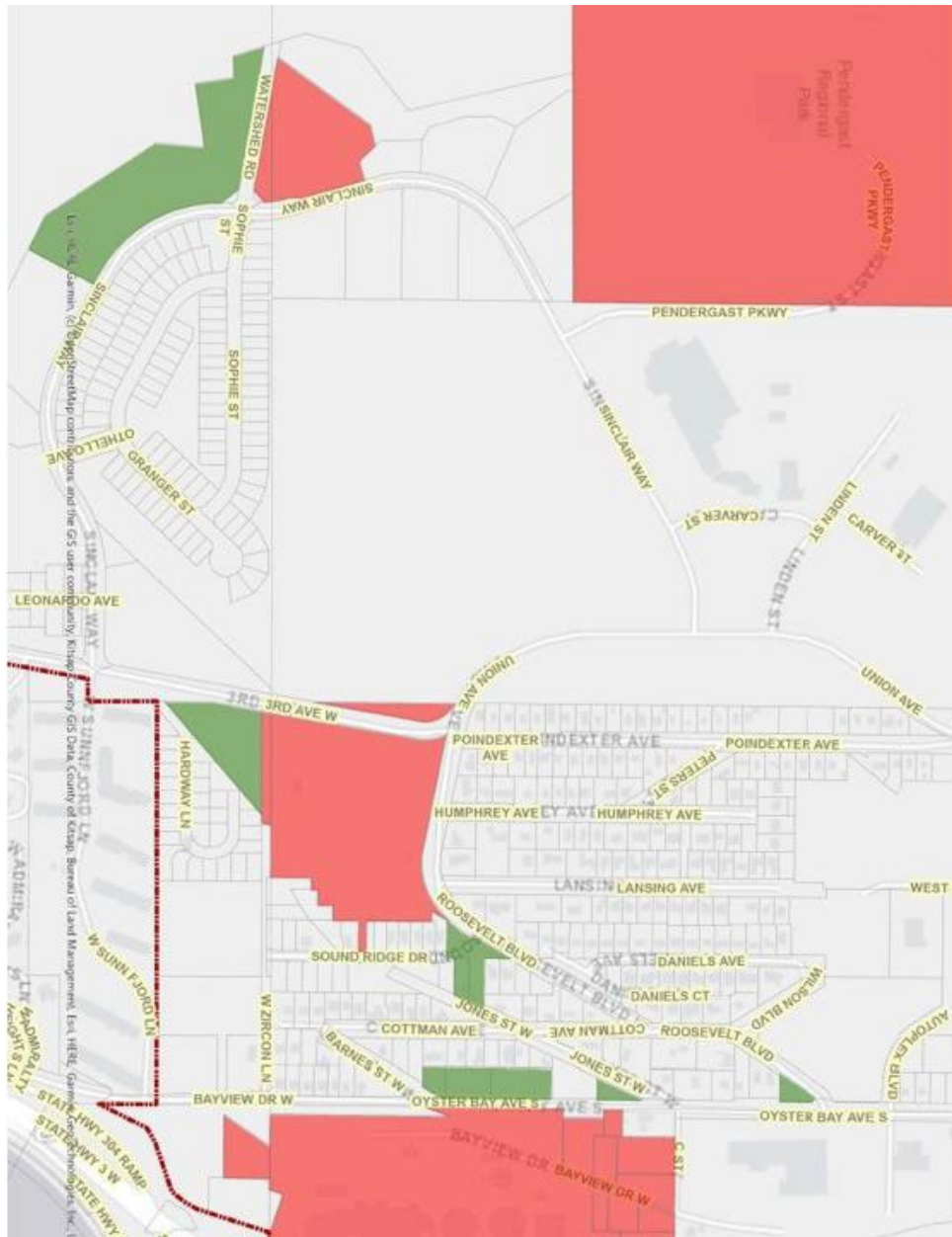
Hello, Neighbors.

This email is a follow up on the door-to-door campaign I began in our neighborhood on Friday. Most of its content is printed out in a handout I delivered to some of you, as well as the homes vacant upon my visit. I have blind CC'd the 28 households to which I have spoken, all of which have expressed support of strong opposition to Ordinance 5482. If you have questions or would like something disseminated to the group, please reply feel free to contact me via email or phone.

It is crucial that all of us are proactive in asserting our rights as taxpaying citizens of Bremerton with the City Council.

The Bremerton City Council is voting to allow Homeless Encampments in the green areas identified on the map below on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Building in Downtown Bremerton. If they vote to implement this ordinance, it will go in effect ten days later, or on September 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year.

On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> the Bremerton City Council proposed Ordinance No. 5482 that would disallow homeless encampments throughout most of Bremerton in exchange for notifying them of city-owned locations on which they *will* be allowed to camp. Some of these locations are areas, identified as “Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended,” on the areas located in green on the attached map. Note: the triangular area between Oyster Bay Ave. S and Roosevelt Blvd. is a public and school bus stop. It would likewise behoove the City to also note that the very narrow stretch of road that is Oyster Bay adjacent to the non-enforced area is frequently sped through without any sidewalk or easement between said road and proposed camping area.



This means that the homeless encampments, such as those near downtown Bremerton (e.g. the one on Broadway behind Burger King and MLK Way) will be told to vacate and fined unless they do so. Your property taxes (in the form of higher rent if you are renting) will now go toward paying for them to be instructed to camp next door to you.

I have attached a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. 5482 which includes the full maps of the soon to be unenforced camping areas. In the maps you will see that in addition to the areas directly adjacent to us, there will be a larger encampment area on the other side of Hwy 3 on Oyster Bay Ave.

You can email Bremerton City Council with your feedback at [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)



They already accepted public comment on this and will be putting it to vote in the next Study Session (not open to public comment) this Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. People showing support by attending and expressing their concerns would help as well emailing them and the mayor.

I am truly sorry to bear this news, but your action is required.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy McGinnis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

Jeremy McGinnis  
1673 Bayview Dr. W  
(360) 536-1282  
[jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)

**From:** [Alma Singleton](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Possible Homeless Count Record  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 5:56:47 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Possibly, do a personal count of each homeless person, name, birthday, any identification to record for their residing in the new areas being suggested, hopefully the 40 acre out by Pine Road.

Thanks

Marji Singleton  
518 Dr. M. L. King, Bremerton, WA

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Alma Singleton](#)  
**To:** [anton@nwhospitality.org](mailto:anton@nwhospitality.org); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless in Bremerton  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:48:23 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm home owner on ML King Way just off Pacific Ave. I have read your email to City of Bremerton and agree with some of your concerns. I'm old military female and do not have much sway with politics here. I'm hoping the City will put some ordinance in place until better solutions can be engaged.

But we have to move soon, because the Ninth District Court has put the hammer down that homeless can be anywhere if local governments don't provide some controls.

Moving homeless to a few parcels and providing water, bathrooms seems all we can do. The crime and drug action has caused fires, break ins, etc., and danger to anyone out walking, shopping, etc.

Relocating is crucial to me. A shake up is eminent and winter this year may be hard. I wish I lived in the mountains like I used to years ago. Many of these homeless choose to disassociate with their families, foolish. My take is those in the Pine Street area, the 40 acre parcel, should take the most of the peaceful ones. The drug abusers, dealers should be locked up. Downtown we have had our fill.

Thanks for trying.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Alma Singleton](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless, Drug, Property Crime: Relocation of Homeless New Ordinance needs Enacted  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 5:12:15 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm home owner on ML King Way just off Pacific Ave. I have been reading emails to City Council re homeless drug and crime action, here in downtown Bremerton.

I'm old military female and do not have much sway with politics here. I'm hoping the City will put some ordinance in place until better solutions can be engaged. But we have to move soon, because the Ninth District Court has put the hammer down that homeless can be anywhere if local governments don't provide some controls.

Moving homeless to a few parcels and providing water, bathrooms seems all we can do. The crime and drug action has caused fires, break ins, etc., and danger to anyone out walking, shopping, etc. Mayor Wheeler wants the penalties to be enforced immediately, not after three infractions, etc. I agree, I am invested in ownership of a home here and have lived here almost 25 years, and watching our City destroyed by lack of police allowed to arrest, detain, etc., is more than disturbing.

Relocating of the group of homeless on M.L. King between Park St. and Warren Ave. is crucial to me. A shake up is eminent and winter this year may be hard. I wish I lived in the mountains like I used to years ago. Many of these homeless choose to disassociate with their families, foolish. My take is move them to 40 acre parcel in the Pine Street area, the 40 acre parcel, should take the most of the peaceful ones. The drug abusers, dealers should be locked up. Downtown we have had our fill.

How about installing a 15 foot fence around the areas chosen and police the coming and going of those choosing to remain there?

Thanks for trying.

**From:** [Amanda Larson](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp concerns  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 7:40:46 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City council,

I am a Bremerton resident, and oppose two of the proposed homeless camps: the one located along Sinclair Way and one off 3rd avenue West, both near Pendergast Regional Park. I live in the housing development on Sinclair road, dozens of children live in this housing complex and frequently play outside unsupervised. Additionally, the Pendergast Regional Park, also where children frequently play, is nearby, which makes these inappropriate locations for a homeless encampment.

Blessings,  
Amanda Larson

**From:** [Amber Crenshaw](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 6:20:03 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am a Bremerton resident, and oppose two of the proposed homeless camps: the one located along Sinclair Way and one off 3rd avenue West, both near Pendergast Regional Park and one is directly next to a school bus stop. I live in the housing development on Sinclair road. There are dozens of children that live in this housing complex and frequently play outside unsupervised. This would put children in potentially dangerous situations and allow for health and safety hazards to be near homes. Please consider the health and safety of young children. The world is dangerous and scary enough.

**From:** [Denise Smith](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** -new city encampments-  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 7:32:22 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council/mayor,

My husband and I have been residents, registered voters and property tax payers for over 25 years in Bremerton.

I am also a business owner licensed in City of Bremerton.

This letter is to express my extreme concern and anxiety that will impact our lives in a negative way .

The new " Camping Ordinance " I am specifically concerned about is between Oyster Bay and Roosevelt Blvd. "

We are very upset as well for the other areas.

One topic is the children on these blocks that play, walk and go to stop at the bus stops . Metro and school stop along road.

The homeless problem should not be put on us to personally tackle on our own plus effect our level of safety in and around our homes.

My final question to all of the council and Mayor is would you consider or allow these encampments to be in your front yard or across from your homes?

Thank you for your time,

Denise Smith  
1224 Cottman Ave

Kitsap Safety Solutions- Home occupation business-

**From:** Eric Nelson <[ericpartsguy@gmail.com](mailto:ericpartsguy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless camps

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have read your newsletter for many years now and I feel I need to write you on this issue. We are the owners of the Bremerton mansion on Bayview drive. I have recently heard that the city council is planning on putting a homeless encampment behind us in the West hills. I must voice my opinion that this is a poor to unacceptable location for homeless camp. The environmental damage is well documented on these and this watershed needs to be protected. The cost of cleanup of these encampments is in the millions of dollars. From what I've seen of homeless and I have met a few, these people need medical assistance to get off of drugs, not a new camping site with the amount of taxes we pay in Bremerton we can find funds to help these people get off of drugs and if not get out of the community

The West hills issue as you know is a working class neighborhood with a good amount of retirees theft as well as violence in this area has been moderate. The last thing we want to do is introduce a lot of crime and potential loss of life into this community.

I asked you to please oppose the move of putting the homeless up in the hills behind our house. Sad to say but if this becomes true we will be leaving soon. We've been through this before and it's not pleasant.

Sincerely,  
Eric and Gina Nelson



**From:** [Jacob Lloyd](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:31:34 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City council,

I am a Bremerton resident, and oppose two of the proposed homeless camps: the one located along Sinclair Way and one off 3rd avenue West, both near Pendergast Regional Park. I live in the housing development on Sinclair road, dozens of children live in this housing complex and frequently play outside unsupervised. Additionally, the Pendergast Regional Park, also where children frequently play, is nearby, which makes these inappropriate locations for a homeless encampment.

Thank you,

Jacob Lloyd  
307-220-7429

**From:** [Jennifer Chamberlin](#)  
**To:** [Jennie Spletstoesser](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pinewood encampment  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 8:26:24 PM

---

Got it! And forwarding this one as well. Thank you.

---

**From:** Jennie Spletstoesser <spletsjm60@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 8:05 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Pinewood encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

One other note, there is no way for fire dept. To be able to put a fire out should one start in the 40 acre parcel being looked at for encampment, the potential for many homes to be destroyed should a fire start. We saw such fire happen 1 year ago in a vacant cabin not far from here and do not wish to see anything like it again.

Respectfully,  
Jennie Spletstoesser-nelson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Jennifer Chamberlin](#)  
**To:** [Jennie Spletstoesser](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pinewood possible encampment  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 8:25:52 PM

---

Ms. Spletstoesser,

Thank you so much for your feedback. Please come to the city council meeting on September 20th at 5:30 to make your opinion heard. I am copying our city staff to make sure your feedback is included in public record.

Jennifer Chamberlin  
Bremerton City Council Vice President  
District 1

---

**From:** Jennie Spletstoesser <spletsjm60@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 8:02 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Pinewood possible encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have been a resident of pinewood since 1.15.1990. I purchased my home here in May 1990 and feel the possibility of a homeless encampment is not a good idea. I understand everyone has a right to a place to lay down at night but bringing the homeless to our community will deteriorate it. Our home values will fall and we all know taxes won't reflect the decreased value. It will bring trash, rodents and needles into a community with seniors as well as young children.

I am sure there are plenty of other options for an encampment such as Marrison and 6th, there is the huge field, restrooms can be put in and dumpsters.

I do not wish to be forced to leave my home if almost 34 years that is just about paid off. I am 2 years from retiring and this is what I worked for. Middle class seem to be pushed out and only the rich or the poor are what Bremerton is about. I love my city and hope to remain in my home for whatever time the man upstairs has planned for me free from filth, worry of breaking in, rodents running up and down the street or seeing syringes on the road side in our community.

Although wordy I think you got my point.

Respectfully,  
Jennie Spletstoesser-nelson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Katarina Whinery](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance No. 5482  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 7:31:01 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

I am writing this evening to share my thoughts on this proposed Ordinance No.5482. I have 2 young children and their safety and wellbeing is my top concern as a parent. With this new proposal, our house will literally be surrounded in approved properties for the homeless to move into. Bringing all sorts of different things into our neighborhood. Fires are a huge concern, drugs, vandalism, all sorts of things. None of which is what I want for my family and our neighborhood. In fact, one of the proposed locations is literally a school bus stop, which is outrageous to think that there would be a homeless encampment at the same location as that.

I urge you to reject this proposal. Obviously there is a need for more shelters or somewhere for them to go, but putting them into neighborhoods where there is less police activity and more families doesn't seem like a safe option for anyone.

If you care at all about the safety of our children in this community, do not move them into our neighborhoods to clean up the city.

Thank you for your time,  
Katarina Whinery

**From:** Thomas Knuckey <[Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:02 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler  
**Cc:** Ned Lever; Kylie Finnell; Jennifer Hayes  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless Encampment.

FYI



ACCT_NO	SITE_ADDR	LANDCODE	propertyType	Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended
172401-1-056-2009	1312 LAKEHURST DR	vacant	vacant	Yes

**Tom Knuckey, P.E.**

Director of Public Works & Utilities  
City of Bremerton  
Desk (360) 473-2376/Cell (360) 710-0039  
[thomas.knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:thomas.knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

---

**From:** Keith Armstrong <[kwarms@yahoo.com](mailto:kwarms@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 6:19 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Ned Lever <[Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Thomas Knuckey <[Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless Encampment.

I would hope this is not a selected sight with its proximity to Kitsap Lake Elementary and its location to Docksider. Lakehurst Drive is home to many families with young kids.

---

*On Friday, September 8, 2023, 5:58 PM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:*  
Hi Keith,

The council has selected several sites in their proposed ordinance. I will do some research and get back to you.  
Greg

**From:** Keith Armstrong <[kwarms@yahoo.com](mailto:kwarms@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 5:06 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment.

Any truth to the rumor that the city is going to allow a homeless encampment down on Lakehurst Drive in the wetlands?  
Keith.

**From:** [mwebbqwe1@comcast.net](mailto:mwebbqwe1@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Legal](#)  
**Subject:** Lions Field safety concerns/ housing homeless  
**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2023 5:24:20 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I work as a Registered Nurse Case Manager in our community ER at St. Michaels Medical Center.  
I live by Lions Field and have for 20 plus years.

I am unfortunately aware of the many illegal and unsafe practices in the homeless community in Bremerton.  
With your proposed legal encampment by our community park at Lions Field, I will after all these years need to leave the area.

What a huge disappointment. I am an advocate for persons experiencing homelessness- but also an advocate for safe green space to bring our children, grandchildren, dogs, etc.

Michelle Webb  
327 E 28th St  
Bremerton, WA 98310

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kenton&Misty Lucario](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Potential Legal Camping Spots  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:52:15 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello distinguished council members,

I am writing in regards to the potential legal camping spot located behind sugar pine drive and Nantucket St off Pine Rd. I live at the last home on the left next to the woods on Nantucket St. Our street is a dead end road with an unobstructed entrance into the woods. This concerns me greatly because of the ease of access it would most likely become the easiest entrance for our unhoused community members. While I agree we need to find a safe place for our homeless to live, I feel as if my life and my three daughters lives would be in danger if our woods were where the homeless called home. In August of last year, a homeless person broke into my car and ever since I have had a grave fear for our lives. What would stop the unhoused persons from leaving drugs/trash items they stole in my yard as it is literally part of the woods? What would stop them from trying to break into my home or steal my nice cars ? What would stop them from harming my children or I ? I built this home 7 years ago as a single active duty Navy Sailor for my children to have a safe place to grow up. I've spent 24 years of my life working for the federal government to give my children the best opportunities in life so they can make their dreams a reality. I am terrified that the legalization of encamping in our woods would potentially place my children, myself, my husband or another community member in my neighborhood in danger. I understand that this is the greatest acreage of land owned by the city... but this land is surrounded by many communities of homes of people who pay taxes, work hard for what they have and most importantly have children to protect, keep safe and ensure their livelihood is not obstructed by the tragedies the unhoused persons bring to any community.. drugs, theft, fighting, trash, mess. Please consider other options, options that are more sustainable for the homeless and more protective to the community that is supporting the city. Thank you. Misty Lucario.

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** How to pass Ordinance to update BMC Chapter 9.32 and satisfy ALMOST everybody.  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 11:17:33 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City Council, please consider the following changes to BMC Chapter 9.32,

1) Per 9.32.010 (a) – outdoor encampment operated or permitted by the city.

This needs to happen 24/7-365 because of 9.32.010 (a) paragraph 2. There will consistently be a need for people who cannot access shelters. Contain and Maintain for the benefit of all. I would suggest simple permitting methodology as this makes camping legal where permitted and also gives the ability to establish and disestablish camping areas as needed.

2) Define in this ordinance 9.32.010 e - who the “Director” is. This *important person* would be tasked by the city to help navigate the Cities Homeless problem. They would permit and manage city camping areas as required per this ordinance. I would recommend Bremerton billet this position. Evidence tells us the homeless problem needs to be managed!

3) 9.32.020 (b) – rewrite this to redefine 9.32.020 (b) (2). **This should only be off limits if a satisfactory camping area is being operated or permitted by the City per 9.32.010 (a).**

Writing it this way will provide a solid reason for action and accountability by the City.

Scattering our unhoused population all over Bremerton exacerbates too many issues. Direct conversations with adjacent property owners and other stakeholders about areas shown in green provide clear evidence that nearly everyone on all sides is against using these areas and it is an absolute nonstarter.

4) 9.32.030 – This violates the Cruel and Unusual clause of the United States Constitution by making it nearly impossible to sleep outside with any form of bedding or shelter etc.. Re: Martin vs City of Boise.

5) 9.32.040 (a) - Define who the Director is! Change wording to “may be designated *or permitted* by the City”

Again, this allow the city to manage by permit acceptable areas.

6) Revisit 9.32.040(b) **(2) and (3)** - “The Director will permit areas to minimize these issues and impact to the community to the maximum extent possible.” We need to be realistic. This basically says nowhere.

7) 9.32.050 – As long as the City is permitting or operating an approved camping area I am all for actions required to enforce. Not sure what positive effect a fine or jail time would have on people who already have nothing and are struggling. Some of these people are not capable of simply taking care of themselves.

8) 9.32.060 – The Director will permit or operate legal camping areas in the City of Bremerton as required. The Director will promulgate maps or lists of available shelter and permitted camping areas. The Director will evaluate and report to the City and appropriate local agencies how the availability of shelter space, permitted camping areas, and other factors affect this ordinance on an ongoing “present time” basis.



It is 2023. The homeless situation is known to be a housing problem. This has been proven by several recent studies. "We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses" Carl Jung. There are countries that have no homeless people at all because it is not allowed, actually illegal. A human right. I believe this is true myself. Safe housing of some sort is the recognized and most necessary first step in helping any homeless neighbors, regardless of why they are there. Homelessness and Mental Illness should NOT be criminalized!!!!

We have neighbors in Bremerton, those residing on MLK and similar. Fellow human beings that are unhoused for a myriad reasons. So many wonderful things have been shared about moving forward and helping these folks, yet we waste time on an ordinance only to prosecute homeless and folks with mental health issues, **with not one legal solution**. *Not one legal solution*. Let's work on the real issue!

It is VERY clear that the CITY would like people removed from the area that **by proximity** is actually providing them the daily help they need. They would not be camping on MLK or Broadway if this was not the case.

If passed the current Ordinance would have these people removed 10 days after its passing and this community scattered to various places where nothing is set up to receive them. No porta potties, nothing. And most importantly to the City, these areas will not actually be legal areas to camp, just areas that the anti-camping ordinance is **currently not enforced**. So it is illegal to camp in these places, people just won't be cited or arrested until it will ultimately have to come to that.

No infrastructure, security, garbage, or facilities at all in these areas, this will be an even bigger disaster waiting to happen. One that is all spread out. Police don't have enough time for 3 incidents but hey let's spread this problem out all over Bremerton. What kind of extra burden is that for our police.

Some people are not allowed, or for other reasons cannot use shelters.

We need at least 1 **legal** camping site set up and operating at all times BEFORE any action is taken to clear anyone from the closest area they have to find the help they need and require to stay alive.

Doesn't actual history tell us that there is no way that the City is going to provide bathroom facilities or much else to any of these scattered areas EVEN if funded by council? I went and looked at several of the properties shown on the maps provided. Several are outright non viable by the ordinances own restrictions.

There are people actively doing what needs to be done for our homeless neighbors on MLK right now today. **Right now on a daily basis and for months**. Wound care, bathroom facilities, counseling, rides to places like hospitals/clinics, water, food, etc.. Can we get out of their way, and as a first step in our plan to alleviate Bremerton of homeless fund these people!?

Other than actual criminals being arrested, which is a good thing by the way, THEY ARE CURRENTLY THE ONLY ONES GETTING PEOPLE OFF OF THESE STREETS except of course those who are leaving in ambulances.

Porta Potties that City Council has already endorsed, with \$10K and no action from the city. This very service you requested is being provided NOW by another entity, fund them. The report about these porta potties being filthy is just not true, I have looked inside several times and have witnessed them being pumped and cleaned. You HAVE TO KNOW IN YOUR

HEART THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO and a great way to send a message and start on a real plan. I believe this particular council is the one to put us on a road to rid Bremerton of homelessness. I hear how poor the City of Bremerton is but look what is being done by your community. The city is not alone in this, we have an amazing community and I think funding can be found.

We should not accept being in a position where we hear yet another year of explanations about why things can't be done as our homeless situation only gets worse and it will. Shelters are not the answer to our homeless problem, they are transitional. Having homes however small is what cure homelessness.

Please do not pass this ordinance until there are real solutions to the problem. Put this ordinance on hold until we are able to provide legal solutions to our most vulnerable.

OUR HOMELESS PROBLEM IS WHAT WE SHOULD BE WORKING ON!!!! Please change the direction of our study and council sessions to addressing the homeless problem WITH SOLUTIONS.

- 1) Stand up one or more legal camping areas in Bremerton
- 2) The homeless problem needs budget and full time resources! It is a BIG problem and getting bigger.

Again I did go look at several of the sites suggested. Not one is satisfactory. They are on hills, directly on the water on Lebo, the 40 acre is inaccessible hilly and has a creek

Puget Power has an abandoned fenced lot at 901 Park that would be a perfect place. It is flat, has an already fenced area, an outside the fence parking lot, no adjacent neighbors so NIMBY is not as big of an issue, in proximity of the areas of direct help, is well protected from most views. right next door to the Fire station for emergencies, and closer to the police station who would not be running all over the city looking at green spaces on the map to find where the issues are. No kidding this is a GREAT spot that has not been used in years. I have reached out to them about possible availability but am sure City has Puget Power Contacts?

Contain those that need to camp in a central legal place and in a place central to the help they need.

Thanks for your consideration,

Neal Foley

**From:** [Robert Debusschere](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Debusschere](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ENQUIRY ON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AND COMMENT AT STUDY SESSIONS & COUNCIL VOTE  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 2:39:00 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

11 Sep 2023

Hello:

My wife and I are writing to enquire if the public will be permitted to attend and/or comment during the Study Session for the new Draft Ordinance on Unauthorized Camping, 5482, on Wednesday, 13 Sep 2023 and the actual vote on Wednesday, 20 Sep 2023.

We would be most grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,  
Rob & Cheryl Debusschere

From: Rodert Towle <[oldfart21@icloud.com](mailto:oldfart21@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 2:23 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Ordinance 5482

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a property owner in the cottman / jones area. Why was it that no one was notified about the meeting last week about ordinance 5482. If this go through it will drop my property an house value big time I have been in this area for 19 year's. If this happens you are putting a lot family at a safety risk with the amount younger kid in this area and one of your locations is a bus stop for school kid and kitsap trimester bus stop. Your city leader are not looking after people in this area's. They only want to get the people out of downtown with any regard to where they put them. This make me very unsafe around my house that at times I have a gun on me one half of the day mostly at night. This making me want to move out of the Bremerton area for good because the people that I pay tax are not looking out for the good of the people they rep only to make them self look good.

Sent from my iPhone

**Published for  
September 13  
Study Session**

**Item A5 – Public Comment**

**From:** Havalah Noble <havalahjoy@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:27 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Augustus Nelson <augustusnelson@live.com>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>;  
Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - Possible Homeless Camp In Pinewood Area Concerns (Havalah Noble)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello there,

I would like to request to delay the vote. We don't have enough information to change the status quo, breaking up encampments without infrastructure seems inhumane. This property is far from resources and isn't set up for this type of camp at this moment. It's inaccessible.

I would like additional information on when the next meetings are.

Thank you,

Havalah Noble

**From:** Havalah Noble <havalahjoy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:20 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Augustus Nelson <augustusnelson@live.com>  
**Subject:** Possible Homeless Camp In Pinewood Area Concerns

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am concerned about the possible homeless encampment in my neighborhood, it would be visible from my home. I live on 301 Sugar Pine Drive.

- 1) How will waste (both human and garbage) and refuse be handled?
- 2) How will fires be addressed in a wooded area to keep them warm?
- 3) Will there be increased patrols for crime and disturbances?
- 4) How will the lack of services in this neighborhood to support this population? There is no food, electricity, water, sewer...
- 5) How does this address the root of the problem?
- 6) How does moving the encampments change the problems they are facing?

We have two school age children that truly are 200 feet from the access point to the proposed encampment. I am concerned for their safety, worried about drug paraphernalia being introduced to our neighborhood and increased trash. I am concerned that the pool when it opens will become unsafe for them to visit.

We could support this if there was infrastructure and increased patrols, bathrooms, etc, but I'm not okay with moving people and acting like they aren't there. There is a lot of risk to the neighborhood residents without proper controls in place first.

I look forward to your responses.

Thank you,  
Havalah Noble  
360-621-8283

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Augustus Nelson <[augustusnelson@live.com](mailto:augustusnelson@live.com)>  
**Date:** September 10, 2023 at 8:29:32 PM PDT  
**To:** Havalah Noble <[havalahjoy@gmail.com](mailto:havalahjoy@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** **Fwd: Possible Homeless Camp In Pinewood Area - UPDATE**

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Pinewood Community Club <[savepinewoodpool@gmail.com](mailto:savepinewoodpool@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** September 10, 2023 at 4:26:35 PM PDT  
**Subject:** **Possible Homeless Camp In Pinewood Area - UPDATE**

Hello everyone,

I wanted to send an update to the email I sent last week, as I've had a chance to speak with other community members who have shared some great information with me.

**First - I was recently informed that the city council meeting on 09/13/23 is NOT open to the public. This is a study session and the voting will be the following week on 09/20/23 (same place/time).**

Second - A lot of community members have reached out to our council representative directly to express their concerns. Her name is Jennifer Chamberlin and she has encouraged everyone to email her directly (as well as others) and she would discuss them during their session on the 13th.

Her email is: [Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Her number is: 360-473-5280

Please email her to express your concerns. If you're able to attend the council meeting on the 20th, that would be great. It's important for them to know that we

Thank you to all that have called to provide more information. I've also included my original email below.

--

Thank you,

The Pinewood Community Club

**ORIGINAL MESSAGE:**

if you're on this email and would like to be removed, please let me know

Hello everyone,

This email is intended for everyone living in the Pinewood area and to those who want a voice with what is being proposed. And to also bring awareness to those that might not have seen the Kitsap Sun article today.

It has been brought to our attention that the city is trying to deal with the homeless issue and is currently or trying to shut down any camping on city streets, specifically MLK BLVD in West Bremerton, where a large camp is currently residing. In doing so they have proposed various vacant city properties where the current residents may go should an ordinance pass for Unauthorized Camping. One of the areas mentioned that would allow homeless camping, and also the biggest listed at 40 acres, is the area behind the pool down to the watershed (and surrounding areas).

There was already a meeting on 09/06 where they failed to pass the ordinance and are now having another discussion on 09/13/2023 to pass it again.

I encourage everyone impacted by this matter or want to speak on behalf of the community to contact the Mayor and City Council's office and express your concerns and/or suggestions. While I appreciate their efforts to deal with the homeless problem, we all should make sure their choices are the right ones for the people living within the communities where they are proposing to allow encampments. We all have a right to be concerned and voice our concerns regarding this situation. I've added a copy of the map that shows Sugar Pine and the information for the next meeting, a copy of the ordinance from their last meeting, and a copy of the article.

The next City Council Study Session will be held on **Wednesday, September 13 (UPDATED TO SEPTEMBER 20), 2023**; beginning at 5:00 PM in City Council Conference Room 603 located on the 6th Floor of the Norm Dicks Government Center located at 345 6th Street, Bremerton.



Members of the public may click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87318266756?pwd=ZWIMVnVYbFBHYjY5U1RJUmFreDFXUT09>

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 873 1826 6756

Passcode: 857582

**EMAIL:** [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**CITY COUNCIL SITE:** <https://www.bremertonwa.gov/155/City-Council>

Map

We appreciate everyone's voice and hope you can attend the next session.

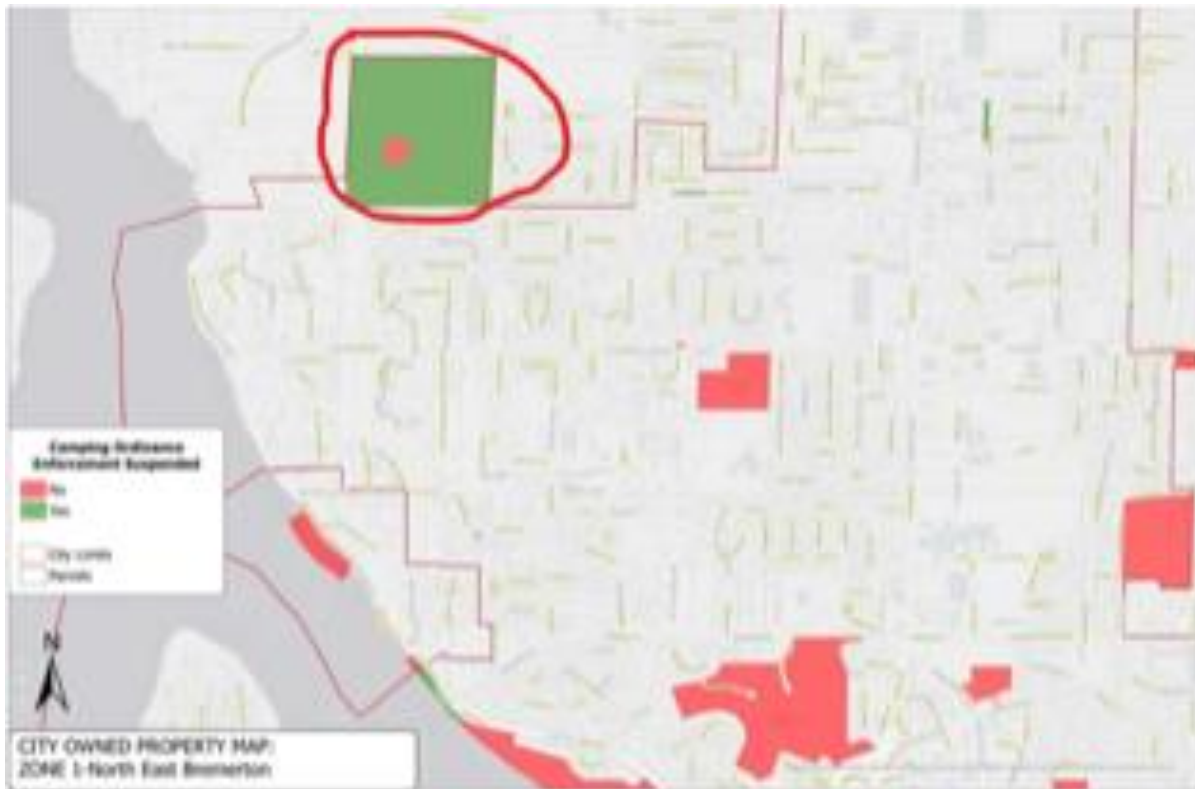
Please feel free to share with your neighbors

*On a side note, we will be sending another email within the next few days regarding the pool and its current status. We have to have some hard discussions and want the community's input. Another conversation for another time*

--

Thank you,

The Pinewood Community Club



The city of Bremerton provided a map of undeveloped city-owned parcels that homeless campers would be allowed to set up at without violating a potential ordinance outlawing unauthorized camping, which could be enacted on Sept. 13. The parcels, spread throughout the city and seen in this map of an area of East Bremerton, are in green. The full series of maps may be seen at the city council's website. Bremerton City Administrator

**From:** M chip <MCHIP@OUTLOOK.COM>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 12:51 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Relocation of Homeless to Tracyton Watershed (Mitchell Chapman)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Council, Mayor and Ms. Finnell,

Further to the Tracyton Wastershed issue, at a meeting with my neighbors today, we discussed something for you to consider.

If the issue is offering a bed to anyone, why not get one of those large circus-like tents the military uses and fill it with cots? The tent would be better than anything a homeless person possesses, it's temporary until a brick-and-mortar structure is secured and it is super easy to add another cot. These temporary structures are used during natural disasters, so why can't we? And when the bedbug infestations hit, the tent and cots can be easily treated, unlike a building. Mobile laundry services could be brought over, just like they did for Hurricane Katrina.

Could the city use a parking lot downtown that is closer to services like the meal program at Salvation Army and Peninsula Health? Couldn't the city rent a parking lot downtown? There's a vacant city owned lot on Burwell across from BPD, set it up there. Heck, that's gotta be safer for everyone across the street from BPD.

The police department cannot easily "patrol" the watershed with the lack of roads and alleys. The same goes for BFD. I'm sure you all know an encampment of three tents between Blueberry Park and Armin Jahr Elementary was burned this week. I was there two weeks ago to check on two children living there. I cannot stress enough that I am concerned about a forest fire in Tracyton Watershed.

It is well known at the police department that there is rampant drug dealing at the tents on MLK Way. If you push the people to an area out of sight to BPD, you are in essence fostering a climate of drug dealing and overdose deaths.

There has to be another solution that is better than out of sight, out of mind; one that doesn't ruin the peace and quiet all those around the Tracyton Watershed have enjoyed for decades.

Mitchell Chapman

**From:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:23 AM

**To:** City Council

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler; Kylie Finnell

**Subject:** Kitsap Sun Article - Potential sites authorized for camping under proposed Bremerton ordinance

**Importance:** High

## See the potential sites authorized for camping under proposed Bremerton ordinance

[Kai Uyehara](#) Kitsap Sun

Published 11:53 a.m. PT Sept. 12, 2023 | Updated 1:14 p.m. PT Sept. 12, 2023



A grassy lot is available at the bottom of the hill where S Constitution Avenue and Farragut Street intersect. The area is not busy with traffic, but the Little Sprouts Preschool is just up the street.

Kai Uyehara



The ordinance identifies a capable parcel along the short and winding S Yantic Avenue near Charleston. The lot, however, has a steep downhill slope and is covered in thick vegetation. The Forest Ridge Health and Rehab Center is right around the corner.

Kai Uyehara



One of the ordinance's larger undeveloped lots listed is deeply forested and set behind large residential homes on Lakehurst Drive. The lot, near Kitsap Lake, is dense with vegetation and shows no obvious points of entry.

Kai Uyehara



A span of five empty lots starting along Warren Avenue starting at the corner of 11th Street will all be available for camping. The grassy lots are in the thick of a high traffic area, right across the road from Warren Avenue Playfield. These lots are more centrally located in downtown Bremerton than most parcels on the list of available camping areas.

Kai Uyehara



Kai Uyehara

A span of five empty lots starting along Warren Avenue starting at the corner of 11th Street will all be available for camping. The grassy lots are in the thick of a high traffic area, right across the road from Warren Avenue Playfield. These lots are more centrally located in downtown Bremerton than most parcels on the list of available camping areas.



A collection of small triangular parcels scattered on either side of Burwell Street near Burwell Place made the list. Among the triangle lots, wedged between busy roads, sidewalks and homes, are shrubs and trees.  
Kai Uyehara



Out behind the Sophie Street neighborhood near Navy Yard City is a large forested property. The parcel is across the street from the newly constructed homes and set beside a fenced-off lot. The parcel is far removed from most city resources but is nearby a handful of smaller lots located further east into Navy Yard City.  
Kai Uyehara



The ordinance also lists a large L-shaped lot on Oyster Bay Avenue N behind a Chevron on Oyster Bay. The parcel is grassy and enclosed by a chain link fence. The area has been frequented by homeless campers in the past.

Kai Uyehara



This small triangular lot is boxed in by several large boulders around the perimeter along Wheaton Way, just at the corner of E 14th Street. The parcel sits between residential neighborhoods and a well traveled road.

Kai Uyehara



A small path between houses on Ridgetop Court leads into the forested 40-acre parcel behind the Pinewood Neighborhood. The property, where Bremerton's homeless would be allowed to camp while there is no overnight shelter available, sits right behind fenced and unfenced backyards alike.  
Kai Uyehara



A thin sliver of land on Price Road is one of two camp-able parcels near Kitsap Lake Park identified by the ordinance. The triangle shaped piece across the road from the Park's parking lot is covered in thicket.  
Kai Uyehara





A larger, curved parcel of land identified by the ordinance is across W Charleston Beach Road from the Bug and Reptile Museum in Navy Yard City. The lot is a steep hill covered in trees.  
Kai Uyehara



Between Charleston and the naval base are several more parcels, one being a small square lot at the corner of Rodgers Street and S Lafayette Avenue. The parcel sits among a neighborhood and is surrounded by several trees.  
Kai Uyehara



A rocky stretch of beach below the Tracyton Beach Road NW is available for camping. The parcel lays just south of Pat Carey Vista and is accessible through Lions Park.  
Kai Uyehara



A rectangular parcel at the corner of 11th Street and Pacific Avenue also made the list. The house-sized lot is one of the more centrally located properties, providing quicker access to the city's resources and transportation for homeless campers.  
Kai Uyehara



One undeveloped parcel of land listed as available camping areas is a small strip of land between fenced homes and a gravel alleyway along Hanford Avenue in North Bremerton. The strip is less than ten feet wide between fences and the road.

Kai Uyehara



The largest parcel made available for camping by the City of Bremerton's ordinance is 40 acres. The large property is forested and sits right behind the Pinewood neighborhood in North Bremerton, just below Tracyton. Houses along Ridgetop Court back up to tall evergreen trees.

Kai Uyehara

**From:** A Hammond <[arthammond2020@gmail.com](mailto:arthammond2020@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 7:24 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Pinewood Neighborhood

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am appalled that you all are considering placing the homeless encampment up in the Pinewood Neighborhood. Pinewood is a peaceful, family neighborhood. Lots of kids at play, lots of older community members walk the roads for the exercise. And, now, you want to take a peaceful community, and turn it into a drug neighborhood. A Rape Neighborhood, a HIGH Theft Neighborhood. A High Assault Neighborhood... You are wanting to recreate what you have downtown in a peaceful neighborhood. No Good.

I guess as long as they are out of YOUR Sight??? they will be out of your MIND?? You won't have to deal with them; but yet the neighborhood that you plan to place them in, will have to deal with them. We have already heard that they have been breaking into buildings downtown. I have watched 2 trying to break into a building, myself. They took off running when I pulled up. So, you want the residents in a quiet community to allow them to break into their homes, and steal their belongings, and maybe vehicles.. Please, do not tell us that they do not steal..... Why do they have shopping carts from stores?? That is theft, and many have been busy stealing from the stores, and residences in the area where they are currently located.

I have an idea.... Since it seems that you all feel that they are other people's responsibility; why not practice what is being preached?? Instead of pawning them off on other communities; why not take them into your own community?? Let them camp in YOUR Yards. YOUR homes... Or, is it ok to push them off on others, and if they come into your neighborhood, you will call the police on them, like others who have told us that we need to take care of them, have done?? Unless you are willing to house them, yourselves. don't feel that you have the right to push them off onto others.. Are you all afraid that they will break into your own homes?? Is that why it is easier to pawn them off on others?? We know that many of them have broken into businesses downtown. We can see that with all the plywood covered doors. Are you afraid that they will trash up your yard?? Your house?? Like they have trashed up the homeless encampments. I feel that a true homeless person who has respect for others, will not trash up their surroundings; but, those who care less about others will do so.... Those are probably also the same ones who are breaking into buildings downtown. Are you afraid that they might assault you or your family members?? But, it would be ok for them to assault others in a family neighborhood.. That is where I am thinking your thought process is going right now. So, now that you might be thinking. it is time to think of other places that are NOT family neighborhoods. Why not use the old Harrison Hospital to put them in??? It seems the mayor wants high end places there, but, why not house the homeless there instead??? Is it too close to your communities?? There are plenty of abandoned buildings downtown that you could use.

Don't tell me that there is a lack of homes available. Don't tell me that there is a lack of jobs available... Many have been offered transitional housing.... They declined.. Why?? They have to follow rules.. No Drugs... No Alcohol.. They have to give their names... I have heard several responses as to why including the aforementioned. Jobs; why work?? They are owed... I have to work to earn a living, so why not them??? All Responsible People have to work to earn a living... Why not them??? There are plenty of jobs available; they just don't want to apply... It is not the working class responsibility to support them... Maybe, if they learn the hard way, they might actually get a job, and start earning their own keep.

I hate to sound so Harsh; but, it is time that people stop having to be responsible for those who don't want to be responsible for themselves. I have heard and read where many of them said that they are "OWED".. What are

they owed??? A Living?? A House?? Food?? Why not work for all of that?? We are dealing with a large group of people who feel that they are owed; and shouldn't have to do anything to earn what they feel they are owed. We are dealing with criminals who are hiding from the law right in plain sight.. We are dealing with drug addicts who prefer their drugs, rather than earning a living and being responsible. So, why make people who are earning their own living, paying their own bills, and being responsible citizens; be responsible for those who feel they are owed??? It is not fair to them.. It is against their constitutional rights..

Until you take them into your own homes, own yards, then do NOT feel like you have the rights to push them off onto others. The first assault, break in, theft, rape.... I would hope that the neighborhood would Join together, and sue the city of Bremerton for bringing this all to the neighborhood. Remember Home Owners do have rights, too. It seems that you all have forgotten that, except for your own homes... Family Communities have their rights to their peace, and quiet; just like your neighborhoods...

Regards,

A. Hammond

**From:** [Ash Sparks](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding "Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended"  
**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 5:03:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council Members,

As a homeowner in this community, I have concerns about the areas that will be affected with the relocation of homeless encampments. My concerns are the safety of my children, some of these areas contain bus stops, the security of my home, and the loss of my property and property value. While I agree we need a solution, I disagree that this is the solution.

A Concerned Citizen,

Ashley and Tara Sparks

**From:** [Jennifer Chamberlin](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Bremerton's plan for the Homeless  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:51:19 AM

---

---

**From:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 2:13 PM  
**To:** Bill Thoren <billdthoren@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Bremerton's plan for the Homeless

Hello Mr. Thoren,

I'm glad you are reaching out with your concerns. I have copied and pasted my response to another person for you.

I would like to take a moment and dispel some misinformation:

- 1) There are no efforts to "relocate" houseless encampments
- 2) City Council is currently addressing the current unconstitutional camping ordinance but has not voted on it yet
- 3) As it stands because our ordinance is unenforceable. As such, camping is legal in the East Bremerton area and virtually anywhere.
- 4) It is illegal to penalize camping for houseless individuals if no shelter bed is available. In Bremerton we have ZERO shelter beds available until November 1st when Salvation Army reopens for inclement weather. Therefore, council is considering perimeters to comply with the law including spaces to allow camping.

I understand and empathize with your concerns. If you would like to chat with me over the phone I am available for you. Please let me know if you would like to connect.

Jennifer Chamberlin  
Bremerton City Council Vice President  
District 1

---

**From:** Bill Thoren <billdthoren@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 1:22 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Bremerton's plan for the Homeless

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jennifer...My name is Bill Thoren and I have lived at 305 White Pine Drive for 53 years....The proposed plan for the Homeless to let them camp in green spaces will not work...Moving there camps from one place to another is like "Rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic".....The only real answer is permanent and stable housing for those who can pass an intake process....I.e no

outstanding warrants....not mentally ill....and those willing to go to drug and or alcohol treatment.....This will take time and lots of money(as you obviously know)....in the meantime the land around and including Harrison Hospital could be a place for social work intake and short term stay in a facility that was a functioning hospital four years ago....The Green Space behind Sugar Pine Drive has drawbacks including lack of access(have you hiked down in there) for Fire and Police and wild fire danger at this time of the year....also environmental concerns....Thanks for allowing me to share my thoughts.....bt

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Christine B.](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Follow up to HOMELESS CAMPING -Tracyton Watershed area  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 3:30:01 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

9/10/23

City Council,

This letter is a follow-up to my original email.

After thinking about this, you say you are desperately trying to find a solution to our ever-growing homeless problem. And for whatever reason, by potentially pushing the unhoused off in areas like our Tracyton Water-Shed 40 acres, your problems will be solved.

By doing this, you will create more harm than good.

It is evident to many of us that your concerns do not match ours; if they did, you would know that more harm would come to the neighborhoods surrounding this pristine forest in multiple ways.

By pushing forward with this plan, you will affect not only hundreds of families with children that use this area, the wildlife population that depends on this very location for habitat, but you will be hurting the people you think you're helping, the people experiencing homelessness.

For example, a recent homeless encampment fire that took place at Blueberry Park. Aside from that example, we hear about them and see them on the news constantly. What do you think would happen in a natural woodland area that butts up to houses? Where can we go, if lucky enough to survive our homes that burned down? Are we supposed to shelter in the woodland area that would now be ashes???

As the voters, we would hold every one of our representatives responsible. If this forest goes up in flames, none of us have the means to handle any significant fire.

How will the fire department be prepared to deal with this??? Correct me if I am wrong, but wasn't the recent levy to help fund our local fire and police department turned down???

What about the police department? Will they be able to go in and respond to the multiple crimes that will take place? The overdoses that will happen? Sex crimes, break-ins, what about murders??? You know it happens; you can't disregard the truth.

These homeless people rely on services, doctors, soup kitchens, etc. Amenities that they will not have at this location or even close to here. Why would you even consider such a poor choice?

Do people experiencing homelessness know what harm you are about to cause them?

Are they aware that if you move forward with this plan, they will have no help?

This 40-acre parcel is fully wooded, minus a vast and deep ravine; no service, heat, electricity, or water exist here.

Here is a better alternative. Why not use large pop-up tents on unused city property?

I am sure there is plenty of unused property in Bremerton.

For one, people experiencing homelessness are within range of the needed or required services. Second, large tents with cots are accessible and serviceable, keeping bed bugs at bay. This is an easier way to offer safety to everyone involved. Third, The fire department, police, and paramedics can successfully go in and take care of any issues that will arise without any problems doing so.

Homelessness is not just a local emergency but a national emergency as well. Why can't you utilize disaster relief tents and services to help care for these people???

As a registered voter, I am requesting all city council, including my representative Jennifer Chamberlin, to oppose this!!!

Sincerely,  
District 1 Voter,  
Christine Brandau

**From:** Cristina Roark <[cristina.roark@gmail.com](mailto:cristina.roark@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:09 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Bremerton City Council - encampments

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilperson Chamberlin,

Now that the maps have been shared, **I am receiving a few inquiries on whether a town hall format will be made available** before a decision is made so that citizens and agencies whose voices weren't represented at Wednesday's Council meeting have a chance to be represented.

Let me know if there is information that will be made available re: a town hall? If not, where can I direct these individuals to voice ideas and concerns? Should they just be emailed to you? and by when should they be emailed to ensure the council's time & consideration?

I work, but do not live, in Bremerton. This is a challenging and complex social issue and we do not have time. I cannot view the full research report, but I ask that Bremerton learn from local experience with unhoused and encampments, i.e., reach out to Port Orchard, the County, and the community leaders who are closest to meeting the needs of people in the encampments and deeply understand what are the barriers to system implementation.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371249555\\_From\\_a\\_Criminal\\_to\\_a\\_Human-Rights\\_Issue\\_Re-Imagining\\_Policy\\_Solutions\\_to\\_Homelessness](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371249555_From_a_Criminal_to_a_Human-Rights_Issue_Re-Imagining_Policy_Solutions_to_Homelessness)

Thanks,  
Cristina

Sent from my iPhone



## Kitsap County Department of Human Services Housing and Homelessness Division

<https://kcowa.us/housing>

# HEART Program 2022 Year End Review

The HEART (Homeless Encampment Action Response and Transitions) Program was launched in April 2022. The program is designed to ensure that the county government has a consistent, coordinated, and compassionate response to unauthorized homeless encampments on Kitsap County property. The HEART Program's goal is to lead with compassion, and to provide a person-centered approach by focusing on connecting individuals with resources while mitigating the impacts of unauthorized encampments on our community. This document is a summary of the program's work through the end of 2022.

### **Development of the HEART Program**

The HEART Program is governed by the Unauthorized Encampment Response Policy on County Property, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in November 2021. The policy provides clear, consistent, and uniform guidelines regarding responses to encampments on Kitsap County property. The policy outlines the role of a full-time position, the HEART Coordinator, to implement the policy and coordinate the county's response across departments and community partner organizations, working with a HEART Advisory Group. The HEART Coordinator was hired in April 2022. Since that time, the program has:

- Implemented the Unauthorized Encampments on County Property Policy
- Convened and facilitated the HEART Advisory Group, as called out in the Policy
  - HEART Advisory Group is made up of representatives of county departments and community partners that are affected by, or work with, encampments
  - HEART Advisory Group met twice monthly from April – December of 2022.
  - HEART Advisory Group advises on prioritization of encampment responses, development of Encampment Response Plans, and coordination of encampment response activities and services
- Developed notices and forms for encampment response, with the county Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Met with county leadership to brief them and receive input on the first few encampment responses

### **HEART Outreach Team**

Kitsap County is also funding a dedicated encampment outreach team through a contract with Kitsap Community Resources' Housing Solutions Center program. The HEART Outreach Team is a two-person team, whose role is to connect those experiencing homelessness in encampments with services through the county's housing coordinated entry program, the Housing Solutions Center (HSC). The HSC provides intake, assessment, vulnerability scoring, and referrals to shelter and housing programs. During 2022, the HEART Outreach Team worked with the HEART Program Coordinator:

- 141 visits during May – December to 27 reported encampments on County property and rights-of-way
- 155 Housing Solutions Center Applications were completed by encampment campers
- 37 people were referred into the KCR Quality Inn Shelter with Case Management program
- Nine people enrolled into the Kitsap Rescue Mission Shelter program
- Three people enrolled into the Benedict House Shelter program
- 17 people enrolled in the Emergency Motel Program (EMP), and temporarily housed into other area hotels

- One person was referred into Pendleton Place
- Two people were referred into St. Vincent de Paul's Women's Shelter
- 16 people who were initially contacted in an encampment by the HEART Program transitioned from a shelter program to signed leases on their own homes
- Four 911 calls were made to assist people in encampments due to emergency situations
- Two people were taken to St. Michael Medical Center for emergent health services
- 16 people were connected with the R.E.A.L. team for mental health and substance use resources

### **Encampment Response Plans**

The HEART Program worked to monitor and respond to many encampments on county property:

- Responded to six of the most impactful encampments on county property or rights-of-way by developing Encampment Response Plans and working with community partners to close the encampments and contract for clean-up of the sites.
- Arranged and contracted for clean-up of four abandoned encampments on county property.
- Worked with the City of Port Orchard, Department of Natural Resources, the City of Poulsbo, Greater Peninsula Conservancy, Clear Creek Taskforce, Kitsap Realty Association, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Kitsap Housing Authority in efforts to clean up encampments.
- Facilitated over 22 tons of refuse being cleaned up from encampments, thorough partnership with Kitsap County Solid Waste Division.

### **State Services Referrals**

The HEART Coordinator and Outreach Team also works to connect people living in encampments with other state resources:

- 11 referrals to Adult Protective Services
- Three referrals to Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Seven referrals for state services for food assistance

### **SeeClickFix and Kitsap1 Community Complaints**

SeeClickFix is an online reporting tool for Kitsap County community members, which allows reports to be made to the HEART Program, tracking reporters' interactions, feedback, and progress.

- HEART Program began receiving reports via SeeClickFix in November 2022.
- Responded with emails and calls to citizens in response to 44 reports of encampment activities since its launch.
- Closed 17 SeeClickFix referrals

Kitsap County also uses an information clearinghouse, Kitsap1, to answer community questions and take complaints via telephone and email. Questions and complaints about encampments are also routed to the HEART Program for response.

- Responded to 54 inquires, questions, and complaints about encampments through Kitsap1 between April and December 2022.
- Developed a handout for the public on Reporting Encampments.

### **Community Engagement**

There is high community interest in encampments and the county's response to them. The HEART Program has worked to educate the community about the program.

- Developed a Kitsap County webpage about the HEART program: <https://kcowa.us/HEART>
- Participated in 11 community engagement events, speaking with community members and specific neighborhoods regarding encampments and the HEART Program

## Before and After photographs

Below are some examples of encampments that the HEART Team was able to address during 2022.

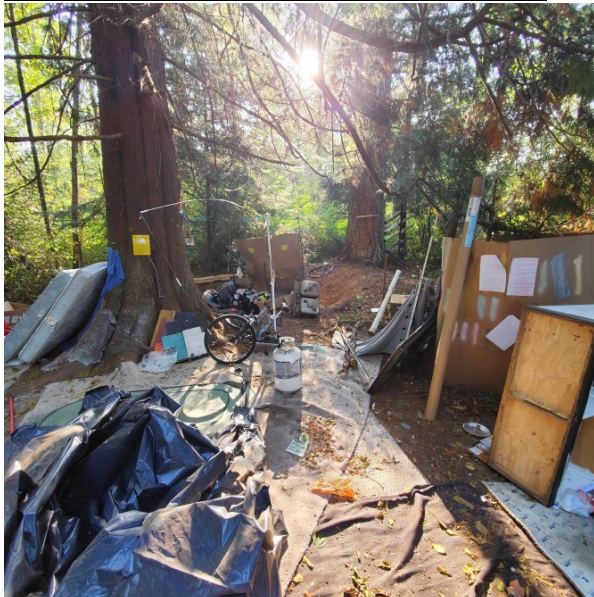
### Silverdale RV and Tent Encampment



### Veteran's Memorial Park Encampments



### Clear Creek Trail Sasquatch Encampment



**From:** [DAN Breckel](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Pinewood homeless camp  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 12:03:30 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

NO WAY ! FOR MY VOTE.  
I GREW UP IN THAT AREA AND TOOK SWIMMING LESSONS THERE.  
PEOPLE WHO STILL LIVE THERE WORK HARD TO KEEP UP ON THEIR HOMES.  
IT SHOULD BE NO WHERE IN EAST BREMERTON.GORST AWAY FROM  
HOMES. JAMIE BRECKEL  
P.S. BORN AND RAISED IN EAST BREMERTON / STILL CLOSE TO AREA.

**From:** [Daniel Whinery](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Please reconsider/reject Ordinance 5482  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 6:58:44 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

My name is Daniel Whinery, and I live in Bremerton off of Cottman Ave. It was brought to my attention by a fellow neighbor that an ordinance is being proposed (5482) to kick the homeless out of downtown Bremerton, and specific areas are being designated as alternative locations, many of these in neighborhoods such as mine.

While everybody can agree that the homeless situation is getting dire in Bremerton, I feel this is a short sighted and unfair solution. These homeless camps are more than just an eyesore, but also an invitation to drugs, violence, fires, and a plethora of other issues. To move these from a wide open and centralized location, such as downtown Bremerton, into our neighborhoods and homes, is the equivalent of brushing a problem under a rug, regardless of the potential damage it may cause.

I am a father of two young children, and my story is just one of many. At times, Bremerton is a scary place to raise children anyways, and approving this ordinance only moves the potential danger closer to our backyards.

I by no means mean to vilify the homeless in our community. I completely understand that most homeless people are simply down on their luck, and I truly support any effort to help them stabilize and rehabilitate. That being said, the unfortunate end result of this homeless epidemic has statistically shown a rise in drugs, violence, and hazard.

I strongly reject this Ordinance, and I am frustrated that we only heard about this by word of mouth, and not by the city council themselves, given how much this affects us. Please consider the communities that will be negatively affected by this ordinance, and consider a less myopic and damaging solution.

Thank you,

Daniel Whinery



**From:** Michele Knauss <[mcknauss@gmail.com](mailto:mcknauss@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 8:23 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Cc:** Del Knauss <[daknauss@comcast.net](mailto:daknauss@comcast.net)>

**Subject:** Proposed ordinance that will allow Homeless encampments on Bremerton city owned property located in residential areas.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are writing this in response to a proposal before the City Council that will allow homeless encampments to be established on designated city parcels in my neighborhood. We have lived in our current house on the 100 block of Olympic Avenue for 40 years. In that time, we have dealt with homeless sleeping in the areas currently proposed for camping and within a 5-block radius where cover could be found. We experienced people coming onto our property at all hours of the day and night, and trash being left in the area along with used needles. We did not feel safe in our own neighborhood. It took a lot of work on the part of the neighborhood to get those areas cleaned up and the homeless issue resolved. We still occasionally deal with issues, but we've seen much improvement. This proposal will invite issues that we worked hard to address back into our neighborhood and will not address the heart of the issue of homelessness.

We have concerns regarding safety. Our residence is located between Burwell and the Shipyard fence line and Montgomery and Naval Avenue Gates. We not only have small children in our neighborhood who walk to Naval Avenue School, but also many Shipyard employees who walk along Burwell and through our neighborhood to get to work. As someone who works on Naval Base Kitsap, I am aware of the problems Shipyard workers have experienced walking in the downtown core area to the gates. Employees are followed and harassed by homeless people on a regular basis. I have co-workers who have been frightened as they walk to work. After a recent sexual assault in the downtown area, a phone was installed at the Burwell tunnel by NBK for employee use to call 911. I have also experienced several incidents in which I have been approached by individuals acting in an aggressive nature towards me while visiting businesses downtown. Furthermore, residential areas are not set up to accommodate camping. We are not campgrounds set up with restrooms and trash service.

We are concerned about our community appearance. Burwell Street and Charleston (304) are state routes and are gateways into Bremerton and Naval Base Kitsap. Allowing camping along these streets does nothing for the City of Bremerton, much less the neighborhood and property values. We question whether the areas along these routes (particularly Burwell) are even owned by the city. As a state route, one would assume they are state right of ways. If so, has the State been notified of your intentions. There are many areas in the city you have identified that don't impact residential areas such as the area around Harrison Hospital. The old hospital has empty parking lots that would afford cover and make setting up sanitation stations easy.

This plan to move homeless individuals into residential areas is completely unacceptable and ludicrous. The issue of housing homeless individuals needs to be addressed not just moved from one area to another. We hope that you take our concerns and the concerns of city residents seriously, but I will also be contacting Congressman Kilmer and Washington State to express my concern.

Sincerely,

Del & Michele Knauss  
139 Olympic Avenue  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
(360) 377-4425

**From:** [Haley Haas](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** NO to vacant land proposal  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 10:03:51 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I can appreciate your efforts to clean up Bremerton however; opening up vacant land that is surrounded by neighborhoods is NOT THE SOLUTION. If the city is to approve this, it will bring more crime into the area. I will personally spearhead an effort to keep track of the devaluing of our homes and crimes that occur for purpose of a class action lawsuit against the city. You are hurting Bremerton residents to help homeless people.

I get it, they need somewhere to go but, they will not just stay there during times beds are full at shelters. They will make permanent structures. It will become a much larger problem and costly to the city. This vacant land you propose behind Pine Road is surrounded by a huge neighborhood that the transients will use to travel through.

Every street corner and where I shop is surrounded by homeless people. I have come to accept that but, at least when I go home I have some respite.

You are cleaning up a sidewalk but bringing them to our doorstep.

Sincerely,

Haley Haas  
310 Pinewood drive  
360-286-6951

**From:** [Connie Burghart](#)  
**To:** [Kylie Finnell](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Zone 3 – West Bremerton Camping Ordinance Map, Lakehurst Drive Property  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 2:18:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [Lakehurst - 1322 Critical area notices.pdf](#)  
[Lakehurst - Wetland edges.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

September 11, 2023

**RE: Zone 3 – West Bremerton Camping Ordinance Map, Lakehurst Drive Property**

Dear Attorney Finnell,

Our property, 1322 Lakehurst Drive, is adjacent to the City's property being proposed as an area to allow camping under Ordinance 5482. It is our understanding that this property is actually a designated Wetland Area. This information can be verified by city records, Assessor's tax number: 172401-1-005-2000. As you will see, part of our property is in the buffer zone of said Wetlands. For your convenience, we have attached our records.

Given this information, is it the city's intention to allow camping in this area? It is our hope that all Wetland designated lands would be protected under the *Unauthorized Camping* ordinance.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
Jay and Connie Burghart

Filed for Record at the Request of:

When Recorded, Return to:  
City of Bremerton  
Dept. of Community Development  
286 Fourth Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337



BREMERTON CITY OF

NOTICE #19.00

200404190279

Page: 1 of 1  
04/19/2004 02:22P  
Kitsap Co, WA

**NOTICE**

**PROPERTY OWNER: HAMILTON SHAIN T AND JAYMIE A**

**ASSIGNEE: BREMERTON, CITY OF**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SE ¼ NE ¼ SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 01 E (Add'l Legal on Page 1)**

**ASSESSOR'S PROPERTY TAX ACCOUNT NUMBER: 172401-1-055-2000**

**NOTICE**

**March 31, 2004**

This certifies that the property identified by assessor's account number 172401-1-055-2000, Bremerton, Kitsap County, Washington, described as NEW PARCEL B OF DECLARATION OF PARTITION RECORDED UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 9607110131; THAT PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOT 5, SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, W.M., KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT N2°00'44 E 499.76 FEET, N89°26'12 W 41.18 FEET, N13°03'W 205.76 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 5, SAID POINT BEING THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE N89°26'12 W 881.10 FEET; THENCE N1°50'30 E 100.00 FEET; THENCE S89°32'19 E 842.41 FEET; THENCE S25°44'E 54.25 FEET; THENCE S13°03'E 52.82 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; EXCEPT ROAD; EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE N13°03'W 52.82 FEET; THENCE N25°44'W 54.25 FEET; THENCE N89°32'19 W 290.00 FEET; THENCE S1°50'30 W 100.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT WHICH BEARS N89°26'12 W FROM THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S89°26'12 E TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING contains a Type II wetland and its associated buffer. Undisturbed portions of the wetland shall remain undisturbed permanently. The mitigation and monitoring plans on file with the City of Bremerton Department of Community Development shall be completed by December 31, 2004. No building may occur on site that is not consistent with the wetland permit and restrictions. The owners of the parcel, Shain and Jaymie Hamilton, have been notified.

**CERTIFYING OFFICIAL**

*Chris Hugo* 4/5/04  
Chris Hugo, Director DATE  
City of Bremerton

When Recording Return To:

City Clerk  
City of Bremerton  
345 Sixth Street, Suite 600  
Bremerton, WA 98337

CAROL ROGERS 200703050191  
Notice Rec Fee: \$ 34.00  
03/06/2007 11:05 AM  
Karen Flynn, Kitsap Co Auditor

Page: 1 of 3

**CRITICAL AREAS  
NOTICE TO TITLE  
WETLANDS**

**DATE:** March 6, 2007

**GRANTOR:** Carol Sue Rogers

**GRANTEE:** City of Bremerton

**ADDRESS:** 1322 Lakehurst Drive

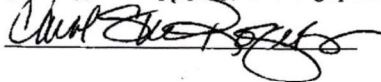
**ASSESSOR'S TAX NUMBER:** 172401-1-055-2000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NEW PARCEL B OF DECLARATION OF PARTITION RECORDED UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 9607110131; THAT PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOT 5, SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, W.M., KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT N2\*00'44 E 499.76 FEET, N89\*26'12 W 41.18 FEET, N13\*03'W 205.76 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 5, SAID POINT BEING THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE N89\*26'12 W 881.10 FEET; THENCE N1\*50'30 E 100.00 FEET; THENCE S89\*32'19 E 842.41 FEET; THENCE S25\*44'E 54.25 FEET; THENCE S13\*03'E 52.82 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; EXCEPT ROAD; EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE N13\*03'W 52.82 FEET; THENCE N25\*44'W 54.25 FEET; THENCE N89\*32'19 W 290.00 FEET; THENCE S1\*50'30 W 100.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT WHICH BEARS N89\*26'12 W FROM THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S89\*26'12 E TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

This Critical Areas Notice to Title shall serve as official notice to the title of the presence of an Environmentally Critical Area on "the property" as described in Exhibit A attached hereto, and this document is a perpetual covenant running with the "property" and is binding upon the Grantor's/Declarant's successor and assigns.

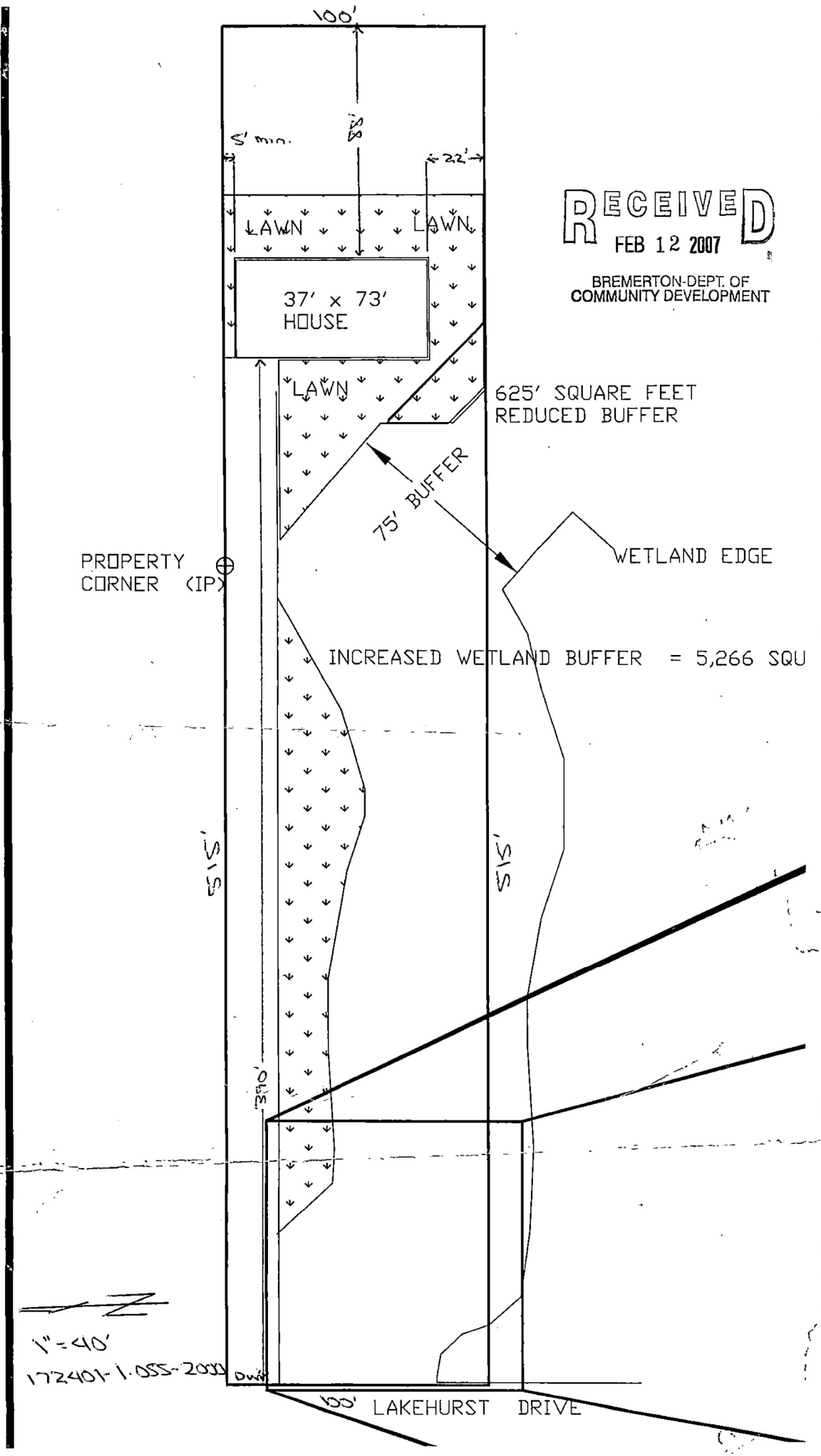
DATED at Bremerton, Kitsap County, Washington, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007.

GRANTOR/DECLARANT:  
(Owner(s) of real property, including spouse)



RECEIVED  
FEB 12 2007

BREMERTON-DEPT. OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**From:** [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)  
**To:** [jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampment - Ordinance No. 5482  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 8:16:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[Ordinance No. 5482.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, Neighbors.

This email is a follow up on the door-to-door campaign I began in our neighborhood on Friday. Most of its content is printed out in a handout I delivered to some of you, as well as the homes vacant upon my visit. I have blind CC'd the 28 households to which I have spoken, all of which have expressed support of strong opposition to Ordinance 5482. If you have questions or would like something disseminated to the group, please reply feel free to contact me via email or phone.

It is crucial that all of us are proactive in asserting our rights as taxpaying citizens of Bremerton with the City Council.

The Bremerton City Council is voting to allow Homeless Encampments in the green areas identified on the map below on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Building in Downtown Bremerton. If they vote to implement this ordinance, it will go in effect ten days later, or on September 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year.

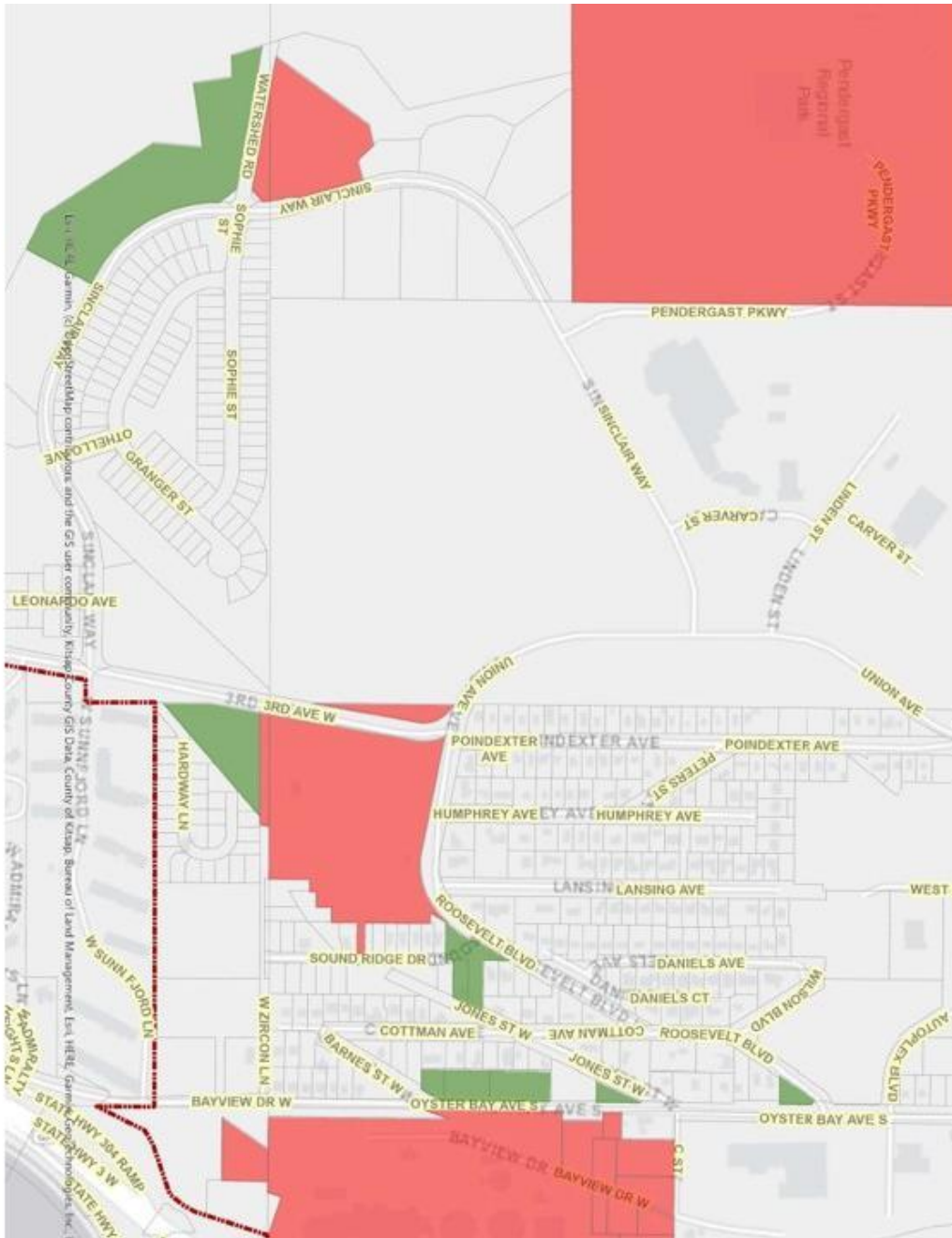
On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> the Bremerton City Council proposed Ordinance No. 5482 that would disallow homeless encampments throughout most of Bremerton in exchange for notifying them of city-owned locations on which they *will* be allowed to camp. Some of these locations are areas, identified as "Camping Ordinance Enforcement Suspended," on the areas located in green on the attached map. Note: the triangular area between Oyster Bay Ave. S and Roosevelt Blvd. is a public and school bus stop. It would likewise behoove the City to also note that the very narrow stretch of road that is Oyster Bay adjacent to the non-enforced area is frequently sped through without any sidewalk or easement between said road and proposed camping area.

This means that the homeless encampments, such as those near downtown Bremerton (e.g. the one on Broadway behind Burger King and MLK Way) will be told to vacate and fined unless they do so. Your property taxes (in the form of higher rent if you are renting) will now go toward paying for them to be instructed to camp next door to you.

I have attached a copy of the proposed Ordinance No. 5482 which includes the full maps of the soon to be unenforced camping areas. In the maps you will see that in addition to the areas directly adjacent to us, there will be a larger encampment area on the other side of Hwy 3 on Oyster Bay Ave.

You can email Bremerton City Council with your feedback at [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

They already accepted public comment on this and will be putting it to vote in the next Study Session (not open to public comment) this Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. People showing support by attending and expressing their concerns would help as well emailing them and the mayor.



I am truly sorry to bear this news, but your action is required.

Sincere Regards,

Jeremy McGinnis  
1673 Bayview Dr. W  
(360) 536-1282  
[jeremymcg76@gmail.com](mailto:jeremymcg76@gmail.com)



**From:** lashante torrence <[lashantetorrence@gmail.com](mailto:lashantetorrence@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Encampment concerns/solutions

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

It has come to my attention by one of my concerned neighbors that one of the largest encampment locations is right in our backyard. I'm located on Monticola Drive, I have lived here for 11 years. I live with my husband who serves in the US Navy in my lovely home and enjoy raising my three kids here in such a quiet and peaceful neighborhood. My neighbors on ridgetop court and sugar pine drive are going to be immediately impacted by the city's decision to have an encampment right behind them. My concern is for all members of this community including myself and my family to feel safe in our neighborhood. Our unhoused neighbors are a concern of mine as well. My immediate concerns are boundary issues within the zone of encampment and neighborhood property lines. Some of my neighbors don't have a fence up. I believe it would be in good interest of the city of Bremerton to provide a proactive solution which is to assist with fencing for those neighbors who are going to be directly impacted by the encampment. This solution will provide a small sense of security for the housed neighbors while establishing a clear; visible line of boundary to reduce any confusion for the unhoused neighbors. This will reduce immediate issues of possible friction between neighbors. Also, once the unhoused neighbors come and settle into the encampment, are there going to be sanitation services provided? I would love to know what ideas you have that will be implemented in order to keep both unhoused and housed neighbors safe. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, LaShante' Torrence  
[lashantetorrence@gmail.com](mailto:lashantetorrence@gmail.com)  
Cell #: 360-551-7418  
Skookum Contract Services:  
Work #: 360-475-0756

**From:** [Lindsey Bustamante](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Bill 6B, Ordinance No. 5482 Titled "Unauthorized Camping"  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 6:45:35 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lindsey Bustamante  
275 Sugar Pine Drive  
Bremerton, WA 98310  
September 11, 2023

Bremerton City Council  
Norm Dicks Government Center, 345 6th St #600, Bremerton, WA 98337

To the Bremerton City Council,

I am writing this email to you today with regards to the ordinance no. 5482 and what this could mean for our communities.

I am a wife and a mother of two young children ages 4 and 6. My first concern is that of their safety. The same safety that is promised to our community by our city council.

One of the sites proposed for homeless encampment use mentions the 40 acre forest. This forest borders the homes of many families as well as the Bremerton Watershed, Elks Lodge, and Holy Trinity Church. To allow this would result in an increase of crime that we would not recover from as a community, all the awhile not truly helping the substance abuse addicts or mentally ill.

Furthermore, the carelessness of this plan will have devastating consequences for all involved. We have all seen the fires, hard drug use, theft, and deaths in homeless encampments in other cities. The city of Bremerton's hard-working citizens and homeless deserve better than this.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Bustamante  
(360)536-3985

**From:** [Lynsey Poore](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Neighborhood Homeless Encampment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 9:54:54 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

It is from my understanding that the woods in my neighborhood, Tracyton Place, have been listed as a potential spot to be used as a new homeless encampment. This is a safety hazard not only for my family but the many families in our neighborhood. The homelessness in the area is an epidemic and does need to be solved but putting an encampment site in a neighborhood with families is not the right decision. Not only will this affect the property values of my home but the homes in our neighborhood. This has the potential to bring people with serious mental health issues, drugs, and crime into our small neighborhood. Having this area as a potential site can also cause an excess amount of traffic, police, and emergency service activity where we live.

Please take time to reconsider this area as a potential site.

Thank you for your time,  
Lynsey Poore

**From:** Ms. Craig <[maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org](mailto:maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 4:46 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Bremerton :(

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

What I saw literally took the wind from my body. I have lived and worked as a teacher in this city for 29 years...it broke my heart. What about the property owners rights Greg?

Who owns the old Berg's property where Pearls was? Put the tents there maybe.....we can't tolerate this in our city.

---

**From:** Ms. Craig <[maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org](mailto:maryanne.craig@bremertonschools.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:52 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Bremerton :(

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Just drove on 7th and park... OMGOD, also the whole block by old bank...now Starbucks is all tents! Right in front of those poor peoples homes! Why is this being tolerated? I am in total shock.

**From:** [Michelle Rudney](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance No. 5482  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 3:03:13 PM

---

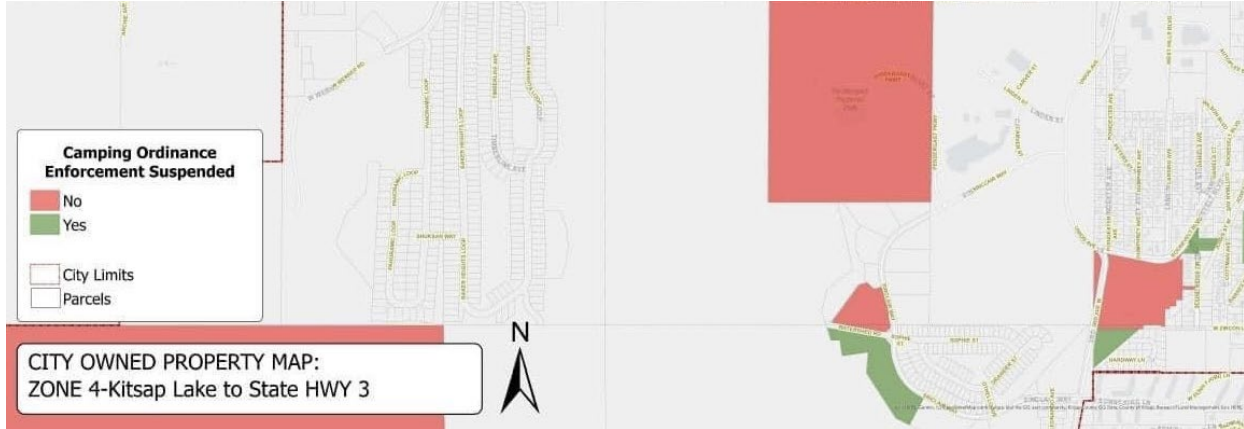
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing regarding my concerns on the green areas they may be approved for non-enforcement areas. I live in the newly development community the reserves at west hills, which has 2 green areas adjacent to the neighborhood.

We have many young kids living in this neighborhood, many who walk to and from the bus stop for school. We have a park in the center of our community where currently parents and kids feel comfortable allowing the kids to play openly. We already have had issues in the neighborhood such as theft, trash and feces on our sidewalks and yards that aren't from the neighbors, and random people coming up to houses through backyards. We have cars that already park on Sinclair street for hours/days at a time, blocking the road and forcing normal traffic to drive in the oncoming traffic lane. I have a strong concern and opposition to allowing homeless camps so close to these housing areas, especially where there are young kids. Additionally, this is not an area where resources are easily accessed for those that are experiencing homelessness, and I worry that will mean turning to the nearby neighborhoods to try to access resources.

This is a newly developed neighborhood that we hoped would help bring further development to Bremerton and attract more to move to this area. Allowing homeless camps right next to these neighborhoods will deter people from moving here and will be the opposite of helping this area of the city expand.



Thanks,  
Michelle Rudney-Ellis

**From:** [Mike](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** BMC 9.32  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 11:50:21 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Bremerton City Council,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed authorized encampment area being considered at the Tracyton watershed area. My home and neighborhood is in very close proximity to this area and I can guarantee our neighborhood would be the access point for the homeless and the crime wave that follows. I can guarantee with absolute certainty that allowing an encampment to be established in this area would come with extremely negative consequences for the very community you've sworn to serve. Our neighborhoods are filled with honest people, hardworking, military, vets, community workers, shipyard workers, tax payers, all people who rely on you to make the right decisions for their community. Allowing the homeless into these communities and backyards of these people would be extremely irresponsible as this unfortunate situation would fall on the laps of these residents.

I understand that you must make a decision to accommodate unhoused individuals so that certain codes may be enforced, but the Tracyton watershed is not ideal for what is needed for these individuals. The terrain is treacherous, making it inaccessible for services, vehicles, RV's, and this would eventually overflow into the neighborhoods. Additionally, shunning away individuals to the woods to remain out of sight and out of mind would only exacerbate an already dire situation where the unhoused could be in crisis. Should someone have a medical emergency, a 40 acre parcel is too large a space for emergency services to respond within a timely manner. Although having an encampment in an open space becomes an eyesore, maintaining oversight and being in close proximity to resources and services is crucial to the very individuals you are looking to accommodate. The unhoused have chosen to remain on Dr. MLK way in downtown because of the close proximity to resources and services provided in that area.

I do not wish to add to the immense workload you currently face but I highly encourage you to remove the Tracyton watershed area from the list of considered parcels for authorized encampments. The inaccessibility of the area would continue to create challenges for residents, unhoused, and the environmental impacts alone could have drastically negative effects.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

A concerned resident,

**From:** Nancy Lucero <[nlucero1313@gmail.com](mailto:nlucero1313@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 10:38 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Pinewood Community Homeless Encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Chamberlin,

I am a resident of the Pinewood Community. I was very disconcerted to hear that the Bremerton City Council is contemplating allowing a homeless encampment on the 40-acre lot at the end of Sugar Pine Drive. I have not seen any estimations of the number of people who will be allowed to utilize this area for the encampment. Is the City Council anticipating 100 people? 1000 people? 10,000 people? I do not know if an environmental impact study has or will be performed on this parcel. I have a degree in Civil Engineering and, in my estimation, the damage that untreated human waste, leaky vehicles and mounds of garbage in a homeless encampment on a parcel of that size will have horrendous consequences on the environmental balance to the ecosystem including the groundwater, watershed, vegetation and animals. I have observed the very small encampment in front of the Dollar Tree store on Wheaton Way. In the past month I have seen what look like attempts to clean the significant amount of garbage that has been generated on that tiny piece of land and yet there is still a tremendous amount of trash on the east side of the ditch heading back toward the store. I believe the rat population, which is currently not insignificant throughout Bremerton, will explode under these unsanitary conditions as has been the case in New York City and San Francisco.

In the past year or so I have witnessed several alarming occurrences between NE Fairgrounds Road to Sheridan Road along Wheaton Way as more and more homeless people have made their way over the Warren Avenue Bridge and into east Bremerton. These include:

- Incidences of public urination (near the Department of Licensing (DOL) office on NE Riddell Road, on the building near the Goodwill collection center)
- Drug use and suspected drug users (post office building on Sylvan Way, Fred Meyer parking lot, near the Goodwill)
- Sexual act being performed in a car that I suspect was an act of prostitution (Fred Meyer parking lot near the gasoline pumps)
- Several people (on different occasions) staggering into oncoming traffic along SR 303 between NE McWilliams Road and NE Fairgrounds Road
- Distant gunshots almost daily at all hours

I understand that we, as a community, want to be compassionate to these wretched souls. Unfortunately, I have first-hand knowledge of how feelings of guilt and empathy exacerbate rather than help a loved one with substance abuse issues. Enabling the destructive behavior to continue unabated is not an act of kindness to the troubled individual; it is an act of cruelty. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to say, "No, I will not aid you in this destructive behavior." I feel the City Council is only addressing the effect (homelessness) rather than the cause (substance abuse, mental illness, life choices) of the problem facing our city today. Bremerton does not possess adequate infrastructure, security resources, medical facilities, drug treatment programs, mental health workers or financial resources to abate what the revocation of Ordinance No. 5482 will bring to our community.

I am concerned that crime and violence will be brought into established neighborhoods as an influx of homeless people wander through on their way to an encampment. I invite you to take a look at an article that shows the impact a homeless encampment has had on the Seven Hills Park in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood: [mynorthwest.com/3350749/](http://mynorthwest.com/3350749/). There is a very interesting documentary produced by Eric Johnson of Seattle's KOMO News that is worth viewing as well: *Seattle is Dying*.

In the City Council's quest to try to put a Band-Aid on a problem that is more than a small wound, I wonder if each City Council member has taken the health, safety and property values of the tax paying homeowners into consideration. If property values decline, property tax revenue will also decline. Small businesses and even bigger chain stores will leave if shrinkage (theft) continues to increase and safety decreases further. Last week I saw the boarded up windows of the T-Mobile store and one window on the Rent-a-Center storefront (in the Petco strip mall) where I assume merchandise was stolen. I was in Fred Meyer on Saturday, where I no longer shop alone due to safety concerns in the parking lot and around the store itself, where I saw a placard advertising for loss abatement job applicants. What a shame it will be if the tax base dries up and Bremerton loses all of the positive progress that has been made in the past few years to make this a nice place to live and work. Is that the legacy for which Mayor Wheeler and the City Council want to be remembered? I hope not.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Lucero  
3611 Jack Pine Drive  
Bremerton, WA 98310



**From:** [Paul Cooney](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Please Remove 40-Acre Parcel from Ordinance No. 5482 to update BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping"  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 4:17:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler & Council Members,

My wife and I have reviewed Ordinance No. 5482 to update BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping" and found it very alarming.

After reviewing the City Owned Property Maps, we are greatly concerned that the 40-acre parcel (# 022401-2-003-2008) that surrounds the water system (Parcel # 022401-2-017-2002) is not fit for camping due to the following reasons:

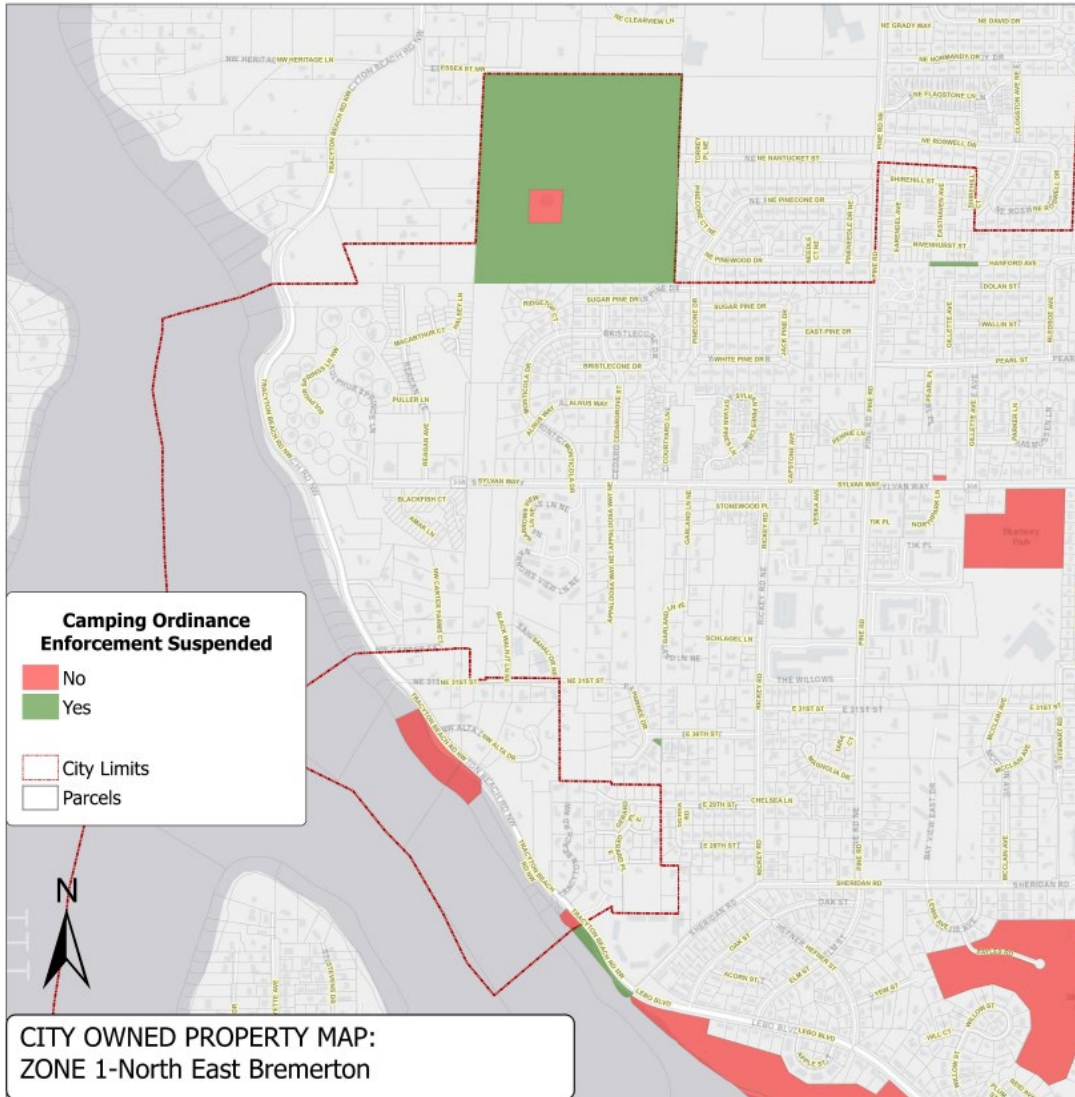
1. This area was seemingly selected without regard to environmental impact. It provides a habitat for numerous animals and plant life. It also contains at least one creek that likely feeds into our waterways. Litter, human waste, and other substances are a threat to this habitat and the surrounding environment. There are no public restrooms close to this area.
2. This area is vulnerable to fire, especially in the summer. This is a threat to the public property of the forest itself, especially to people staying in the forest, surrounding private property, and the water system infrastructure. The temptation to start fire for warmth will increase the risk to the public. Is the fire department prepared for extinguishing a fire of this magnitude?
3. The forest is a low visibility, low-light area.
  - a. I doubt this is the case, but this decision makes it seem like the city intends to move unsheltered people to hide them in this forest. It will be perceived poorly.
  - b. If crimes are committed by or against anyone camping in these woods, it is much easier for them to hide the criminal activities and evade law enforcement.
4. Some of the individuals that camp within the city are known to be violent, mentally ill, and/or vulnerable. The forest is not a more secure or safer place for people under these circumstances to be camping. It will be worse for them. We fear that those that suffer from addiction will be preyed upon more easily by those selling illicit substances.
5. Limited access to this area will increase trespassing on private property.
6. The surrounding neighborhoods will be vulnerable to any crime that occurs. Currently, elderly people enjoy walking in these neighborhoods. Nearby children enjoy playing in their back yards and can safely walk to and from their school bus stops.
7. If large parcels of land like this are provided for unrestricted camping, it will encourage more unsheltered people from larger cities to move into them. Bremerton is struggling to handle the impact of the current population of people camping within the city and is certainly not able to handle a larger population. A larger population will only amplify the concerns mentioned above.

Please remove this area from the camping ordinance enforcement suspension.

We have read the ordinance, and do not envy the challenges that those in leadership are having to face. My wife and I will increase our support of charities that aim to relieve unsheltered people of their burdens and encourage others to do so as well.

Respectfully,

Paul & Christine Cooney



**From:** [edpine@comcast.net](mailto:edpine@comcast.net)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** homeless encampment  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 2:31:28 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose the homeless encampment on 40 acres of land in East Bremerton Sugar Pine Drive.

We are a quiet neighborhood and we worked very hard to upkeep our home for over thirty years. Our value of the homes will go down, fires could be started and spread to the homes, bathroom problems and drugs will hurt the sewer systems here, more vandalism and major crimes will occur, etc.

I realize you want to clean up downtown and the city, but this encampment is not a solution. We would feel unsafe and uneasy should this occur.

Please vote NO and find another solution. Mayor and City Council you would not like this to happen in your backyards for your families and grandkids.

This decision would destroy our neighborhood making our homes to be unable to sell should we decide to leave our once quiet crime free neighborhood. Who would want to move into a neighborhood that has a homeless encampment nearby?

The fire dept and rescue would not be able to get in and help the homeless should they need help.

Lastly, our deer and animals would not have a home. / Respectfully –  
Paula Heisel

**From:** [Rebecca](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 3:19:13 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Who can we contact about the purposed  
Homeless camping on and around Kitsap Lake.  
I live here and am very unhappy ... we've put slot into our neighborhood and getting the kale cleaned up .. Do not  
lite this happen ever to such a nice place.  
This is wrong and will be a big safety issue in many ways!!!  
Thank you for you help in this matter .

Sincerely  
Rebecca O'Neill  
2069621169

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [R&B Richardson](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Perl's ballroom property for homeless encampment  
**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 5:06:56 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Realizing that there is an increasing problem with homelessness in Bremerton, and at the same time there are many blighted, unused properties in the city, would the former site of Perl's Ballroom, on Arsenal Ave, be a possibility?

It's out of the way, and could be less of an eyesore than some more populated areas. At a quick glance it strikes me as perhaps big enough to set up tents, temporary hygiene stations, and perhaps some social and food services.

Just throwing the idea out there - I have no idea of current ownership or complications.

Thank you -  
Robin Richardson  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** STEVEN GREEN <[sslgrn@msn.com](mailto:sslgrn@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 8:27 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Encampments

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greg,

I have serious concerns regarding the 40-acre wooded site west of Pine Road being considered as an encampment site. Our quiet Ridgetop Ct cul-de-sac abuts the western edge of that site. My neighbors and I have great concerns about health and safety issues that an encampment could cause. I'll be at the Sept 13 council meeting.

Steve  
Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Tom Allen](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Bremerton's Homeless Citizens  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 7:58:32 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'd like to congratulate the esteemed council members on the decision they made to fix the downtown's issue with our homeless citizens. Not very original, but out of sight, out of mind, problem solved. I don't know if any of our council members have ever visited the area they plan on moving our homeless to (wooded area between Sylvan and Riddell, Pine and Tracyton Beach Rd), but it has very limited "public" access, rugged terrain and as far as I know no clean water sources or "bathroom" facilities, but it does have lots of mosquitos. I assume fresh water will be provided by the city or are our homeless citizens supposed to beg, borrow, or "acquire" it from their new neighbors. Will Porta Potty's be provided or are our new neighbors supposed to go in the woods, you know, like a bear?

A great solution, the number of homeless should start to decline right away since emergency services will be unable to reach the victims of drug overdoses, stabbings and beatings. And lets not forget fires, though I will be sad to lose the trees, a lot of them are old and seem to lose limbs and even blow down in storms, hope our new neighbors don't get crushed.

I wonder, will there be a new bus route to pick up our homeless citizens? The closest food supplies (not counting squirrels) will be at least a mile away, but they all seem to be in good health and physical condition so a two-mile hike shouldn't be a problem. Maybe their new neighbors at the Elks Lodge or the Holy Trinity Church would like to volunteer to feed them?

I'm sure our city councilpersons considered all the available city lands for the best option, they certainly found the most remote and rugged one, like I said, out of sight, out of mind, problem solved. Even though if I were homeless, I think I would prefer someplace more like the city owed property around Bremerton Fire Station #3. Mostly level, some sun, some shade and talk about emergency response time. But I guess our City workers would then have to share their park-like grounds with our homeless citizens, we wouldn't want that, would we. But then our homeless citizens, their tents and their trash would still be visible from the street, so that's no good, just won't do.

Well done Councilpersons.

# Bremerton council presents list of potential legal camping spots

[Kai Uyehara](#) Kitsap Sun

Published 12:16 p.m. PT Sept. 7, 2023 | Updated 1:48 p.m. PT Sept. 7, 2023

Discussion on the Bremerton City Council's draft ordinance limiting unauthorized camping will continue after the council did not vote on new rules at its Wednesday night meeting. The council did present a map of city-owned property where encampments will be allowed, however, it continues to listen to public feedback about the issue of homelessness in the city.

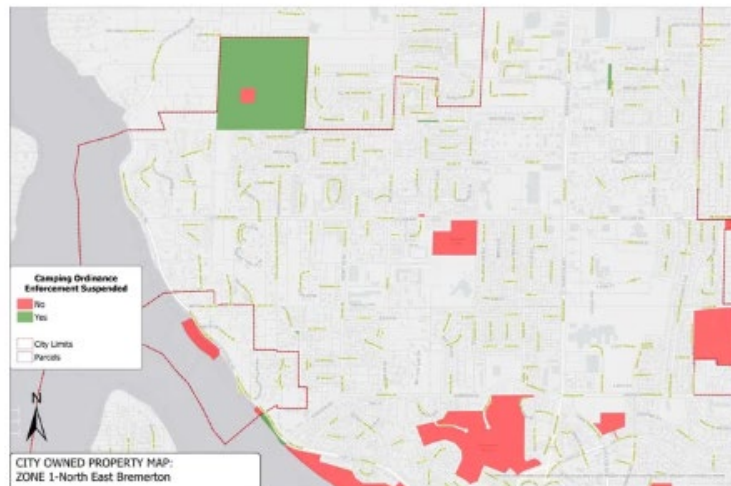
A draft ordinance, initially presented in August, would outlaw camping at parks and streets, sidewalks and the space between streets and sidewalks when there is no overnight shelter space available. Instead, homeless campers will be able to set up in undeveloped city-owned parcels where the ordinance will not be enforced.

Homeless campers and their advocates called for a list of the parcels to be made public before the council enacted the ordinance, worrying that campers wouldn't know where they could move before being cleared out of their encampments.

The council intended to vote on the issue at their September 6 meeting, but announced Wednesday that discussion of the ordinance would continue and suggested amendments would be presented at a study session Sept. 13.

The city did provide a map of the areas where the ordinance would not be enforced, with city attorney Kylie Finnell highlighting some of its locations.

"These (parcels) are spread out throughout the city," Finnell said at the meeting. "There aren't very many big chunks of land."



The city of Bremerton provided a map of undeveloped city-owned parcels that homeless campers would be allowed to set up at without violating a potential ordinance outlawing unauthorized camping, which could be enacted on Sept. 13. The parcels, spread throughout the city and seen in this map of an area of East Bremerton, are in green. The full series of maps may be seen at the city council's website. [Bremerton City Administration](#)



Most of the parcels identified on the maps are slivers of area or single lots, and are found in West Bremerton, West Hills, off Kitsap Way, downtown, near Lions Park, in East Bremerton off Wheaton Way and in Manette. The smallest parcel is on a street corner in Manette at Wheaton Way and Winfield Avenue, and the largest is a 40-acre forested parcel behind Sugar Pine Drive, just west of Pine Road at city limits. The maps may be viewed by downloading [the city council's packet from its Sept. 6 meeting](#) from the city website.

Finnell noted other parcels as well, such as five properties near the corner of Warren Avenue and 11th Street, a small corner lot at 11th Street and Pacific Avenue, and a spread of four small parcels on Burwell Street, totaling a quarter of an acre.

Also on the map is a nearly one-third acre parcel on Charleston Beach Road just outside city limits, across from the Bug and Reptile Museum, where there is currently an encampment.



A city-owned parcel of land at the corner of 11th Street and Pacific Avenue is one of about 25 that have been identified as potential locations where a ban on unauthorized camping would not be enforced, if the Bremerton City Council approves an ordinance to address homeless encampments. *Kitsap Sun Staff*

If the ordinance is approved by the council, enforcement would go into effect ten days afterward to ensure homeless campers are given time to move to the undeveloped parcels.

When there is overnight shelter immediately available for individuals to be referred to, however, camping anywhere in the city will be outlawed at all times.

Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler echoed his continuing effort to have overnight shelter available at the Salvation Army on November 1 and to find a location for another overnight shelter, transitional housing or an outdoor shelter for camping, complete with facilities.

Wheeler also requested that the council consider amending the ordinance's policy on violations. There is an infraction fine of \$25 for unauthorized camping in the

current draft, and three or more violations would result in a misdemeanor. Wheeler asked the council to make the penalty for violation a misdemeanor immediately, in order to encourage compliance among campers.

“It could take months before three infractions are found committed and a person violating the ordinance is facing a misdemeanor,” Wheeler wrote. “This means the person reporting a violation (law enforcement) could have to wait months for the person violating the code to move or be moved even when there is another place to go or another shelter available.”

The proposed changes will be discussed at the City Council’s next study session, scheduled for Sept. 13.

**From:** Christine Grenier

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 2:12 PM

**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Citizen Message - Proposed Camping Locations (Jeffrey Lewis)

Attn: Council VP Chamberlin

A message was received today at 11:42 PM from Jeffrey Lewis. A Kitsap County Parcel Search shows he lives on Sugar Pine Drive. Jeffrey requested a call and may be contacted at (360) 627-9225.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**

**Bremerton City Council**

**(360) 473-5280**

**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**



**From:** Christine Grenier  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Citizen Message - Proposed Encampments (Jeremy)

Council President Coughlin,

A message was received today from Jeremy at 9:13 AM. He was very concerned about the proposed camping areas and the process. He requested a call from Council and may be contacted at (360) 471-6094.

*Christine Grenier*

**Legislative/Auditor Assistant**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



From: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:09 AM  
To: MARY TRASK <[mtraskm@msn.com](mailto:mtraskm@msn.com)>  
Cc: City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>;  
Brett Jette <[Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: RE: Homeless camp on Broadway.

Good morning Mary,

Thank you for your email. The City Council is still in the process of updating the city's camping ordinance. The current ordinance is illegal per recent 9th Circuit court rulings. The council will continue deliberations next Wednesday (September 13th) beginning at 5pm. I am including the City Attorneys office and City Council in my reply for their consideration and potential follow up. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

-----Original Message-----

From: MARY TRASK <[mtraskm@msn.com](mailto:mtraskm@msn.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:56 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless camp on Broadway.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr wheeler, thank you for not returning my phone calls.. maybe this will work.  
I want to hear from you about our homeless population-particularly the one on Broadway where I am trying to get ready to sell my home. I am under the impression that it is up to you and the city council to protect us-the good, tax paying citizens of Bremerton vs non contributing homeless drug users. I'm sick of hearing that nothing can be done. I don't believe it. We've spent many thousands of dollars fixing the interior of our home and now I won't be able to sell it. WE NEED TO SELL IT! Probably can't even rent it and if I'm pushed into that option I'll have to pay capital gains. My husband and I have health issues and this is physical as well as mental health issues. I'm ready for a nervous breakdown. We lived there for around three years and NEVER had a problem until the homeless camp moved in. They've stolen from us, set our dumpster on fire, and now they've broken into our house and stolen a nice bike(maybe 2 bikes). I can't take it anymore. I need to have peace in my life. I need to sell that house, and I need to regain my mental health. I'm not alone. You and the city council have had years to work out a solution. Why haven't you? I know there has to be a solution.  
I've decided if you can't respond with a decent answer I will be calling an attorney. I'm also going to see how many others are willing to join in on a lawsuit. We deserve better than your performance to date.  
Mary and Chet Trask  
360 340-6282

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Andrea Slaughter <andrea112slaughter@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 8:58 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Homeless encampment

You cannot allow homeless to camp in the Sugar Pine Dr neighborhood!! This is a safe community, with no crime. How are you going to protect our homes and families? How are you going to ensure sex offenders are not wondering the streets where we live and our children play?

How is this an acceptable plan? How can you completely disregard the safety of the current residents?

A lot surrounded by homes is not the appropriate place to allow people to camp and live.

Are you going to add police to stay stationed within our community to keep us safe? To keep our families safe? To keep our homes safe? How are you ensuring the crime and disorder will not spill over into our front and backyards?

You are putting people in danger!!!

Sincerely a property owner on Sugar Pine Dr

**From:** Evan M <eg3martinec@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 7:52 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Miyuki Fritz <miyu.f1025@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Homeless encampment

To whom it may concern,

I was recently informed that the city will allow homeless to camp along Burwell near Olympic Avenue. As a resident of Bremerton I believe I should have a say how my property will be affected. My biggest concern is the crime and drugs that come with type of encampment. I have a wife and 2 year old that could be harmed. To allow this is unacceptable. I have invested a large amount of money to improve my property and this will destroy everything I did. I'm hoping the people who run the city of Bremerton do what they can to make this a better and more peaceful place to live. By allowing tents and drugs to run the streets is a step in the wrong direction. Please do not allow Burwell Street to become tent city.

Respectfully,

Evan Martinec

**From:** Jeremy Burrier <jeremyburrier@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 9:20 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Vote to provide city owned land for homeless encampments

Hello, I was informed that the city of Bremerton will be voting on providing lands owned by the city for homeless encampments within the Bremerton area. Before you make the stupid mistake of going the way of Seattle, and throwing public tax payers under the bus, you might want to reconsider. These homeless encampments traffic in stolen goods and illicit drugs. We've had our own ordeal on National Street where I live, where homeless encampments and RVs were parking one block away from Local elementary school in traffic and drugs all hours of the day and the police could do nothing about it because of the reckless, low IQ individuals running our city, prevented the police from doing such. The transient individuals are coming from Seattle and they are not locals. Your job is to represent your constituents which is us. It would be wise to remember who pays your salary. This vote flies in the face of your moral obligation and fiduciary duty to represent the public as a whole and you have no such responsibility for transients that are coming in from other cities, because of handouts that you stupidly would like to provide them. I would like a response , and it would be in the public's best interest if you voted against providing any sort of land or resources for transient individuals coming into our city. Protect protect your constituents, the taxpayers of the city.  
Jeremy



**From:** Lisa Kruzan <lkruzan926@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:42 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Camping Ordinance Concern

Good evening,

I read today's Kitsap Sun article regarding the properties the city council is proposing to open for homeless encampments, and when I checked the map on your website, I discovered that the property immediately adjacent to mine is on the list, as are the properties adjacent to my neighbors, and the property on the other side of Burwell.

I purchased my home in 2013 because of its proximity to my employer and businesses, the crime statistics for the area, and the families living in the area. Over the last ten years, I've had a few encounters with people urinating on that city property, asking me for food or money, or exhibiting what I assumed to be drug induced behaviors that have left me uncomfortable, but not feeling unsafe.

Having people camping on the property next to the home that I own and pay taxes on will make me unsafe. There have been several articles in the Sun about the increase in crime downtown in the area of the homeless encampments, along with complaints of sanitation and vandalism issues. Why on earth would the city council decide that the solution to those problems is to push the encampments into residential areas? Do you want to save business at the cost of sacrificing the residents who patronize those businesses?

If your proposed ordinance passes, what are you going to do to mitigate the potential issues?

1. Will restroom facilities be installed next to my home? If not, who do I contact when people start defecating in my yard? Several business owners downtown have complained about having to clean up feces on their property, and I'm sure I'll face the same problem.
2. Will there be increased police patrols in my neighborhood to prevent property crime?
3. What will the city do to mitigate the potential of fire? Several of the trees on the city's property have branches that hang over my property. When the weather cools and campfires are lit, will I be expected to call 911 every time? Or will the city come in and trim those branches prior to allowing people to camp there?
4. What services are going to be offered to the unhoused camping next to my home? Should I expect to see social workers and charitable organizations visiting this encampment, or is the goal to disperse the homeless population throughout our community with no real solution or aid in mind? Will anyone be providing food, medical attention, or counseling?
5. And finally, and most importantly, what are you going to do to protect the children in this neighborhood? The neighbors across the alley from me have a toddler. The neighbors right next to me have four children. The neighbors next to them have two. There are more children down the street and on the other side of Burwell, and all of them will be vulnerable to the crime that always comes along with homeless encampments, not to mention the exposure to drug use that they will undoubtedly encounter.

I walked around the block this evening and spoke to many of my neighbors about this issue, and not a single person is comfortable with the city council's plan to open these areas to homeless encampments. Homelessness is a serious problem that needs to be addressed, and we all understand that. And while I don't know what the solution is, it is definitely not creating encampments in residential areas in our city.

The city has to do something else to address this problem. You want to save business? Fine. What are you going to do when you drive all of the residents who support those businesses out of the city? What are you going to do when property crime sky rockets? What are you going to do when children are accosted in their own yards? What in the world makes you think that moving the problem to our residential areas is the solution for anything?

I have lived in Bremerton for the majority of my life. I've stood up for Bremerton. I've told everyone I know why it's the best place in the region for me to live. I have walked the streets and patronized the local businesses and I have built my life here. And today is the first day in my life that I have been absolutely disgusted with it. I cannot comprehend why the people who are supposed to be looking out for us and our neighborhoods think any of this is a good idea.

I hope that enough people express concern and alarm at this proposal that you vote it down. I hope that when you vote, you think about how you would feel if one of those green areas on your map was located next to your own home. Would you feel safe leaving your door open when the dog is outside? Would you be comfortable having packages delivered? Would you allow your children to play in your backyard?

I urge you, for the safety of your constituents, to vote no on the proposal to allow camping on undeveloped city property in residential neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Lisa Kruzan  
137 Arvon Ave.

**From:** Matthew Anderson <kitsaphiking@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:28 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Keeping Camping Ordinance for Square woods near Sugar Pine Dr

City Council and other City Committees,

I am writing with resident feedback for your homeless plan. My recommendation is to keep the camping ordinance in the large square wooded area near Sugar Pine Dr and Pinecone Dr (the water tower one) and NOT allow camping there for several reasons.

1) Hundreds of homes have been built in this area from Blueberry Park up to Fairgrounds. I would not be surprised if all homeowners sign on to a class action lawsuit against the city, Mayor and council members. Camping in that area will negatively affect our property values and endanger the residents. Plus you have schools like Olympic HS and others where students have to walk to school along those streets in that area. We would all be happy to chip in thousands of dollars into a class action lawsuit for allowing camping there.

2) Most of the homeless here are addicted to fentanyl and will all relocate to the largest area which is that square with the water tower, for "safety", but in reality because that is where the drugs will be and easiest to get them. What happens in the winter? They will get cold, they will light bonfires, eventually the bonfires will catch the tents and surrounding trees on fire (Google earth shows lots of woods there) and then it will cause damage to the water tower shutting off water for awhile (another lawsuit?). That's not even counting surrounding damage to houses nearby or in the area if the fire spreads through that square wooded area. Is the city negligent when that happens? Perhaps.

Here is a suggestion for what to do with that large square wooded area by Sugar Pine Dr and Pinecone Dr.: zone it for residential and sell the land to developers to create single family homes in 2 neighborhoods surrounding the water tower (which also increases the safety of the water tower). Then use that money from selling the land to fund homeless relocation programs to buses out of the area, and for drug addiction recovery. Perhaps even use the money to build a shelter south of the city.

While Kitsap Sun doesn't allow comments, every homeowner here in Central Kitsap knows that 99% of these homeless are not victims of the economy, but drug addicts of fentanyl who are walking around psychotic tripped out on drugs and dangerous. We know these drug addicts were driven out of Port Townsend, driven out of the Port Orchard encampment and that Seattle buys them ferry tickets to come here. If you redirect the homeless from city businesses to us, and the residents in our neighborhoods - don't be surprised when a lawyer capitalizes with class action lawsuits. Also, we all know the non-profit "volunteers" are probably getting paid small salaries to support the homeless. The non-profit facebook group taking smiling pictures of these drug addict homeless does not make it legal for them to do fentanyl and does not make their trespassing right, or their living here without paying property taxes or contributing to the tax base of the city - they are a drain on city resources. Probably 80% or more of us property tax payers and residents and voters do NOT want camping in that square area near Sugar Pine Dr. Just today after you announced this plan I witnessed a noticeably cracked out looking lady walking in circles while holding a trash bag one block south of Olympic High School.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Anderson  
Property tax payer and Resident

**From:** Melissa L. <[mliss88@gmail.com](mailto:mliss88@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:51 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Concern for encampment on Sugar Pine Dr. Parcel

Hello Jennifer,

I am a Bremerton resident living on Sugar Pine Dr. directly against the open parcel the city council is wanting to pass as an approved encampment for those without a home. While I understand the issue we are seriously facing here in Bremerton and across the country, as a mother of a 3 year old and 6 year old, I am more than terrified about the thought of a large encampment literally at my backyard fence line. Not to mention the potential of a giant 40 acre forest fire and the loss of the homes, mine included, against this parcel. I am concerned about the risk of theft, drug use, violence, property damage, etc. and adding cameras will not help the damage and loss. Just like the same issues that happened in Seattle and other encampments across the nation.

My husband and I have worked so hard getting out of the poverty stricken areas in Long Beach, CA and South Tacoma so that we can raise our kids in a neighborhood that is safe and we feel comfortable with them playing outside by themselves without risk of a stranger on an unknown substance coming up to the fence and kidnapping my children, hurting them, or giving them drugs. I realize this can happen at any time. However, approving this site right in my back yard and moving them within 10 days is absolutely terrifying and upsetting. Funds need to be utilized at homeless shelters to expand shelters that are equipped for those who need it. Countless nonprofits I work with are helping with housing and could use the help from the city instead of using funds to put a road into this parcel and facilities for them to use creating another giant landfill in this beautiful acreage.

I am a realist, I know my voice holds no weight. However, I do know the community surrounding this parcel is as upset as I am. I do hope they show on September 13th to voice their concern and that you and the entire city council will work towards a solution that does not affect the safety of an entire community and potentially a 40 acre forest fire and homes and loss of life (god forbid a forest fire while we are sleeping).

Moving these people from one encampment to another does not change the issue. It is literally sweeping it under the rug because they will be in the woods, out of sight instead of on MLK in west Bremerton or other areas with higher traffic. The very detailed emails in the sept. 6th packet explaining people in the tents clearly being on drugs, defecating in the street, and drug deals will only still happen here in this parcel.

I hope our city can find a better solution than moving them from one tent to another in a different area and that the shelters in this area are opened and amped up to help the 245 recorded people in need.

**Please help keep my children and the children and families in Bremerton safe. We are hard working people who just want a peaceful and safe life for our kids.**

Thank you for your time,

Melissa Luatua  
Sugar Pine Dr. resident

**From:** MGB <mgb1968@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 8:16 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Objection to proposed usage of Tracton watershed for homeless camping

Bremerton City Council,

My name is Michael Brandau and I live with my wife at 3558 Ridgetop Ct NE, Bremerton, WA 98310.

I am writing to express my vigorous objection to the proposed use of the 40 acre parcel of Traycton watershed for homeless camping.

Our house and property directly backs up to this land and the primary reason we picked this house when we moved to Bremerton in 2008.

This proposal will bring nothing but crime, trash and chaos to the surrounding houses. This is a quiet woodland that many young families use to take walks, and is home to many wildlife species. It is an ever dwindling oasis that can never be recovered if this moves forward.

I am also appalled that this council did not directly communicate these intentions to the directly affected homeowners and request feedback.

This watershed also drains directly to the puget sound and salmon habitat. I will be contacting the state, as I believe no environmental impact has been performed.

This will also affect the value of all properties surrounding this parcel.

My residence is registered at both the State and Federal level as a wildlife habitat. No. 199,385 (Nation Wildlife Federation)

As such, I currently do not have a fence to my backyard, but will be forced to bear the financial burden of having to do so as a result of this.

My neighbors are actively spreading the word via the Nextdoor App, the neighborhood association, the Elks clubs and canvassing the neighborhood.

I am also prepared to take legal action and will fight to the fullest extent to stop this.

We will be attending the next meeting on 09/13.

Many of you were put into office by citizens like us and that decision will be heavily reconsidered during the next cycle.

I have also written directly to Mayor Wheel to express my concerns and objections.

Sincerely,  
Michael Brandau



**From:** Resident of Bremerton <bremrez1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:03 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** RE: A few thoughts about designated camps.

September 7th, 2023

To Bremerton Council and the Mayor,

Regarding the City Council meeting yesterday. I would like to thank the City Council and the Mayor for their efforts and willingness to try new approaches to a very complicated and difficult situation.

I just wanted to mention what my expectations are for the designated city camping areas, if the Council decides to adopt the ordinance, just because it seems many people have many different ideas about what it means.

I expect:

The camping areas will be like waiting rooms until in-door housing can be acquired, one person at a time.

The camps will be 24/7. The people will not be kicked out at 7am...or anything like that.

Whatever specific/individual alterations needed at the camps (travel to appointments, access to buses, ramps for wheelchairs, etc..) will be handled by advocacy groups, with the city maybe providing some small grants or something.

The most vulnerable (handicapped and elderly) will be the first to get indoor housing.

The camps themselves will organically have their own internal organizing of sorts, the goal of which is to have as little chaos as possible for the residents, but that might just be my naivete.

My hopes for the camping areas:

I hope:

There will be multiple camps, or at least one camp with segmented areas, for different peoples situations; addicts in one camp, non-addicted in a different camp, vulnerable in their own camp....that sort of thing.

That individuals who are violent, create disruption & outright chaos, will be put in jail...quickly, for a long time and increasing time if there are further offenses.

If the ordinance is brought into law, that the homeless will be informed without shame or blame. That advocacy will help explain the situation to them and help them move.

That there will be a time limit to move, say 2 weeks. I don't agree with fining or ticketing homeless people (They have no money. It's a waste of time.) I do believe in putting people in jail if they do not honor the law.

And of course, they will need toilets, wash stations, showers and specifically hazardous waste (needles, medical waste, etc...) disposal systems.

I think it's important to emphasize to the public that this is not the end of the conversation.

Thank you for listening.

I am a property owner and registered voter in Bremerton.

I wouldn't mind telling the council my name, but I don't want my name published and so I write anonymously.



**From:** Serena Metcalf <serenalynn03@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 8:02 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Arvon Homeless Camp

Hello, I live on Arvon and I was informed there would be a homeless camp trying to be voted right near where I live. I have 4 small school age children and I do not want a homeless camp near my children and near my children's school.

**From:** Reed, Shane M CIV USN NAVB KITSAP SVD WA (USA) <shane.m.reed.civ@us.navy.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 9:42 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless Encampments

Good Morning,

I am writing you today to address my concerns and comments on the homeless crises. I was born and raised in Bremerton WA and the homeless situation has got out of hand immensely. There are so many areas that are completely destroyed by these individuals everywhere they stay.

Property values continue to go down wherever these homeless people stay and is very unsafe for our children and families. I have witnessed countless times drug activity, yelling, fighting, drinking, stealing, damage to others property and even squatting in residences including my own and the police DO NOT DO ANYTHING. Only way to get them out is to squat on the squatters in your own home and change the locks and be armed for intruders.

A solution to this matter is to move these derelicts to the abandoned hospital in Bremerton off of Cherry. The building is closed and has enough rooms for every person to get off the streets. It has places that can be secured and watched with security as well as a full kitchen for people to feed them. It can be regulated to make sure that drugs are not being used in or around the facility and if they were then they should be booked and jailed just like the taxpayers would be.

These green areas that you have proposed are a horrible and disgusting idea and a slap in the face to us taxpayers and homeowners. The revenue in the city will go down in you allow this to happen as people coming here will see this and RUN. There has been several instances that females have been harassed and followed on their way to and from work at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Bremerton needs to stop taking in Grants because you are enabling these people to come here and making our city poor and a horrible place to live. We do not need any more low income (that is what brings the crime and transients) Bremerton is no longer a family oriented town and I hope you heed the warnings all of these individuals tell you. How would you like it if these homeless people came and squatted in your house or on your dwelling because that can and will happen very easily, all it takes is someone to give them the idea that it is a good situation and there is nothing anyone can do, because that is what is happening.

Just look at places with good mayors and electors such as Bainbridge Island , Gig Harbor, etc.. you will never see that there and those places are booming. These places are great for kids and families but Bremerton is not and I cannot even walk certain areas with my family unless I am ready for a fight or something else because those people yell and scream and pull weapons out on you.

So you need to house them all in one location like a secured environment such as the old Bremerton Hospital, Surround it with security and mental health personnel to get these people right and give them the opportunity to get a job and succeed in life, because what you have proposed is not going to work there is no running water, meals, beds, and these people need a routine and stability.

Thank You!

Shane Reed  
360-649-4974

**From:** Anton Preisinger <anton@nwhospitality.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:07 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Tom Wolfe <Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Maggie Brassil <maggie@nwhospitality.org>  
**Subject:** Re: No anti-camping ordinance

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Thank you very much for your response and for taking the time to read my email. I could not attend the meeting last night, but based on the reports I've had back and examining the packet assembled after the meeting, the letter you provided clearly demonstrates that you are not taking the needs of our unhoused neighbors into account anywhere near as much as they deserve. Placing all the emphasis on enforcement is a strange way to respect "the rights of our unhoused community members." Discussing how people will act "even when there is another place to go or shelter space available" is laughable - we haven't seen those circumstances in years, and I haven't seen any legitimate progress toward those ends. Not to mention that your assertion that people will refuse to move is based entirely on data (I'm being overly optimistic there) and anecdotes collected during a long period when there have not been *appropriate* alternatives for people to accept. Furthermore, how can you possibly think that "a period of no enforcement" is the cause behind our current homelessness issues? We have the numbers on all of this and the causes are clear- lack of enforcement isn't even on the list. If you actually "want voluntary compliance," then give people a real option! Forcing people to move away from their community - even if that community is unhealthy - is not a choice most people will make. Forcing people to move away from work (yes, many of them work...somehow I get the feeling that you still require this basic education) is not a choice most people can make. Give people a variety of options in a variety of locations, and you will have voluntary compliance.

It is also evident that you need to be bluntly reminded that ***IT IS NOT ILLEGAL TO BE HOMELESS!*** In fact, it is illegal for you to persecute people for being homeless. Far from enforcing the laws of the city, as you so callously put it in your reply to my first email, you are pushing policies that intentionally circumvent established constitutional law.

This joke of an ordinance being discussed applies perfectly and specifically to housed residents of the community who set up their tents on the side of the road for recreation - and I support it wholeheartedly in that one single application because that's the only way it makes any sense. Our unhoused *are not camping; they are surviving and existing.* They need help, services, support, and encouragement, not more politicians pushing them around and further obscuring the path to recovery and success as you and the city seem hell-bent on doing.

I would much rather work alongside you toward solutions, but you make that impossible by even suggesting giving people misdemeanors and fines for not complying with a half-cocked ordinance that is bound to fail our unhoused community members on so many levels. Your claims of support appear to be entirely disingenuous, and I strongly feel that you owe the community an apology for your approach to this problem. That apology should include some quality time in the field with people who are enduring the policies you and the council are putting in place as well as many discussions with people who actually know what they're talking about in regards to outreach, mutual aid, and supporting our unhoused neighbors. All of that should be followed by a complete overhaul of Bremerton's

homelessness response plan, assuming the city has anything separate from the county plan, because whatever the city thinks it's doing is not working.

Anton Preisinger  
Founding Executive Director  
Northwest Hospitality  
888-222-5240  
[www.nwhospitality.org](http://www.nwhospitality.org)

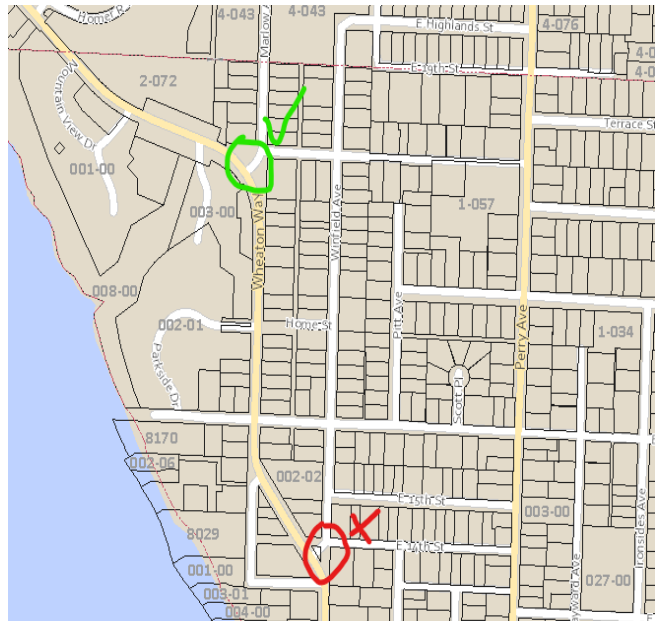


**From:** Brian Anderson <[briananderson554@gmail.com](mailto:briananderson554@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:44 AM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** PLEASE VIEW - Photo of vehicular crash on Winfield and Wheaton

Attached is a photo of a car that jumped the curb coming off Wheaton Boulevard. This was taken on June 2nd, 2023 at 11:47 PM.

If tents had been set up on this corner at the time, the car would have crashed through them.

For this reason, please reconsider the location of this proposed camping enforcement suspension area. Reasonable alternate locations is **Wheaton and Marlow**. That said, the ideal solution is one or two authorized camping areas not in our residential neighborhoods.



**From:** Brian Anderson <[briananderson554@gmail.com](mailto:briananderson554@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Winfield and Wheaton Proposed Camping Enforcement Suspension

Resending with screenshot included

Dear Bremerton City Council and specifically, **Jeff Coughlin, D3 rep,**

I am writing because I have heard the city is considering turning the corner of city-owned property on **Winfield Ave and Wheaton**, an area where a proposed Camping Ordinance Enforcement is suspended.

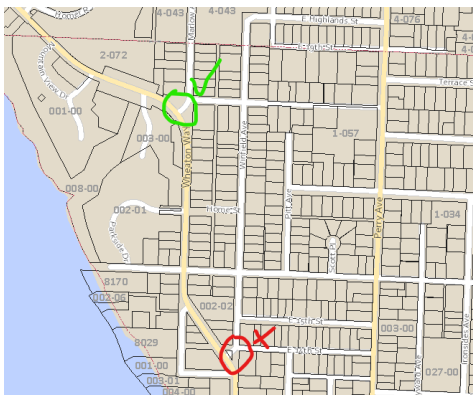
Ironically, this is the exact same corner I wrote to you about a few weeks ago where a number of cars have had collisions causing them to jump the curb into the very area the city is proposing suspending camping ordinance enforcement (*please look up police records for documentation of this*).

In the nearly three years we've lived on this property, we've witnessed at least two vehicles completely tear through this grassy area at high speeds and crash on the boulders at the bottom of Winfield. **If the city allows this to become a camping area, I fear for the safety of those camping there as well as the liability of the city for directing the unhoused to shelter in such a vulnerable area.**

I have taken a screenshot of an alternate **City-owned property on Wheaton and Marlow** that is more protected but close by.

While I am overall opposed to the city's proposed strategy of creating these camping areas across the city, I hope the city will consider this alternate proposal for a site on **Wheaton and Marlow Ave** instead of Wheaton and Winfield Ave (see below screenshot).

Finally, I hope the city council is considering all the unintended consequences this strategy will have on all the residents who live nearby these areas. Bremerton already has had to deal with enough blight and misery over the last few decades, so creating a spattering of dedicated tent camps across the city feels like a step in the wrong direction. **I think it would be better to have one or maybe two authorized camps in areas that are removed from residential zones rather than spreading this across the city.** All you have to do is go across the water to Seattle to see the unintended consequences of this approach.



Brian Anderson  
D3 Resident

**From:** Christine B. <cmlb0827@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 8:21 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** OBJECTION for homeless camp moving to Tracyton Watershed area

City Council,

Yesterday, I read the most disturbing article in Kitsap Sun, which stated that the city council is recommending/proposing to allow the homeless population to move to my backyard, Tracyton Water Shed (40 acres), to be exact.

We are a middle-class, quiet family neighborhood that does not deserve the ramifications you will have bestowed on us.

Let me remind you that you are about to impede not only an area that a lot of wildlife relies on but countless families as well, many of whom have voted for you, and I, for one, will not make that mistake again if this goes forth.

Just as I wrote to our mayor, are all of you okay with having a homeless camp change the outcome of people's lives and well-being? Are you okay with the crime that will take place behind us? You know it will happen. Are you okay with our property values diving, property that everyone in this area has worked hard at obtaining?

Are you really okay knowing that our wildlife population will be interrupted, poisoned, and probably killed from the littering and drug paraphernalia that will happen?

And are you all okay with possibly contaminating the Tracyton Watershed, the one that leads to the Puget Sound??



What about the crimes and future break-ins? Why were none of us notified or allowed to voice our opinions??

You aren't solving a problem here; you are pushing a problem to become this neighborhood's problem.

Out of sight for the City Council and Greg Wheeler, out of mind.

Please know you will be doing more harm than good going forward on this.

Our neighbors are working hard on spreading the word on this, and we plan to fight, Please work hard on changing your minds!

Christine Brandau  
3558 Ridgetop Ct NE  
Bremerton, WA 98310

**From:** Patiomister <patiomister@proton.me>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 3:55 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless camping ordinance.

I am writing to strongly express my support for the council proposal to designate homeless camping areas. We need to keep our streets safe and as tax paying citizens should feel safe to walk through our communities and not have sidewalks blocked. Please try to look past the bullying tactics of some in our community who seek to influence opinions through intimidation. We can create safe designated camping areas in our community.

Thank you for your time.

Concerned citizen.

Sent from Proton Mail for iOS

From: David Bracero <david.bracero1@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 3:59 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: HOMELESSNESS PLAN FOR BREMERTON

To whom it may concern,

Before I begin, I would like to just say I have never done this before. I have never gotten into politics or anything of the sort. But, I just had an interesting conversation with an off-duty detective by the name of Mitchell who is currently canvassing my neighborhood trying to bring light to a decision that has either been made, or about to be, from our Mayor with regard to establishing homeless designation areas in wetlands in and around Bremerton. If this is true, I just have to ask: who on God's green earth thought that it'd be a great idea to relocate homeless encampments in the backyards of good and hardworking suburban communities? Please give me a name so that I can put a plan together to make sure that person is voted out of and never allowed to run for office ever again. I tell you what, I will be more than happy to support this idea if we start with the closest wetland by your home first for a 6 month trial period. If you're still happy when your BBQ grill gets stolen, or your daughter, who you left home alone gets raped and/or killed, I will support this idea.

Sincerely,  
A confused East Bremerton resident

PS - this has to be a joke right?

**From:** Holly Dains <[holly.dains@bremertonschools.org](mailto:holly.dains@bremertonschools.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 12:57 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Homeless

Hi Greg, I just had one of my neighbors over and unfortunately she shared some news I was a bit shocked about. A few of my neighbors heard that one of the proposals that was brought up at the city council meetings last evening was to move the homeless population to an area on 11th and Warren. Is this a joke? That just happens to be around my neighborhood. If this happens to be a spot that is taken serious there will be some very angry people. I get it Greg I'm not stupid I realize these homeless people need a place to go. How about we move them over by KMH? Or better yet how about your neighborhood? Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend last night's meeting so to the fact that I work two jobs. I see you walking to work daily, why don't you hop in your car and take a better look at your town? Have you seen the mess on the east side of bridge on the right? Drive by the old bowling alley I'm west Bremerton. There's been a camper parked across the street for a year or more. The man that was living in it died, now a group of homeless people live in it. The bowling alley is a mess.

I also noticed you visiting The back to school even with Marvin Williams, aren't you embarrassed that this poor young man that donated a beautiful building couldn't even have the event there because homeless people have taken over the neighbor. Shame on you for allowing this.  
"Beautify Bremerton?" What a joke!

Holly Dains  
Para Educator  
Bremerton School Dist.

**From:** Janice K. <[sisseroni1@yahoo.com](mailto:sisseroni1@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Camping Violation Enforcement

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler,

I tuned into the City Council meeting last night (9-5-23) from my TV particularly for the discussion on the "camping" situation in Bremerton. I am a resident of Bremerton. I live in an apartment house and there has been a tent city that has formed directly on the entire city street area behind the apartment house. I'm a 71-year-old woman and I live alone and I can honestly say that I don't feel safe where I am living now.

The reason for my email is I want to give my input for the Camping violation enforcement. You stated in the city Council meeting last night that it should be a misdemeanor on the **first violation** and I am in **TOTAL AGREEMENT** with you for the very reasons that you stated.

Quite frankly I am tired of having less rights than people who break the laws.

I AGREE:

Wheeler also requested that the council consider amending the ordinance's policy on violations. There is an infraction fine of \$25 for unauthorized camping in the current draft, and three or more violations would result in a misdemeanor. **Wheeler asked the council to make the penalty for violation a misdemeanor immediately, in order to encourage compliance among campers.**

**"It could take months before three infractions are found committed and a person violating the ordinance is facing a misdemeanor," Wheeler wrote. "This means the person reporting a violation (law enforcement) could have to wait months for the person violating the code to move or be moved even when there is another place to go or another shelter available."**

Thankyou for helping to find a solution to Camping issue in the city of Bremerton.

Sincerely,  
Jan K.

**From:** JOHN TIMMERMAN <jhtlht@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 2:48 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless Camp East Bremerton off SugarPine

This is for councilwoman Jennifer Chamberlin. I live at 296 Bristlecone Drive and just found out that one of the proposed locations for homeless camp is four houses north of mine. The land contains a city water tank and mostly surrounded by housing and is next to our neighborhood swimming pool. This does not seem like a good place for a camp. We don't see many city services in our area and the streets have not been worked on in the 33 year we have lived or the 50 years my neighbor has been in her house. Again my wife and I are not happy that a homeless camp is being located in our neighborhood and I believe that if most residents here would be opposed to it.

Thanks for your time.

John Timmerman  
296 Bristlecone Dr

360-473-8511

**From:** Lisa Chuga <[lisa.chuga@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.chuga@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 1:32 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Council Meeting 9/6/2023

Greetings Council,

Thank you for facilitating and listening to a very hard discussion last night. As Councilman Coughlin acknowledged, there was a lot of anger and frustration and, as the Council acknowledged and witnessed, high participation and public engagement. Thank you for listening for 3 hours to the competing views on the housing encampment and proposed ordinance. I agree with Councilman Goodnow that THIS council is the best group we have to help our community move forward on this issue. Thank you for your very important community service, for your thoughtfulness on this issue, and for your bravery in making hard decisions.

--

Kind Regards,

Lisa Lechuga

**From:** Matthew Anderson <[kitsaphiking@gmail.com](mailto:kitsaphiking@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:17 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Keeping Camping Ordinance for Square woods near Sugar Pine Dr

Mayor,

I am writing with resident feedback for your homeless plan. My recommendation is to keep the camping ordinance in the large square wooded area near Sugar Pine Dr and Pinecone Dr (the water tower one) and NOT allow camping there for several reasons.

- 1) Hundreds of homes have been built in this area from Blueberry Park up to Fairgrounds. I would not be surprised if all homeowners sign on to a class action lawsuit against the city, Mayor and council members. Camping in that area will negatively affect our property values and endanger the residents. Plus you have schools like Olympic HS and others where students have to walk to school along those streets in that area. We would all be happy to chip in thousands of dollars into a class action lawsuit for allowing camping there.
- 2) Most of the homeless here are addicted to fentanyl and will all relocate to the largest area which is that square with the water tower, for "safety", but in reality because that is where the drugs will be and easiest to get them. What happens in the winter? They will get cold, they will light bonfires, eventually the bonfires will catch the tents and surrounding trees on fire (Google earth shows lots of woods there) and then it will cause damage to the water tower shutting off water for awhile (another lawsuit?). That's not even counting surrounding damage to houses nearby or in the area if the fire spreads through that square wooded area. Is the city negligent when that happens? Perhaps.

Here is a suggestion for what to do with that large square wooded area by Sugar Pine Dr and Pinecone Dr.: zone it for residential and sell the land to developers to create single family homes in 2 neighborhoods surrounding the water tower (which also increases the safety of the water tower). Then use that money from selling the land to fund homeless relocation programs to buses out of the area, and for drug addiction recovery. Perhaps even use the money to build a shelter south of the city.

While Kitsap Sun doesn't allow comments, every homeowner here in Central Kitsap knows that 99% of these homeless are not victims of the economy, but drug addicts of fentanyl who are walking around psychotic tripped out on drugs and dangerous. We know these drug addicts were driven out of Port Townsend, driven out of the Port Orchard encampment and that Seattle buys them ferry tickets to come here. If you redirect the homeless from city businesses to us, and the residents in our neighborhoods - don't be surprised when a lawyer capitalizes with class action lawsuits. Also, we all know the non-profit "volunteers" are probably getting paid small salaries to support the homeless. The non-profit facebook group taking smiling pictures of these drug addict homeless does not make it legal for them to do fentanyl and does not make their trespassing right, or their living here without paying property taxes or contributing to the tax base of the city - they are a drain on city resources. Probably 80% or more of us property tax payers and residents and voters do NOT want camping in that square area near Sugar Pine Dr.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Anderson  
Property tax payer and Resident



From: M chip <mchip@outlook.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 4:33 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Cc: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Relocation of Homeless to Tracyton Watershed

Dear City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I live on Ridgetop Ct and abut the watershed. I am also a City employee.

I'm am writing to express my unequivocal position against moving the homeless encampments to Tracyton Watershed.

1. The watershed is home to numerous animals - deer, owls, snakes, coyotes
2. Locals walk through the watershed to commune with nature and recreate
3. There are no services near the watershed for the homeless
4. The watershed is surrounded by mostly single family homes
5. The homeless on MLK Way have behavioral problems. Moving them won't fix that. Moving them only makes it a problem for residents unaccustomed to their violence, crime and substance abuse disorder issues.
6. When the homeless start a fire in the watershed, will BFD be equipped to extinguish it? How will police and EMS get in there to treat the overdose epidemic? Where is a fire hydrant?
7. Where will they park their cars and RV's?

Councilmember Goodnow just called me and explained this area is not a watershed. He told me it is city property and if anyone camped there right now, there isn't anything that could be done. Evergreen Park, Public Works, parking garages, even the police department are city properties. So anyone can camp in those locations? If you can restrict these properties legally, even with the Boise 9th Circuit ruling, then please restrict the Tracyton Watershed too.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Chapman

**From:** Shelley Lance <shelleylance74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homelessness ordinance Issue

Mayor and city council, I have to say I was very disappointed at the mayor's proposal for the multiple areas a unhoused person could stay, identified at the council meeting. Really!! on the shoreline on lebo? ( right on the water???). I understand by your own words that that area would be off limits next to the water or did I miss something in the last several meetings? Why would it even be identified as a camping area when the area has only a small space for a few people? Also why would you have sites spread out throughout the city, how do you help or reach out to people all over town? Horrible idea in my book. Today I drove by the Oyster bay site, how can anyone think the unhoused can sleep on a sloped area. Also today I went by the 40 acre parcel off Essex. Again absolutely a

useless area for a disabled or wheelchair bound person. I can't even begin to understand why you would propose areas that can sleep a few here or there and areas that are totally on a slope and spread out all over town. How does this benefit the unhoused?

I also would like to understand your plan to get the unhoused from these areas to Salvation Army five days a week for breakfast at 0800 and then back again for lunch at 12:00. There's a reason the unhoused are one block from Salvation Army. That is where they get meals five days a week, that's where they can take a shower. That's where they need to stay!! All the services the Salvation Army offers and the services in the area are right there. Your proposal Mayor does not reflect the city council members thoughts and ideas that we have listened to over the

last weeks of meetings. Please reconsider where the unhoused are moved.

How about this proposal, we set up a unhoused camp on the cement lot off of Warren on I believe 4th and 5th street that has been identified for an apartment complex for the low income and the disabled? It could be used as an interim site until the space is slated to be built on. During that time maybe an indoor vacant building within the city and close to the services in the area could become a long term shelter for the unhoused.

One other thing, before an ordinance on camping is put in place please prepare the site for the unhoused with toilets, wash stations, secure areas to lock their things in, security and hopefully small personal areas to protect the unhoused from the elements. All of which the city council has talked about.

Last item. The issue of citing a unhoused person without a warning first is making the unhoused criminal. Please do not side with the police on this one. Give them warnings first please.

Thank you Shelley Lance

**From:** Trenton Hogue <trentonhogue01@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:51 AM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Isabelle Hogue <isabellevhogue@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Proposed Ordinance No. 5482

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I'm writing this email to express my concerns with proposed ordinance No. 5482.

I would like to start this email by saying that I'm pleased to see that the City is working to create a solution for the homelessness issue that has exploded in our City over the past few years. I acknowledge that this is not an easy problem to solve, and your hard work is not taken for granted by the citizens.

I have reviewed the proposed update to BMC 9.32 and have some concerns:

My first concern is with the sheer amount of land, and the number of pieces of City property that will allow "Unauthorized Camping". Within the five zones there are 31 individual pieces of City property totaling 52 acres in which "Unauthorized Camping" will be permitted. I see this as a gross over use of public property, especially for something of this nature.

52 acres for 245 homeless individuals (2023 Point-in-Time count) designates around a **quarter of an acre** for each homeless individual. I believe it should be the City's mission to **minimize** the number of potential homeless encampments throughout the City and I do not feel this proposal accomplishes that mission.

If 52 acres spread over 31 different sites throughout the City are to be approved I would like to know that City leadership has the resources to manage each and every one of these potential encampments. Does law enforcement have bandwidth to manage and police 31 sites? Does the City have funding to provide temporary out-houses, handwashing stations, ect. for 31 sites?

My second concern is specifically with the proposed "Unauthorized Camping" site on the corner of Wheaton Way and Winfield Ave. I have personally seen multiple car accidents occur on this corner. I've personally seen cars driving on Wheaton miss the turn and fly over the hill and into the rocks on the opposite side of the hill. I've seen cars driving down Winfield miss the turn and crash into the rocks. This is an **UNSAFE** corner to allow people to live.

In conclusion, the City Council is permitting "Unauthorized Camping" as a **SECONDARY** option when all shelters are full to "promote public health, safety, and welfare". I feel that the current proposal authorizes "Unauthorized Camping" in such a way that is excessive and unmanageable for the City, and **DOES NOT PROMOTE SAFETY** for those experiencing homelessness.

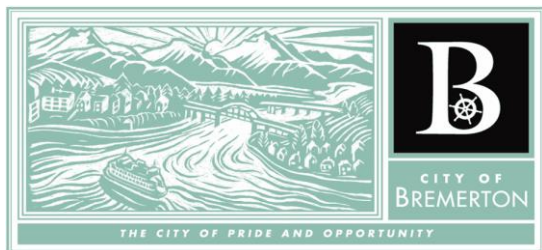
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Trenton and Isabelle Hogue  
D3 Residents

**Published for  
September 6  
Council Meeting**

**6B – Public Comments**



Mayor Greg Wheeler

greg.wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us  
Tel 360-473-5266  
Fax 360-473-5883  
345 6th Street, Suite 100  
Bremerton, WA 98337-1873

September 1, 2023

Re: Ordinance amending Bremerton Municipal Code 9.32 "Unauthorized Camping"

Dear Council,

Thank you for your work creating an ordinance that prohibits camping in our parks, along our streets, and in and around certain public buildings and properties. I sincerely appreciate the Council's willingness to prioritize preservation of these places for the benefit of our entire community while respecting the rights of our unhoused community members.

Because I share your concerns about the impacts of unauthorized camping on our community, I respectfully request that the Council consider an amendment to the enforcement provision of BMC 9.32 and **make a violation of this ordinance a misdemeanor without the prior infractions.**

The code currently requires three "committed" infractions before a violation is a misdemeanor. This means the infraction has been filed with the court and a judge has entered judgment against the person finding that they violated the ordinance. **It could take months before three infractions are found committed** and a person violating this ordinance is facing a misdemeanor. This escalating scheme worked for Bremerton in the past but unfortunately circumstances have changed.

First and foremost, we did not have encampments in the past like we do now after a period of no enforcement. I am hearing from community members daily who want something done now about people camping in the planting strips abutting their properties. Our police officers have experience interacting with people living on the street in these problem areas and anticipate if this ordinance is passed that some people camping in prohibited areas are not going to move to a different area or a shelter when asked. They will refuse. This means the person reporting a violation could have to wait months for the person violating the code to move or be moved even when there is another place to go or shelter space available. **Making a violation of this ordinance a misdemeanor will give law enforcement a tool to incentivize compliance earlier.**

Additionally, police department staffing levels as well as effective use of resources and time are important considerations for managing enforcement. The draft ordinance as proposed requires at least four separate contacts before the person violating the ordinance can be charged with a criminal offense. These contacts are unlikely to be brief. Many people experiencing homelessness have behavioral health issues that will necessitate more time and officer



involvement for each contact. A police officer working with multiple individuals across the City would be required to interact with each one at least four times under the proposed threshold. **Making a violation of this ordinance a misdemeanor will reduce the number of law enforcement contacts involved in enforcing this ordinance.** As a result, police response times for life safety issues and other 911 calls will have a better chance of being sustained at current levels. Citizens are also more likely to receive faster relief once a camping issue is reported.

Finally, our police practices have changed in response to current needs. Our officers are now trained in de-escalation and interacting with vulnerable populations. There is a focus on implementing best practices to reduce use of force incidents. **We want voluntary compliance.** No one wants to see surprise enforcement on unsuspecting people experiencing homelessness that results in them going to jail. I am asking that the Council trust the expertise and discretion of our police department to enforce this ordinance fairly and effectively. Let good policing take the place of the months-long multiple infractions and give our police officers the tool they need to effectively enforce the ordinance the Council has crafted.

A draft of this proposed change to the code is attached for your consideration. I am happy to discuss this proposal and answer questions at the upcoming Public Safety Committee meeting if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Greg Wheeler  
Mayor

**9.32.050 PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.**

(a) ~~Misdemeanor. A violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a misdemeanor pursuant to BMC 1.12.020(2). Civil Infraction. A violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a civil infraction subject to a monetary penalty of one hundred five dollars (\$105.00). Each day, or a portion thereof, during which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.~~

~~(b) Habitual Violators—Misdemeanor. Any person, after receiving three or more infractions, singularly or in combination, for prior violations of this chapter within a two (2) year period found to be committed by the Municipal Court shall be guilty of a misdemeanor pursuant to BMC 1.12.020(2) upon a subsequent violation within said two (2) year period. A conviction of a misdemeanor under this subsection shall be considered and counted as an infraction for the purpose of determining whether or not a violator is a habitual violator.~~

From: jane Rebelowski <janerebelowski@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 7:56 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Camping ordinance

Please distribute to all councilors

Thank you for all your hard work on a revised camping ordinance. After staff has reviewed available City-owned properties and publically announces them, a public hearing should be held to discuss pros/cons of neighborhood impacts with each identified property.

I hope currently underused properties such as land adjacent to the former Engineering Office on Olympus Drive, land set aside for future expansion of the Oyster Bay Maintenance facility, or other properties near or adjacent to active City facilities are prioritized for temporary camping.

I hope we can also look at funding an earlier opening of the Salvation Army shelter. People are without a roof for 12 months a year, not only late October to March.

Jane Rebelowski  
1445 17th St. 98337

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** kim siebens <kimmysiebens@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2023 1:38 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** anti camping ordinance

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am writing to respectfully request that you reconsider your approval of the current anti-camping ordinance that has been proposed. It is important to highlight that there are several aspects of this ordinance that raise constitutional concerns and may ultimately result in legal action being taken to protect the rights of those directly affected.

As a Registered Nurse with over 17 years of experience working with the unhoused population, I, along with my colleagues from Kitsap and beyond, have consistently provided letters and testimonies aimed at explaining the complex nature of this crisis to you and prior councils. Unfortunately, it seems that our efforts have not been given the attention they deserve. It is disheartening to see this issue persist and not receive the adequate attention it requires.

The individuals you are seeking to remove from public view are people who are facing genuine medical and mental health challenges, all of which are entirely treatable. Additionally, some are simply struggling due to low fixed incomes and a lack of affordable housing options. Over the past seven years, I have dedicated myself tirelessly to helping these individuals leave the streets and access the necessary resources to lead more productive and fulfilling lives. All of this work has been done on a volunteer basis without any support from the city.

Instead of listening to those who have demonstrated success in assisting individuals experiencing homelessness, it appears that the punitive approach you have chosen will only exacerbate the situation further.

I kindly request that you reconsider the wording within this ordinance. Specifically, I propose that under Definitions, language be added clarifying that the law will not apply to those whose "needs exceed what can be provided at a shelter." This would include elderly individuals with incontinence issues. Incontinence is not a disability, and therefore, these individuals would be directed to a shelter that cannot adequately accommodate their needs. Consequently, they would be forced to remain outside and face repeated penalties,

potentially leading to misdemeanors and even incarceration. Increasing individuals' records will only make it more challenging to secure housing when it becomes available.

Furthermore, there are individuals who are banned from shelters due to their behavioral issues. These individuals also fall into the category of having needs that exceed what a shelter can provide. It is unconstitutional to penalize individuals who have no other place to go and are simply trying to exist.

Lastly, we have not received any information regarding the locations where people can camp when no other options are available. Relocation will undoubtedly be a challenging

process, and we were assured by the mayor and some council members that a map would be made available. However, as it is now a Sunday during a holiday weekend, it is

evident that there has been a lack of transparency regarding where individuals can go.

I kindly request a response clarifying the locations where people can camp in such circumstances and urge you to amend the definition of those who will not be penalized due to the shelter's inability to meet their specific needs.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Kimmy Siebens RN

Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)  
<https://www.wpsr.org/homelessness>

President, Their Voice  
<http://www.their-voice.org>

Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless>

**From:** Shelley Lance <shelleylance74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2023 6:18 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Homelessness Ordinance issues

On Sun, Sep 3, 2023 at 6:14 PM Shelley Lance <[shelleylance74@gmail.com](mailto:shelleylance74@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello, I just wanted to address the issues I have after reading the city ordinance on camping. I see nowhere in the ordinance that it addresses the issue of where the homeless are to move too? How they will be helped in moving their things to the new location (we have mentally ill, there are handicapped people in wheelchairs) and will there be facilities on site (restrooms, hand washing stations, security, lockable storage)? Will the new location be close to Salvation Army where they currently receive services (food, showers, assistance)?

Are you really going to start handing out civil infractions to the homeless when you have not identified or fixed the above issues? If any of the above is not in place please do not put this ordinance into effect. This would be absolutely horrible for the homeless communities. Please consider fixing the issues and identifying up front the location of where the homeless are to move to prior to implementing this ordinance.

Thank you Shelley Lance

**From:** Elissa Matos <elissa.joy.matos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2023 10:17 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Anti-camping Ordinance

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am writing to respectfully request that you reconsider your approval of the current anti-camping ordinance that has been proposed. It is important to highlight that there are several aspects of this ordinance that raise constitutional concerns and may ultimately result in legal action being taken to protect the rights of those directly affected. It is disheartening to see this issue persist and not receive the adequate attention it requires. The individuals you are seeking to remove from public view are people who are facing genuine medical and mental health challenges, all of which are entirely treatable. Additionally, some are simply struggling due to low fixed incomes and a lack of affordable housing options.

I kindly request that you reconsider the wording within this ordinance. Specifically, I propose that under Definitions, language be added clarifying that the law will not apply to those whose "needs exceed what can be provided at a shelter." This would include elderly individuals with incontinence issues. Incontinence is not a disability, and therefore, these individuals would be directed to a shelter that cannot adequately accommodate their needs. Consequently, they would be forced to remain outside and face repeated penalties, potentially leading to misdemeanors and even incarceration. Increasing individuals' records will only make it more challenging to secure housing when it becomes available. Furthermore, there are individuals who are banned from shelters due to their behavioral issues. These individuals also fall into the category of having needs that exceed what a shelter can provide. It is unconstitutional to penalize individuals who have no other place to go and are simply trying to exist. Lastly, we have not received any information regarding the locations where people can camp when no other options are available. Relocation will undoubtedly be a challenging process, and we were assured by the mayor and some council members that a map would be made available. However, as it is now a Sunday during a holiday weekend, it is evident that there has been a lack of transparency regarding where individuals can go. I kindly request a response clarifying the locations where people can camp in such circumstances and urge you to amend the definition of those who will not be penalized due to the shelter's inability to meet their specific needs. Thank you for your attention to these matters, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,  
Elissa Matos

**From:** Neal Foley <nealfoley1021@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 4, 2023 7:52 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Camping Ordinance

Dear City Council,

I urge you to cancel the Anti-Camping ordinance in total and replace it with an ordinance that contains the words clearly spoken, over the last few months, by all of the public and City Council.

What was put forth by council members and the public for inclusion into the ANTI-CAMPING ordinance -

NOT criminalizing homelessness or mental health!

Finding a solution for dissolving or managing the homeless communities that have developed on MLK Way and elsewhere in the city, to minimize impact to neighbors and provide a way to better help the homeless people staying there.

**Not enforcing ANY anti-camping ordinance until a city designated camping area is established for use.**

The camping area would have simple basic amenities, bathrooms and a hand wash.

The area would have security and possibly be fenced providing an opportunity for people to leave without having their belongings rifled.

People breaking the law with drug use or other illegal activities would be arrested and removed from the area. This really takes care of most if not all of the "rules" that are needed. Don't break the law, and you can stay.

Transportation to this designated camping area if needed.

Located on a bus route.



I was pretty astounded after I left the last 08/23/23 CCSS and realized the lack of proximity of what has been put forth by council and the public, and what is actually being written into ordinance. The difference is stark.

Why are criminality and penalties written into the current document and all the other parts being left out? The result is criminalizing and prosecuting our homeless and mentally ill and providing no solutions.

Why are the items voiced by council and the public not being written into this ordinance? Is there a hidden agenda? If so whose is it?

How can what is proposed be constitutional if the current one is not? I see no difference.

**10 days after passage of this ordinance the very homeless people we have been discussing will be illegally camped in Bremerton and action taken in the form of fines and or jail time. And it is supposed to be more palatable because we argued about how much of a fine? How does this improve a homeless persons life?**

This is without providing any secure place to camp or any non criminal solutions.

Constitutional somehow?

Nowhere in this ordinance is there any mention of city property being used to camp legally? Simply a verbal that the city will not prosecute camping on current city owned properties that are not posted, etc.. Areas that could be closed, per this ordinance, with the simple posting of a no trespassing sign and that currently have no amenities whatsoever. Scattering this problem will not solve it.

Again, I urge you to cancel the Anti-Camping ordinance in total and replace it with an ordinance that contains the words clearly spoken, over the last few months, by the public and City Council.

**Contain and manage this issue for everyone's benefit!**

I also urge City Council to again consider funding Rock the Block and other organizations that are currently providing what is actually needed by our homeless each and every day RIGHT NOW while this debate continues. On the ground Nursing care, Counseling, obtaining a myriad of services for those in need, actually improving our lives. Porta Potties in place NOW and they are maintaining and footing the bill, supporting businesses in our town with cash dollars and solving a problem that could not be solved in a year, in just one afternoon.

Again, I urge you to cancel the Anti-Camping ordinance in total and replace it with an ordinance that contains the words clearly spoken, over the last few months, by all of the public and City Council.

Thanks,

Neal Foley

**From:** Susan Brooks-Young <[sjbrooksyoung@gmail.com](mailto:sjbrooksyoung@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 4, 2023 2:33 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Susan Brooks-Young <[sjbrooksyoung@gmail.com](mailto:sjbrooksyoung@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Proposed unauthorized camping ordinance

Dear council members,

I am very concerned about the ordinance on Wednesday's agenda that makes unauthorized camping illegal within city limits. Before the new ordinance is passed, there are several steps that, at the very least, need to be taken including :

- Sites are selected and reviewed for encampment suitability (proximity to social services, medical care, grocery and retail stores, public transportation, laundry and bathing facilities, etc.)
- Each site is equipped with adequate toilets, handwashing stations, communal food prep facilities, trash containers and disposal, etc.
- Staffing at each site to provide wrap-around services to residents, general communications, and security services.
- A plan for transitioning people from areas where they are currently staying to approved encampment areas including adequate notice and input on placement.
- A plan for what happens when winter arrives to ensure there are still enough sleeping spaces for every person who is in need.

I realize this list is a tall order, and yet it is incomplete. If reports about current plans for approving and implementing this ordinance are accurate, it does not seem that the city is well positioned to pass and enact the ordinance this week. If that is not the case, it would be helpful for city officials to share their complete plan with the public.

I live downtown and see daily evidence of the toll homelessness is taking on our city. At the same time, I want to know that whatever transpires over the next days and weeks is beneficial and helpful for everyone involved.

Please refrain from moving forward on this until you have a solid, workable plan that has been shared with the public well before any ordinance is adopted.

Sincerely,

Susan Young  
Bremeton

--

SJ Brooks-Young Consulting

Telephone: 951-202-2042

Web site: [www.sjbrooks-young.org](http://www.sjbrooks-young.org)

Twitter: @sjbrooksyoung

Facebook Business Page: [www.facebook.com/SjBrooksYoungConsulting](https://www.facebook.com/SjBrooksYoungConsulting)

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

**From:** Rae Cando <raecando1965@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:07 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Ordinance to ban public camping

For reading aloud during public comment at the Bremerton City Council Meeting, September 6, 2023.

Please delay the vote to make public camping illegal!!!

There is much to be done to support the front line workers who are selflessly assisting the unhoused BEFORE displacing those citizens. OR better yet, not displacing them.

The community has proven their willingness to step up and do the hard work of consistent one on one mentoring, providing basic necessities, and getting people into substance abuse treatment.

They even managed to secure two portable toilets without your promise of funding. Please immediately remedy this injustice and/or tell us how to access and secure those funds.

Delay the vote until your staff has created a plan WITH the current Rock the Block constituents to address the needs of the homeless population and make them aware of alternative properties.

My personal hope is that our unhoused on MLK Way can stay where they are, close to services, that area can be expanded to the empty lots, and that the City do what is right by them.

Sincerely,  
Raelenea Copus  
Citizen Advocate

**From:** kim siebens <kimmysiebens@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:49 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Anti Camping Ordinance and unconstitutionality

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to bring to your attention a recent comment made by Mary E Schweitzer RN regarding the anti-camping ordinance, which can be found on pages 46-49 of the current agenda packet. Upon reaching out to Ms. Schweitzer, I learned that she is currently out of state. While this may not invalidate her perspective, it is important to consider the lack of firsthand experience she has in conducting outreach work on our city streets.

I believe it is essential to approach discussions and decisions about our community's most vulnerable residents with empathy and understanding. Over the past seven years, I have been actively involved in providing medical care and outreach support to these individuals. Therefore, I would like to express my concern that many of you may not have had the opportunity to witness the realities faced by this marginalized group firsthand. It is crucial that we take the time to engage and build relationships with the people we are making decisions about.

Making judgments and forming opinions without direct personal interaction is reminiscent of the

injustices experienced by the LGBTQ+ community, which I find deeply troubling and unacceptable.

I kindly urge you to vote against this ordinance until it can be revised to ensure its constitutionality. Specifically, I recommend adding a clause to the definitions section stating that the law will not affect individuals "whose needs exceed those provided by homeless shelters." Failure to include such a provision would render the ordinance unconstitutional, potentially leading to legal action, as has happened in other jurisdictions that followed similar advice.

Furthermore, I have attached my response to Ms. Schweitzer's comment, as her views do not align with those of any medical provider or nurse I have encountered throughout my 17 years in the same field. It is essential for us to consider a diverse range of perspectives and engage in constructive dialogue to make informed decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am confident that by working together, we can create a more compassionate and equitable community for all. We have a chance to make history here, the right side of history. May our community thrive and be a beacon of hope and unity for all its citizens. You can make this happen. Please help make this come true for us all.

Sincerely, Kimmy Siebens RN

Dear Mary, I hope this message finds you well. As a fellow Registered Nurse, I wanted to reach out and share my perspective on the current issue we are facing regarding the unhoused population. Having worked at Harborview for the past 17 years in the trauma ICU, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and struggles that individuals experiencing homelessness go through on a daily basis. In addition to my work at Harborview, I have also taken the initiative to start a non-profit organization in Kitsap, where I reside, to support our unhoused neighbors. Over the past 12 years, I have been tirelessly advocating for affordable housing and increased access to vital services such as detox and rehab. Unfortunately, it seems that our efforts have not received the attention they deserve, falling on deaf ears.

I understand that the anti-camping ordinance you are advocating for may seem like a viable solution to some, but I respectfully disagree. In my experience, such measures only exacerbate the crisis by pushing individuals to the fringes of society, making it less likely for them to trust and accept the help offered by outreach workers like myself and my team. It is my sincere belief that if you were to spend some time on the streets with me and my team, you would gain a better understanding of our most vulnerable citizens and their desire for assistance.

I implore you, as a fellow RN, to reflect on our training in sociology and psychology. Remember Maslow's hierarchy of needs? We cannot hope to find a true solution to this critical issue unless more medical professionals, like ourselves, come forward to advocate for the patients we encounter on the streets. These individuals are dealing with 100% treatable health issues, but they are being failed by an inequitable system.

Every day, I encounter numerous people who are seeking treatment, but the reality is that there are simply not enough medical detox beds available when we call around the state. Under these conditions, it is clear to me that we will never achieve a resolution. I believe you can also see the limitations of the current system.

It is my hope that we can work together to address this issue in a more compassionate and effective manner. Thank you for taking the time to read my message. I genuinely appreciate your dedication to our profession, and I hope that we can find common ground to advocate for the well-being of our most vulnerable community members.

Warm regards,



Kimmy Siebens RN

Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member,  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility,  
[www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

President, Their Voice <http://www.their-voice.org>

Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless>

USA Today WA woman of the year 2023  
<https://www.kitsapsun.com/in-depth/news/2023/03/19/kimmy-siebens-washington-usa-today-women-year/69925589007/>

Daisy Award winner  
<https://www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/honorees/kimmy-siebens>

And my last message :

Time and time again Research findings suggest that refraining from providing assistance or withholding essential resources from individuals struggling with drug addiction is ineffective in addressing the root causes of addiction. I will adhere to the utilization of evidence-based research, which has consistently demonstrated its efficacy in addressing addiction, rather than allowing fear to perpetuate an already challenging situation.

Over the years, extensive research has consistently demonstrated that the tough love approach tends to be ineffective. It is crucial for us to acknowledge this fact and reflect on how it has contributed to our current situation. Limiting or withholding services can hinder progress and prevent individuals from accessing the support they genuinely require to overcome challenges.

As a nurse as experienced as yourself I believe you understand this. Instead, adopting a compassionate and understanding approach can foster positive change. By offering assistance and guidance to those in need, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment that empowers individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

However, when people advocate to withhold services - this issue only worsens and perpetuates the cycle we are currently within . We need more supportive services, shelter beds, detox beds, not less. Your letter empowers the city to not provide these essential services that are desperately needed to truly get a hold of this crisis.

I understand and empathize with the difficulties you are currently facing, and I genuinely hope that these challenges in your life find resolution and you experience the much-needed respite you deserve. As a nurse, I firmly believe in the significance of engaging in respectful dialogue, even when our opinions may differ. Our shared intention to prioritize the health and well-being of our community remains at the forefront of our endeavors.

Lastly, the letter you wrote is considered public record and accessible to a wide audience. I apologize if this makes you feel that your privacy is being intruded upon. I want to assure you that I have taken steps to protect your personal information. Prior to sharing the letter with my teams, I removed any sensitive details, including your address, in order to safeguard your privacy. I apologize for any

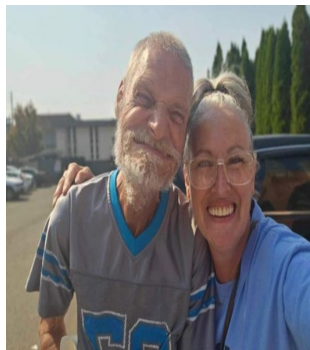
inconvenience this may have caused, and I appreciate your understanding in this matter.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. Our invitation still stands anytime you want to meet the people whose lives you affect by your letters. If you encounter any unhoused individuals bothering you please reach out and my team will work to solve those issues for you .

Bremerton City Council and Mayor, please see the faces you place judgment upon before you cast them to the fringes:







**From:** Joslyn Snow <joslynjune@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:15 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler  
<Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Letter to Council regarding camping ordinance

Please find attached a letter regarding your current proposed ordinance banning camping.

Thanks, and see you tomorrow!



## Bremerton Camping Ordinance

I was really hoping that our city would share compassion for those among us who suffer privation in the midst of plenty. Silencing expressions of need is a key strategy used by many local governments to hide the homeless in their communities. Messages driven by a pressing human need are fully covered by the Constitution. Nonprofits and individuals alike have a First Amendment right to communicate a need and invite the listener to help.

Additionally, unpopular speech is as deserving of protection as speech that people enjoy. As the Supreme Court has consistently explained, the fact that an “individual confronted with an uncomfortable message” on a sidewalk cannot “turn the page, change the channel, or leave the Web site” is a “virtue, not a vice.” The fact that some people would rather not hear a message is not a legitimate basis for the government to censor that speech. *McCullen v. Coakley*, 573 US 464 - Supreme Court 2014.

This ordinance trying to be hurriedly passed, without the necessary foundation to provide areas to safely place those unfortunate to be unhoused, but also for their belongings and property, is in DIRECT contravention of the United States Constitution.

There are so many aspects of this ordinance that are unconstitutional, but due to the delay by this Council to wait until the last possible moment to release the version they will be voting on, namely the Friday of a vacation weekend at 5:15pm. This in and of itself should cause every constituent to cringe, and the best reason to postpone the vote.

Please allow the following to serve as an illustration of just how unconstitutional this ordinance is. This set of challenges is by no means exhaustive, it is

1. The ordinance, in its last published version. It is vague, overly broad and violates numerous constitutional protections.

In *Seattle v. Huff*, Washington Supreme summarized the "void for vagueness" doctrine:

“Under this analysis, the issue is whether the two requirements of procedural due process are met: adequate notice to citizens and adequate standards to prevent arbitrary enforcement. Strict specificity is not required; the exact point where actions cross the line into prohibited conduct need not be predicted. The ability to overcome the vagueness doctrine is to have a specific intent as in the *City of Seattle v. Webster*, 802 P. 2d 1333 (Wash. 1990).

It is important to point out here, that we do not need to determine why it is currently vague, as the Council has set forth their specific intentions to target the unhoused. Does this mean a mother using a tent to shelter her young children from the elements could be subjected to fines and other criminal sanctions. Surely not...this Council has made clear its intention to enforce this ordinance on one group of people only...and that happens to be the most vulnerable population you have been tasked to protect.

2. This Ordinance violates the Constitutional Mandates for 1st Amendment concerns.

The Supreme Court of the United States has long held that regulations enacted for the purpose of restraining speech on the basis of its content presumptively violate the First Amendment. *See eg Carey v. Brown*, 447 US 455, 462-463 (1908); *Police Dept. of Chicago v. Mosley*, 408 US 92, 95, 98-99 (1972). On the other hand, so-called "content-neutral" time, place, and manner regulations are acceptable so long as they are designed to serve a substantial governmental interest and do not unreasonably limit alternative avenues of communication. *See Clark v. Community for Creative Non-violence*, 468 US 288, 293 (1984); *City Council of Los Angeles v. Taxpayers for Vincent*, 466 US 789, 807 (1984); *Heffron v. International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Inc.* 452 US 640, 647-648 (1981).

Homelessness has been considered to be protected speech, and this Council has made absolutely clear that this is not a content-neutral ordinance. It is specifically designed to target those unhoused individuals. It is the most blatant targeted ordinance that could be before the council. This Council is so bold in its overreaching, that it even states this in its enabling language.

3. The Unconstitutionality is not saved by Failing to Enforce this Ordinance.

While we appreciate the Council trying to save this unconstitutional ordinance by stating they will NOT enforce it, as the Supreme Court of the United States has been very clear this practice by local governments will not withstand judicial scrutiny.

It is well settled that a City's voluntary cessation of a challenged practice does not deprive a federal court of its power to determine the legality of the practice. *Friends of the Earth*, 528 US at 189. In *Martin*, the Ninth Circuit considered 2 ordinances that criminalized the simple act of sleeping outside on public property, whether bare or with a blanket or other basic bedding, and held that the "Eighth Amendment prohibits the imposition of criminal penalties for sitting, sleeping or lying outside on public property for homeless individuals that cannot obtain shelter. This is because the state cannot constitutionally punish an involuntary act or condition if it is the unavoidable consequence of one's status or being. *Id. quoting Jones v. City of Los Angeles* (444 F. 3d 1118) (stating "Just as the state may not criminalize the state of being homeless in public places, the state may not criminalize conduct that is an unavoidable consequence of being homeless, namely sitting, lying, or sleeping on the streets.

Furthermore, homeless individuals "risk losing not only their homes . . . but their community and their possessions" if this ordinance is passed in direct violation of their constitutional rights. *Le Van Hung v. Schaaf*, No. 19-cv-01436-CRB, 2019 WL 1779584, at (N.D. Cal. Apr. 23, 2019). *See also Arizona Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1069 (9th Cir. 2014) ("by establishing a likelihood that Defendants' policy violates the U.S. Constitution, Plaintiffs have also established that both the public interest and the balance of the equities favor a preliminary injunction."). As one court in this district has observed, **homeless residents of the City "are members of the community, and their interests, too, must be included in assessing the public interest."** *See Le Van Hung*, 2019 WL 1779584, at 7. (Emphasis added).

We agree the City should keep public spaces clean and sanitary or allow safe access to sidewalks and rights-of-way since there are already plenty of ordinances targeting public health

nuisances or willfully obstructing streets, sidewalks, or other passageways. Rather we simply request this Council not to waste more precious time and money on a blatantly unconstitutional ordinance.

If we are unable to appeal to this Council's conscience of basic humanity and decency, let's talk about fiscal consequences as that seems to be what drives this administration. The amount of money and resources needed to defend such an ordinance will far outweigh any short term or delusionary benefits you can imagine.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I implore you to do better.

Respectfully concerned:

Joslyn L.

Bremerton Washington Resident and faithful advocate for not only the United States Constitution, but also for ALL those who fall under its protections.

**From:** Kelsey S <kelsey.e.stedman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unauthorized Camping Ordinance--request for extension and clarification

Hello Mayor Wheeler and City Council,

Many citizens, including me, recognize the hours, effort, and revisions that have gone into the current unauthorized camping ordinance. The current draft is a major improvement from the initial draft and I commend you all for the thought you've put into it. However I fear passing the current draft will diminish the work that has been completed to date, by the Council, the Mayor, and the people working with the folks living unhoused in Bremerton, as well as open the City up to litigation. Below I outline specific examples of why I am requesting City Council postpone the vote:

But first, a little about where I am coming from--I was born and raised in Bremerton. I work in Bremerton in local government, though today I write as a concerned human being worried about other human beings and the impact the current ordinance will have not only on the unhoused, but the agencies working with them (my own included). I have attended or watched the recordings of almost every council meeting and study sessions on this issue, providing public comment, while also volunteering my time and skills as a nurse at the encampments on MLK and Broadway. I have emptied the buckets filled with feces and urine, that would have otherwise been in our waterways, in our business entryways, and in our resident's yards. I helped troubleshoot the issue of sanicans and, along with many other advocates and agencies, helped bring the current two sanicans to fruition, which are fully citizen funded at this point (though we hope the City will entertain reimbursement requests with invoices and written consent for their placement from the property owner). I have been involved in working with people experiencing homelessness for nearly a decade and have acted as Power of Attorney for two family members struggling with addiction and/or Substance use disorder. I have law enforcement officers in my immediate family and friend circles. I have also been a part of revisions to the Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Plan and participated in Kitsap Point in Time Counts. I have written grants for programs that work with the homeless, been an elected member of state Balance of State subcommittees for funding homelessness and an elected Board Member for Olympic Community of Health. I have attended numerous National Healthcare for the Homeless conferences in my role as a nurse working with unsheltered individuals. Here are my concerns and some suggested solutions:

1. The public has a right to have adequate time to review and comment on draft ordinances. This latest draft was posted after business hours (5:15pm) on a Friday before a three-day weekend. This has left less than two business days for review and public comment, one of which is today, the day of the vote. This draft is drastically different than the initial draft released. The public has not had adequate time to provide feedback on the newest draft. The below observations have taken me many hours to formulate, and I have not had enough time to articulate or research all my concerns, so have highlighted what I am able by the deadline. I have heard similar concerns from other volunteers, advocates, and agency workers who would be tasked with carrying out the activities outlined in the ordinance.

2. Citizens and City Administration have repeatedly asked for ordinances that are clear and actionable. The current draft is neither. There are many places where the ordinance uses language with double meanings or provides multiple definitions. There is a lack clarity on how it will be realistically executed. Below are some examples:

- a. In the definition of "available overnight shelter" (9.32.010(a)), there is language stating an example as, "outdoor encampment operated **or permitted** by the city." Later in the ordinance a permit process is discussed. Does the definition of available shelter mean an encampment that possesses *a permit* from the city? Or does it mean an encampment *allowed* by the city based on a the yet-to-be-release list of

public spaces individuals can reside if no shelter is available, but no permit required? This is extremely unclear.

b. To "camp" means *either* (1) to dwell, reside....; and/or (2) to use camping paraphernalia. Camping paraphernalia is later defined as includes objects such as sleeping bags and hammocks. I have heard in City Council Study Sessions you do not want to prevent people from using such "paraphernalia" in "appropriate ways" (which in and of itself is potentially discriminatory and subjective). The current draft would mean that someone hanging a hammock in Evergreen park at noon on a sunny day would be considered "camping." To camp should NOT include a definition of simply using camping paraphernalia.

c. In section 9.32.040 PERMIT. Section 9.32.040(a) states "The Director is authorized, by permit, to allow persons to camp....subject to other applicable codes or ordinances." Yet no example ordinances are included. Section 9.32.040(b) goes on to take language from the current ordinance of basic considerations for a permit to be approved. I appreciate these minimum standards. However, these are only a subset of the standards outlined in BMC 20.46.090 required for an encampment permit. It is extremely unclear if an encampment need only to meet subsection (b) to be approved as an authorized encampment, or if it needs to meet all standards and processes outlined in BMC 20.46.090. Which is it? Either? Both? If a city releases a list or map as mentioned in 9.32.060, will they meet at least the minimum standards required in 9.32.040(b)?

d. SECTION 4. If this passes tonight, what happens on day 11 after passage if no encampment has been authorized by permit as outlined in 9.32.040? Is that up to the City Administration to determine? What is the expectation from BPD in this situation?

e. Overall, the encampments within City Limits that have received the most attention are the ones on BLK and Broadway, however, there are many other smaller encampments within the city. There is no process or timelines for notification of unsheltered individuals in the current ordinance. Under the current draft, the City Administration could release a map at 4pm, 9 days after this ordinance passes, and people could begin being criminalized for homelessness the next day. Many folks have lived at these places for nearly a year. It will take time to notify them of the new options, once released, and take time for volunteers and agencies to mobilize and execute a relocation plan.

**Suggested revision:** Add a period of time for dissemination and relocation after new shelter options become available. For example, "In the event a new available shelter option becomes publicly available, the ordinance will not go into effect until 10 business days after public announcement of the new shelter option, including how to access it, to allow for dissemination and relocation efforts."

3. The current draft does not take into consideration the channels those experiencing homelessness must go through to access housing listed as "available shelter." Mainly, most funding that supports these places (transitional housing, shelters, a yet-to-exist permitted outdoor encampment), require individuals to enter into these settings through "Coordinated Entry." Our Coordinated Entry provider is Housing Solutions Center, which is only open M-F and not even a full 8 hours per day. Individuals are required to have certain documents that have to be collected from multiple locations (ID, proof of income or lack of, letter of homelessness, etc) to apply for services, and then be referred to shelters. This is how the Quality Inn works. They also need income or rental assistance when it comes to any option other than emergency shelter or encampments (such as transitional housing). What happens at 10PM on a Friday night?

**Suggested revision(s):**

a. Remove "transitional housing" from the definition of "Available overnight shelter."

b. Include in the definition of available shelter that an available shelter bed needs to be "immediately available," or some other verbiage to indicate that if the individual were to be taken directly to the shelter, they would be accepted, regardless of day or time. If an officer encounters an unsheltered individual at 10pm at Friday night, even if a shelter bed is unoccupied, it may not actually mean it is *immediately* available if the individual were to show up.

4. The current draft does not address how city employees (e.g. BPD) are to address interactions with persons who are ineligible for shelter services outside the few exceptions listed in the last paragraph of 9.32.010. Firstly, who determines what is a "disability?" Miriam Webster defines a disability as, "a physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions." Can it be self-reported? Can the shelter deem someone ineligible due to a disability? Are behaviors related to substance use or mental health a "disability?" Secondly, there are other reasons outside those listed that frequently lead to someone being ineligible (such as past or current behaviors, incontinence, court-ordered no-contact orders, sex offender requirements, competency, etc.). The ordinance should not determine if someone is eligible for shelter, the shelter should have that authority.

**Suggested revision:** Amend the last paragraph to state, "If an individual or family cannot use an available shelter because of the individual or family's sex...disability, length of stay restrictions **or are otherwise deemed ineligible for services per shelter staff to a City Employee**, the accommodation is not considered available."

Overall, there are still many unanswered questions that there is not sufficient time to address before tonight. I am requesting answers to the questions I have outlined above as well as:

**1. What happens to those living unsheltered on areas that will be illegal at all times (such as the grass strips on MLK) 10 days after passage of this ordinance if no encampment with a permit exists?**

**2. Will any City properties mentioned in the list or map outlines in 9.32.060 also be required to meet minimum standards outlined in 9.32.040 (adequate trash receptables and sanitary facilities)?**

Thank you for all the time and efforts that have been poured into this concern to date. I know there is no easy solution, but there are ways to do this with the least impact and the most humanely. Mainly, in order to criminalize those currently camping in areas outlined in 9.32.020(b) *When overnight shelter is not available, camping is only prohibited on these City Properties*, without fear of litigation, there needs to be:

- 1) A relocation site or sites that at least have the minimum requirements outlined in the 9.32.040(b). Adequate time and City Administration involvement in a coordinated dissemination plan
- 2) Adequate time and City Administration involvement in a coordination relocation plan
- 3) A relocation site or sites that at least have the minimum requirements outlined in the 9.32.040(b).

In addition to being inhumane, failure to, at minimum, address the above, would not align with previous court decisions outlined in the first page of this ordinance, as well as numerous others not included in the ordinance (e.g. *Warren v. Chico*). For these reasons, I request City Council postpone the vote on the current draft Ordinance No. 5482.

Respectfully,

Kelsey Stedman, RN, MSN  
360.908.6751

**From:** Sherlock Bill <sherlockbill@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:12 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** David Nelson <david.nelson@kitsapsun.com>  
**Subject:** HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS SOLUTIONS

Dear Council members:

Thank you for working to solve the problem of the homeless who are taking over some of our streets. If they were neat and tidy it would be helpful but they are not. I talked with some members of the homeless encampment street behind the Salvation Army. They are very frank about the drug dealing, overdose deaths, and prostitution going on. The City has gone the Biblical "extra mile" for a long time and it is time for action. Here is a letter I shared with Mayor Wheeler earlier with some additional suggestions. A central housing facility would be the most cost efficient and helpful to law enforcement. We unfortunately did not pass the public safety bond which would have added more officers so we have to help them the best we can by not making their job more difficult.

What do we do about the unsolved problem of the homeless in Bremerton? It's like triage, we need to help those closest to us.

For a long time I have been a proponent of a gated year round community housing center. It should be located on a bus line. It would contain clean modern barracks with restrooms and showers, mess hall, laundry center, first aid station, mini-storage garages, and vehicle parking. This as opposed to converted hotels which can become lawless slums. It would be a strictly enforced alcohol and drug free

zone with proactive 24/7 armed security personnel with lethal force authority if needed. There would be zero tolerance for any type of threatening behavior. Some type of community service and job training activity would be required for residency at this taxpayer supported facility. If a person is physically able to push a broom they should be able to do some type of work. Some feel it would be bringing back the "poor farm" but if it gets people off the sidewalk, out of the woods, and out of dilapidated RV's and into a clean secure shelter , why not. It would be more cost efficient than subsidizing rent in motels, apartments, and houses. Let's create a model for other communities across the country. If we can send 150 billion dollars and counting to Ukraine , a non-NATO country we have no obligation to, we can take care of our own people who WANT to get back on their feet. Those who don't will continue in their own self-inflicted downward spiral and may need to be incarcerated for their protection and society's protection.

Best wishes and much success for cleaning up Bremerton.



William L. Rieger  
3321 Almira Drive NE  
PO Box 2423  
Bremerton, Wa 98310-0317  
Phone 360-377-8443  
Cell 360-471-7250  
Email: [sherlockbill@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockbill@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/william.rieger.9659>



**From:** Anton Preisinger <anton@nwhospitality.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 8:16 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council  
<City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** No anti-camping ordinance

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

The last time that I got to say “hi” and shake your hand was at the Open House for the Eagles Wings Coordinated Care Clubhouse on August 5th, almost exactly one month ago. I was genuinely happy to see you there because Eagle’s Wings and our other service organizations in the region need all of the support and accolades we can provide them.

With that celebration in mind, and your evident support for our unhoused neighbors, it is impossible for me to imagine that you would breathe a single word of support for the proposed “anti-camping” ordinance being discussed at today’s meeting. Anything short of denouncing this ordinance outright will be a betrayal of everything the social services groups in the region are fighting for. Hypocrisy and cowardice are viewed by many as synonymous with politics and politicians, please take this opportunity to set at least one counter-example.

You cannot walk both sides of this issue. If this ordinance had been constructed in good faith, then we would know the locations of the sites being proposed for people to move to. The city would have recognized that vital need (as we have been begging them to do for years now) and started by providing the essential services and safe spaces rather than tacking those in at the end in a very weak attempt to satisfy constitutional requirements. You and I both know that proposing a site like that is only the first step in a long and harrowing quest that is as likely as not to end in failure - at least in any jurisdiction with such a weak commitment to its unhoused residents that there has been no emergency declaration to facilitate real solutions.

This ordinance is being pushed for only one reason - to give the city the tools it needs to perform sweeps and disappear the people it has failed in a last-ditch effort to appease housed constituents. Sweeps have been proven over and over to be ineffective and harmful. We need to house people from where they set up their communities or actually give them better places to be in the meantime. Forcing people to move with no effective support structure - the nonsense in the proposed ordinance is a joke - will result in people losing touch with vital resources and setting up new encampments elsewhere, all while we make them feel ever more like castoffs rather than severely traumatized members of our community that we want to see find safety and success. The very fact that we keep having these discussions and “debates” is evidence enough that there is little hope for rational and humane responses to the problems of poverty and homelessness; cowards keep demanding of those in service that we not only solve all the problems without adequate resources and while navigating conjured obstacles, but also endlessly affirm why and how we do so.

Please do whatever you can to take action in support of the people who need it most, our unhoused neighbors and those working to provide them with support and services. Quash this obscene waste of everybody’s time. Let us gather the people and groups who have been leading the positive efforts toward actual solutions on Dr. Martin Luther King Way and build a real plan. This would likely include some established open-air shelter locations around the city and county as proposed - but those need to be active and successful before there is any discussion like the proposed ordinance. Take action in this order, service and compassion first,

rather than flipping everything on its head, and you will find that the problem solves itself because housed people don't camp on your city streets.

Sincerely,

Anton Preisinger  
Founding Executive Director  
Northwest Hospitality  
888-222-5240  
[www.nwhospitality.org](http://www.nwhospitality.org)



# Homeless could lose proximity to resources, safety as Bremerton plan heads for a vote

**Kai Uyehara** Kitsap Sun

Published 4:41 p.m. PT Sept. 3, 2023



Tents line Broadway Avenue in Bremerton on Labor Day weekend. A tent encampment has recently gathered on the street, though the Bremerton City Council is considering a city ordinance that would once again make unauthorized camping on public property illegal. *Kitsap Sun Staff*

BREMERTON -- A team of volunteers serving Bremerton's homeless community cut a ceremonial toilet paper ribbon to open two portable toilets on MLK Way Thursday. After conversation with the city administration and elected officials for months on how to legally install such a facility, the team rented land on the block, bought the toilets and set them out -- just days before the Bremerton City Council is scheduled to vote on an unauthorized camping ordinance that would see the encampment cleared and separated.

The council's proposed ordinance, now on the agenda for a vote Wednesday, would outlaw camping in parks, and on streets in any park and on streets, sidewalks and the space between streets and sidewalks. But rather than clearing the homeless campers and leaving them with nowhere to go while the city lacks overnight shelter space, a list of undeveloped city-owned parcels will be attached to the ordinance, mapping out areas where the law against camping will not be enforced.

But with the long holiday weekend ahead and no list attached to the proposed ordinance yet, advocates and people living in the MLK Way encampment, as well as another on nearby Broadway Avenue that has grown in recent weeks,

are left wondering where they will go, how far their new encampments will be from centralized resources and how safe the sites will be.

“When you have a crisis, you have to solve it by solving the actual issues, which can't be done by hiding people,” Kimmy Siebens, a nurse and volunteer who's worked with the homeless community for years and played a lead role in the toilet installation, said late in the week. “If we disperse this to the rest of the community, it's just going to be chaotic for everybody.”

Siebens and her team are demanding the city give homeless campers 20 to 30 days to relocate to undeveloped parcels after their locations are identified, a timeframe not included in the ordinance as written so far.

“We just found out and we have exactly one week to get ourselves out and they still haven't told us where we're going,” said Kevin Naughton, 42, who camps on Broadway, behind the Starbucks at Sixth Street and Warren Avenue. “The city has not talked to us. We're the ones that are on the street right now.”

Homeless campers like Naughton and his tentmate Stacey, who wished not to share her last name, are worried about the safety and compatibility among neighbors at the new encampments once their current ones are dispersed.

“A lot of these people I've become quite friendly with and quite close to, we all try to get each other's backs,” said Stacey, who said she only grew close with her neighbors after months of camping. “We don't want the people that are all hyped out on drugs and all crazy and acting all ridiculous. We want people that are respectable and quiet.”

Moving to a new parcel would undo the environment campers have created, Stacey and Naughton said. It could cause problems between homeless folk if someone chooses to camp near them in a new location whom they don't get along with.

“We're creating a community of respect and taking care of their neighborhood,” Siebens said. “It actually is helpful to have smaller groups that work more cohesively together, but then when you are relying on community member volunteers who have full-time jobs like me as a nurse full-time in Seattle, then how hard is that going to be for me to go to like 10 different places when I'm the one providing the resources?”

Siebens' team consists of volunteer nurses, doctors, prior addicts and gang members, mental health and substance use disorder professionals who work to fill in the gaps they see from the city in servicing homeless folk, connecting them with resources and providing in-field medical care, navigation to detox, treatment, and housing opportunities.

“There is not going to be a designated area where the city is helping people (to relocate for camping),” Siebens said. “However, we the citizens are volunteering time and giving our own money and we need this support from the local government.”

“We want to clear all of this up too,” Siebens said, “but we want to do it in a humanitarian way.” For others in the neighborhood, however, the collective encampments are becoming unsustainable and an enforceable ordinance is needed right away.

Paul Meigs owns Discount Tire and Wheel at the end of MLK Way, a the street's intersection with Park Avenue, where he can see straight down the tents gathered on either side of the road.

“I've cleaned up human feces about 12 times in the last six months,” said Meigs, who's installed cameras all around the shop. “I don't leave anything outside at night anymore.”

Meigs wants to see camping outlawed in the city limits altogether. Others who've helped those going through hard times in Bremerton also agreed that the time has come to address the encampments that have grown rapidly this summer.

“I think it's a good thing to move an encampment away from schools and community centers,” said Capt. Dana Walters of the Salvation Army, an organization that currently provides numerous daytime services to homeless residents, just across the alley from the MLK Way encampment and a block from the Marvin Williams Recreation Center.

Amanda has been in and out of treatment for her substance addictions after several major traumatic events happened in her life. Amanda, 39, wished not to share her last name for safety concerns. She's been staying in the MLK Way encampment when she's out of treatment, sharing a tent.

Amanda has been having trouble sleeping, like many inside the encampment, due to fighting heard early almost every morning. Accessing drugs and falling into addiction is easy to do there, she said.

Amanda agrees with the proposed plan to relocate to an undeveloped area, as long as there is direct communication from the city about the details of the ordinance and the availability of necessities, like a toilet, drinking water and a barbeque she and her homeless neighbors can cook on at all times.

“Some of these places are going to be so far out there, there's not going to be stores and things that we might need to use,” Stacey said. “If you don't have a vehicle, if you don't have the means to get around, how are you going to do that if you're out in the middle of a forest somewhere because they don't want to look at you?”

Accessing services at the Salvation Army like showers and laundry can already mean waiting in line for hours, said Naughton, even with the building a block away. Without money, Naughton has to use bus tokens provided by the Kitsap Resource Center and the Salvation Army, but they're often not enough to bus between jobs and appointments, let alone between potentially farther removed camping spots and resources within the city center.

Accessing the Salvation Army's provisions like breakfast and lunch, shower, laundry, clothing, bus tokens and on-site healthcare could become a difficulty for homeless campers as well, Naughton worries.

Preparing to serve new homeless encampment locations, Siebens and her volunteer team are requesting \$10,000 from the city for toilet maintenance and hand-washing stations, costs that include renting land to place toilets, weekly toilet emptying costs, "sharps" containers costs and fencing costs. They are also asking for funds and a designated city employee to coordinate dumpster and trash pick up and waste removal from RVs.

"I think anytime you have people living in tents without direct access to sanitation, whether that is by their choice or someone else's, that it presents problems," Walters said. "There's just a myriad of reasons that people are there, but whatever the reason is, they're still a human being in a tent without access to basic needs."

Siebens plans to also pursue legal action to force the city to include language in the proposed ordinance defining incontinent persons as disabled, and thus considered exempt from infractions for unauthorized camping. And if a list of campable undeveloped locations is not attached to the proposed ordinance soon, considering that Wednesday's vote will come just two days after Labor Day weekend, Siebens intends to pursue legal action as well.

If the ordinance is enacted, Siebens said, she'll have to move the newly christened portable toilets to the next, most useful location.

# Bremerton planning to establish areas for authorized homeless encampments on city property

**Kai Uyehara** Kitsap Sun

Published 1:46 p.m. PT Aug. 25, 2023



An encampment lines MLK Way in Bremerton on June 30. MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN

With shelter beds limited and homeless encampments growing in neighborhoods like MLK Way in Bremerton, city leaders appear to have agreed on a plan to address the issue of public camping.

An ordinance proposed for a vote by the City Council on Sept. 6 would outlaw outdoor camping in any park and on streets, sidewalks and the space between streets and sidewalks. However, the rule would also set aside undeveloped, city-owned parcels where the rule would not be enforced, essentially setting up sanctioned encampments in specific, controlled areas while Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler continues work on establishing a new temporary shelter in Bremerton that could serve as a resource for the homeless community.

The locations of those unenforced zones have not been specified, after a City Council meeting Wednesday where the draft rules were agreed on.

The city has had an ordinance in place since 2004 that outlaws camping in any park or public space at the penalty of a \$105 fine, but it's not currently enforced. That's due to a 2019 decision from the federal Ninth Circuit Court, known as *Martin v. Boise*, establishing a precedent that clearing encampments is illegal when there are no available overnight shelter beds available in a jurisdiction.

Bremerton does not have shelter beds available, after the Salvation Army closed its overnight shelter on May 1 and the Kitsap Rescue Mission leaving Sixth Street several years ago. In addition, beds at facilities like Pendleton Place or through other housing programs are not available as temporary shelter.

Wednesday's meeting was the fifth recent session for councilmembers to discuss the camping ordinance, including hearing from residents repeatedly this summer to urge action about the growing situation on MLK Way or to ask the city to establish a shelter or sanctioned area to camp.

Councilmember Eric Younger argued for a single, designated area, saying, "It's going to be easier for a provider of services to go to one city-designated camping area to take care of these people and that's all for law enforcement in case there's a problem."

Councilmember Quinn Dennehy also favored a sanctioned area, emphasizing the ability to install a restroom or drinking water, something the mayor had allocated funds for in the past but has yet to materialized on MLK Way.

"The mayor is already networked into all the other political aspects of the county to figure out how we can pool all our resources," Dennehy said.

But other members contested the city's responsibility to designate one camping zone, favoring an approach that wouldn't necessarily concentrate all camping in a single area.

"You don't want to have one giant tent city, because that can be problematic," councilmember Jennifer Chamberlin said. "There's going to be situations where people who are unhoused ... have court cases pending against each other, so they can't be in the same facility. We need to have diverse options."



After the council agreed to stick with unenforced zones for camping among undeveloped parcels in the written rules, the discussion turned to creating a list of available locations and then publicizing it if the ordinance is approved.

"I think for fairness and community and all things like that, we would need to make those places known to people," City Attorney Kylie Finnell said. "We can't simply say you can't camp here, here and here — good luck finding where you can. There would need to be some way to identify those properties and make that information available to the public, and again, those are different than a city-designated camping area."

The council decided a "living" document, or map of the city's undeveloped parcels, should be developed and handed out to campers in unauthorized zones. Council President Jeff Coughlin said he expects the list before the Sept. 6 vote.

Under the proposal, violations of the camping ban would be penalized with a \$25 fine. Three or more infractions within a two-year period could result in a misdemeanor charge for an individual.

"If the administration is able to set up, essentially, a regulated camping spot that provides services, then that would count as available shelter," Coughlin said. "So it'll be on the administration to hopefully create more shelter space that we desperately need. They'll have several options at their disposal including, shelters in town, working with Salvation Army, working with the county, but one extra option is a regulated encampment."

Wheeler stands behind the draft ordinance and will support the council in passing it, but he's already pursuing other solutions as well.

"The ordinance does not solve the homeless problem in our city and it doesn't solve the camping problem," Wheeler said. "It regulates it into different areas around the city on publicly owned properties instead of having it concentrated in just one area ... that problem will just reemerge in different parts of the city."

Wheeler's plan is to rely on the camping provisions of the ordinance only until the winter, he said. His administration is pushing the Salvation Army to open its overnight winter shelter on Nov. 1.

After that, he hopes to have a new overnight shelter set up for those experiencing homelessness when they exit the winter shelter in the spring.

Wheeler has identified an area within Bremerton close to a bus line — the location of which he could not share — where he envisions a 120-bed shelter with rooms for case management operations. Wheeler and his administration are looking into ways to expedite permitting and building installation and are working with partners to secure funding and provide wrap-around services for homeless guests. Wheeler even hopes some type of tiny-home village can be built at the site for a transitional housing option in the future.

If the ordinance passes, law enforcement will be authorized to break up encampments like that on MLK Way, where more than a dozen tents have lined the block through the summer. Residents who are asked to leave will be visited by case managers and law enforcement, who will be required to notify them of the ordinance and distribute a map of undeveloped areas available for camping, Wheeler said. After that, officers will have to cite repeat infractions for unauthorized campers.

“If someone is not going to move if they are requested to move, they need to go to jail,” said Wheeler, who disagreed with the proposed ordinance’s policy on repeat offenses.

“This is one tiny, tiny piece of a huge puzzle,” Coughlin said. “This ordinance alone doesn't tackle providing affordable housing, providing shelter space, all the stuff that I know the city as a whole has been working hard on. This is just one small piece and we're going to continue to keep working hard to get folks the resources they need.”

**From:** Peggi Erickson <peggi.erickson@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Please Postpone vote on Homeless Camping - Don't rush it

Dear Bremerton City Council,

Thank you for all the work you are doing to provide services and rights for our unhoused neighbors. I sit on the newly convened Kitsap ERACE Housing Team and we have had quite a few discussions about the work you are doing. However, I urge you not to rush into a vote tonight on designating places where camping will be allowed.

We do need spaces where unhoused people can stay safely, free from harassment and the danger of sweeps wherein they lose whatever few things they may own. These spaces need to be evaluated for access to services (many do not have cars), sanitation facilities, safety and community acceptance.

Representatives of the unhoused community should also be included in your considerations. Decisions should not be being made that will impact them without input from them.

Now that the port-a-potty has been installed on MLK Way, complaints about feces there should go away. According to the recent article in the Kitsap Sun the folks staying there have formed a community that feels safe and has easy access to services. I think you should allow that community to stay put. <https://www.kitsapsun.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kitsapsun.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2F2023%2F09%2F03%2Funauthorized-camping-ordinance-worries-bremertons-homeless-community%2F70743920007%2F>

For all the above reasons, I urge to postpone the vote and study the options more deeply.

Again, thanks for all you are doing in this arena.

Peggi Erickson

*“There’s something that tells you what’s right. You know you have to do it to survive as a human being. You have no choice.”*

*--Unita Blackwell, Civil Rights Heroine*

**From:** sound.grants@comcast.net <sound.grants@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:59 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Letter regarding individuals without homes

Hello,

I am out of state at this time but would like to share the attached letter with you in reference to the housing dilemma facing the unhoused community members on MLK Way and in other city locations.

Kind regards,

Beverly Kincaid

---

Beverly A. Kincaid  
525 Lebo Blvd. #E-3  
Bremerton, WA 98310

September 6, 2023

Mayor Greg Wheeler  
Members of the Bremerton City Council  
345 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Council Members:

We often speak broadly of the 'housing continuum'; however, this continuum only works when there is housing available and affordable for low-income, no-income households. Even when such housing is available, actions must frequently be taken to stabilize the housing and its residents, in order to avoid repeating the cycle of homelessness. Flexible housing opportunities are necessary, in terms of cost and type of accommodations, level of need, safety factors, and individual health factors.

I have followed the conundrum on Martin Luther King Way, and it saddens me to observe that my city, which I call home, cannot reach an amicable agreement with those groups who care deeply about the current and future well-being of the vulnerable population that appears to be growing larger each day in our community.

Several years ago, as regional grants manager for Catholic Community Services, another individual and I were able to negotiate with a number of local churches opportunities for temporary sleeping accommodations for unhoused men who were living on the streets, in the forest, and in the alley ways. This was the small start that ultimately resulted in the development of the successful Benedict House program for men in West Bremerton. This is just one example of community support that could help alleviate some of the hardship facing the ever- growing population of unhoused people.

Before you enact an ordinance that may, in fact, be illegal, I urge you to convene a group of individuals who are unhoused, some of their community supporters, and the dedicated local service providers to discuss available temporary solutions that could be implemented before winter sets in. I am happy to

help in any way possible, as long as those who are involved are willing to work toward a goal of finding the best possible solution for shelter of some type for the ensuing winter months, while working toward a longer term goal of developing a model housing program that focuses on improving the lives of vulnerable unhoused individuals and households.

Kind regards,

Beverly Kincaid

P.S: I am out of town until September 12, 2021

From: Christine Grenier <Christine.Grenier@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 3:39 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Cc: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: FW: September 6 - Item 6B Public Comment (Jerome Alford)

Attn: Council Members (FYI)

**\*\*For informational purposes only. Do not reply to this email\*\***

The attached message received from Jerome Alford included comments for Item 6B "Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping".

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitel Voice Mail <shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:06 PM  
To: Lori Smith <Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Mitel voice message from +13606983322 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13606983322 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:00:48. Message size is 375 KB.

**From:** Anna Mockler <Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:23 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Helen Havens <fellow\_sojourner@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Proposed Camping Ordinance (Helen Havens)

Dear Helen,

I agree that a designated camping site should have facilities including toilets, showers, laundry, regular garbage pick-up, and storage. We learned at our last meeting that the City has security guards (unarmed) trained in conflict resolution, de-escalation, and sympathetic mobilization, so it was suggested they provide some supervision.

Since we got two new pieces of information very late before tonight's meeting, we delayed tonight's vote until we could examine it and discuss it next week. There were so many people who wanted to give public comment tonight that we now have even more information to process.

Really appreciate your thoughtful email. Hope you are well, and thanks again for those masks you gave me in April 2020!

Anna

Anna Mockler  
Bremerton City Councilor, District Six  
Chair, Public Works and Audit Committees

---

**From:** Helen Havens <[fellow\\_sojourner@yahoo.com](mailto:fellow_sojourner@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:56 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** proposed camping ordinance

To: Bremerton City Council

Re: proposed camping ordinance

Hello, I am a city resident within Anna Mockler's council section. I am writing to urge the council to delay action on this ordinance until planning has been completed to protect the vulnerable persons who have been camping within the city limits by arranging a list of campable city properties that will be prepared ahead with residential amenities that include sanitary arrangements like toilets and washing facilities, some security, and regular removal of refuse. Provision should also be made for existing living arrangements, chosen neighbors within the tent city and other areas, to be respected.

Sincerely,

Helen E Havens  
1115 Rainier Ave  
Bremerton, WA 98312

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:18 PM  
**To:** Robin Luethe <[r.l.luethe@gmail.com](mailto:r.l.luethe@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: tent locations for homeless

Hi Robin,

Thank you. I'm proud of the Council and our commitment to addresses this issue and to have spent over 5 meetings soliciting public input and converging on a reasonable middle ground for this issue.

I am CC-ing Mayor Wheeler to respond that, if the City were to pursue a regulated encampment to address the lack of available shelter space, as permitted in the recent draft of the ordinance should it pass, would it include the items you've identified.

Cheers,  
Jeff  
CC: Councilmembers

--



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** Robin Luethe <[r.l.luethe@gmail.com](mailto:r.l.luethe@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 11:47 AM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** tent locations for homeless

I was very pleased to read about the city's recent development for our homeless, and appreciate all you have done on this.

I haven't seen, but assume porta-potties and trash bins will be close by. Another step which likely would benefit neighborhoods and those in the tent encampment is security cameras.

Rob



**From:** Holly Dains <[holly.dains@bremertonschools.org](mailto:holly.dains@bremertonschools.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 6:48 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Camp

Good morning, I realize there are homeless camps everywhere, I will continue to email as I see them becoming out of control. The one on MLK way is absolutely ridiculous. The new one I'm concerned about is the one on the east side of the Warren Ave, bridge, right hand side as you come off the bridge. I'm surprised the nursing home isn't a bit concerned. Can anything be done to at least have them clean up their mess?

Holly Dains  
Para Educator  
Bremerton School Dist.

August 28, 2023

To Bremerton City Council

Re: unauthorized camping

Dear Council Members;

I am a local home owner, certified critical care RN, former Bremerton business owner, and former Kitsap County Juvenile Detention Officer. I am writing to express my concern regarding the unauthorized camping within the City of Bremerton. This letter describes two specific events near the unauthorized camp on Broadway and 7<sup>th</sup>, and my professional experience working with drug addicts as a registered nurse, and as a detention officer.

Two months ago, on my way to work I stopped at Starbucks on 6<sup>th</sup> and Warren. As I was pulling into the parking lot from Broadway, I noticed an infant car seat. In the car seat was what appeared to be an infant covered with blankets. I was afraid to exit my car! I am a nurse, and I was afraid to exit my vehicle to check to see if there was an abandoned baby. Was the car seat placed in the entrance to Starbucks, hoping that someone would exit their car? If a concerned citizen exited their car, would they be robbed or car jacked? I waited just a few minutes until another vehicle approached. The driver also saw the car seat and was concerned there was a baby in the car seat. I exited my car, with the other driver observing. Thankfully, it was just a doll that someone staged in the car seat in the middle of Starbuck's drive thru. I moved the car seat out of the driveway area and notified the staff at Starbucks.

Then last Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, I entered the Burger King parking lot off of Broadway. Along Broadway I counted approximately twenty tents. Inside one tent, there was a young man with curly hair, sitting in a staddle position on the ground, with his head bent forward. He was breathing deeply with his eyes open.

He appeared to be under the influence of drugs. I did drive slowly past him, to observe that his respirations were slow, but regular (he did not appear to require medical aid). At the next tent, I saw a male and female (both between 25 to 35 years of age), entering and exiting. Then they approached a white Mitsubishi Gallant at the corner parking space of Burger King. As I pulled into the parking lot, I observed the male approach the car, and shake hands with someone resting against the car. The handshake was open handed, with the palms sliding, indicative of a drug deal.

Then as I drove through the parking lot, I observed someone defecating in a parking space! I expressed my concerns and sympathy with an employee of Burger King. I was told that they were down to two employees that day, and that they were afraid to open the lobby.

As a critical care nurse, I provide care to drug addicts on a daily basis. Often, they are brought in by EMS as "John Doe". Frequently, the patient is "found down" requiring intubation and Narcan continuous infusion. Once extubated, the "John Does" are frequently violent with staff members. Unfortunately, many of the overdose patients have chronic health conditions, active infections, active infectious diseases, and acute mental health problems. Most of the "found down" patients would benefit from continued hospitalization to treat their illnesses. But providing care is a challenge. The patients are often violent. On occasion the friends and family members begin to visit and smuggle drugs to the patients.

Many patients verbalize they would like to seek treatment. Many have attended treatment for alcohol and drug addiction multiple times. Patients have stated to me that they have "walked out of treatment" several times, and some admit to using drugs and alcohol while in treatment. I have observed hospital social workers spending hours to secure a treatment bed, or housing option for patients. But the patients refuse treatment, refuse housing, and refuse services. I have even provided care to a patient who was admitted for an overdose, worked with social workers to secure a treatment bed, and the patient self-discharged against medical advice before my shift ended. Then, driving home from work, I have found the same patient at a local grocery store, high on drugs and panhandling.

As a Detention Officer, I worked with many exceptional people in the secured facility, the detention school, and court services. One of my duties was to work as

the Intake Officer. In this position, I would essentially “book” a juvenile detainee into the detention facility. Through the “intake process” youth detained in Kitsap County were screened for services including: medical, substance abuse, education, and mental illness. The detained youth in Kitsap County receive excellent care and immediate help.

From my experience with Kitsap County Juvenile Detention, and my experience working with local law enforcement for detained persons who are brought to the hospital for treatment, I can only infer the Kitsap County Jail also provides excellent services for detainees.

Today I spoke with Mayor Greg Wheeler regarding proposed services for persons who are camping in the city of Bremerton. Among the changes discussed was making camping illegal. I understand Bremerton Council Members are proposing the campers be given notice to move three times, prior to being arrested. I would like the City Council Members to weigh the consequences of this suggestion. First, who will be able to track the interactions with the unauthorized camper? Second, each time an officer responds to a complaint regarding camping, that is time the officer is not able to respond to other calls. Third, every time an officer interacts with a homeless individual they are at risk. Every face-to-face interaction with an individual who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, places the officer at risk. Please consider the safety of our law enforcement officers. Sometimes detaining someone for a minor criminal charge is a kindness, and a route to much needed services.

Everyone in our community is concerned about the unauthorized camping. It is a challenge to support business, provide a safe place for residents, and provide services for persons who are homeless. I hope members of the Bremerton City Council, seek advice from experts in our community. I hope the Council Members seek advice from Kitsap County Corrections, Kitsap Sheriff's Office, City of Bremerton Police, Bremerton Fire Department, Saint Michael Medical Center and Kitsap Mental Health.

School is starting next week. Star of the Sea Catholic School is two blocks from this unauthorized camp. The Bremerton Dance Center is one block away. The Warren Ave. Football Field is three blocks away. The unauthorized camp is making our community unsafe for our youth.

Sincerely,

Mary E Schweiger RN, PCCN

1208 9<sup>th</sup> St

Bremerton, WA 98337

**From:** Jennifer Chamberlin <Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 4:36 PM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; scottfont@gmail.com

**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell

<Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; James Crawford <james.crawford@bremertonschools.org>; Tom Wolfe <Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jeff Elevado <Jeff.Elevado@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Homeless Camp With Gas Grill 60' from Armin Jahr Elementary School (Reverend Scott Fontenot)

Thank you all for checking in on this issue.

I believe that this park and school fall in my district. However, what I understand about this space is that it is likely school district property. I have been in touch with a staff person from Barnacles & Bees who host after school learning on Wednesdays there during the school year. She has been in touch with a family that lives there and also informed me that she was in touch with law enforcement already who felt that "their hands were tied".

My wondering is whether private property/trespassing laws can be enforced in this instance. It would be something that the school district might want to pursue if this space is, in fact on district property.

My hope is that a behavioral health navigator is already involved so that this vulnerable family can find housing appropriate for the kiddos that seem to be homeless there, as well. Especially as this space is surely going to be waterlogged with the current rains.

There is no ideal solution here. I appreciate the compassion that has been shown. Please let me know if there's any way I can be of assistance.

Jennifer Chamberlin  
Bremerton City Council Vice President  
District 1

**From:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 1:29 PM

**To:** [scottfont@gmail.com](mailto:scottfont@gmail.com) <[scottfont@gmail.com](mailto:scottfont@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Steven Forbragd <[Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Rodney Rauback <[Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Aaron Elton <[Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mike Davis <[Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Joseph Sexton <[Joseph.Sexton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Joseph.Sexton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Hillary Hamilton <[Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Thomas Knuckey <[Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Ned Lever <[Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Dave Carter <[Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Brett Jette <[Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mychael Raya <[Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** FW: Homeless Camp With Gas Grill 60' from Armhin Jahr Elementary School

Dear Reverend Fontenot

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. Thank you also for attaching the pictures, that is always helpful! Included in my reply are officials from the City of Bremerton Police Department for their information and follow up regarding potential criminal activity. Hopefully, you and others will continue calling 911 when you suspect or witness a crime being committed. Regarding the camping you are witnessing, you may not be aware, but the city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9th Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, besides officials from the City of Bremerton Police Department, I am including officials from the Public Works, and Legal Departments in my reply for their information. Take care, I hope you enjoy the rest of your day.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** Scott Fontenot <[scottfont@gmail.com](mailto:scottfont@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 12:56 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Homeless Camp With Gas Grill 60' from Armhin Jahr Elementary School

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Thank you for your work caring for our community and city.

I was walking in Community Garden/Blueberry Park and took the trail that leads to Armin Jahr Elementary School. I found that a homeless camp is set up there, not more than 60' away from the school. There is a gas grill!

My children and grandchildren were or are attending the school, yet few parents are aware of this according to my daughter.

I served as Pastor of Hillcrest Church, a relatively large church with 300 attendees, the barn on a hill, across from Wal Mart. 16 years serving our community. We were part of starting the men's shelter and abused women safe houses.

I care for folks hurting Mr Mayor. But this brings me extreme displeasure. I have contacted the police, fire and superintendent of schools. With no response I will make the Armin Jahr PTA aware. School starts tomorrow!

Thank you for attending to this obvious danger to our children. I am confident in your leadership sir! I trust you will promptly send the necessary agents of our city to investigate this.

Thank you!

Rev. S. Scott Fontenot

[scottfont@gmail.com](mailto:scottfont@gmail.com) 360.471.3631





**From:** [jane Rebelowski](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Camping ordinance ( distribute to all Councilors)  
**Date:** Friday, August 25, 2023 10:24:29 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to thank the City Council and City Attorney for taking the time to craft an ordinance that recognizes the needs of our community. Once surplus land is identified as suitable for camping ( minimum of two locations) I hope you move forward with adoption of revised ordinance.

A special thanks to Councilor Mockler for leading the Audit Committee to identify surplus properties that can be used for both temporary housing and construction of actual affordable housing in the near future.

Jane Rebelowski  
1445 17th St 98337

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mary Lou Long](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Post from Jonathan Choe Journalist (Seattle) (@choeshow)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 8:56:55 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jonathan Choe Journalist (Seattle) (@choeshow) posted at 7:03 PM on Wed, Aug 23, 2023:  
GAME OVER: Wednesday morning, city crews finally moved in to clear the notorious Mercer St encampment in Seattle's South Lake Union hood. This camp's been blamed for assaults, open air drug use, thefts, shootings, fires, rapes, and an unsolved murder. The good neighbors at the... <https://t.co/XBpTI1kCvU>  
(<https://twitter.com/choeshow/status/1694530802170892475?t=bQND9GHBsW6JgZO-f0jWEg&s=03>)

**From:** [City Council](#)  
**To:** [Delaine1939@comcast.net](mailto:Delaine1939@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Greg Wheeler](#); [Harold Delos Reyes, General Manager, Impark](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment - Mitel voice message from +13605511350 (Delaine Rutt)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 3:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 - COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA.pdf](#)

Ms. Rutt,

This is to acknowledge the voicemail message you left at the City Council Office.

It was a pleasure to speak with you, and I want to let you know that I am sharing your concerns with the Council Members and Mayor Wheeler.

I understand that you manage property at McKenzie & MLK Way, which you said you have done for over 20-years. I also understand you are very concerned about the growing homeless encampment on MLK Way. And you hope the City can do something about it due to the frustration and fear experienced by you and your tenants.

Your comments will also be included as a part of the record for the *“Proposed Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled “Unauthorized Camping”*, which is scheduled for consideration by the Council Members at their next Council Meeting on **September 6, 2023**. I have attached the Agenda for your convenience, and invite you to attend the Council Meeting either in person, or by Zoom (see instruction on the Agenda).

Lastly, I also understand your specific issue about a blue car that you said frequently parks for days at a time in a spot marked “2-hours”, so I have also included a copy of this email for Impark to review.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the City Council, and for sharing your concerns.

**Lori Smith**  
**Legislative Office Manager**  
**Bremerton City Council**  
**(360) 473-5280**  
**[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)**

---

From: Mitel Voice Mail <shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 1:30 PM  
To: Lori Smith <Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Mitel voice message from +13605511350 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13605511350 for mailbox 5280. Message length is 00:00:11. Message size is 90 KB.



**From:** [Carl E Borg](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [cotedazure1986@gmail.com](mailto:cotedazure1986@gmail.com); [City Council](#); [Kylie Finnell](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug Washburn](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Request for plan to address homeless crisis (Amanda Clark)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:04:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-53aaggvz.png](#)  
[2019 Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan - APPROVED 11 25 19.pdf](#)  
[Kitsap AH Recommendations Report - FINAL \(1\).pdf](#)  
[Countys response to encampment 9-2022 .pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler,

I have enclosed the county plans that address the questions. We will be updating the counties homelessness plan later this year. I am available to answer any questions. I was online last night and can be online for the next city council meeting.

Carl

Carl Borg  
Housing and Homelessness Program Manager  
Kitsap County Department of Human Services  
Housing and Homelessness Division  
ph: (360) 979-6027  
[ceborg@kitsap.gov](mailto:ceborg@kitsap.gov)  
Webpage: [Housing and Homelessness Division](#)



CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT - This message contains information that may be confidential per RCW 13.50.050, HIPAA-HITECH Act or 42CFR, Part2. If this message was sent to you in error, any use, disclosure, or distribution of its contents is prohibited. If you receive this message in error, please contact me at the email address listed above and delete this message without printing, copying, or forwarding it. Thank you



# HEADING HOME

## Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan

2019 Update  
Approved 11/25/19

**Note:** This is a Compliance Update to meet new Washington State Dept. of Commerce requirements. Changes from the 2018 Plan were made only in these sections: Action Plan – Detail Matrix, Appendix D, and Appendix E.



Kitsap County  
Department of Human Services



## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
Introduction .....	5
Crisis and Response .....	9
A Housing Affordability Crisis .....	9
Progress and Innovation .....	11
Current Resources .....	15
Kitsap Homelessness Today .....	17
Action Plan	
Needs, Gaps, Core Strategies, and Action Areas .....	25
Action Plan Detail Matrix: Goals, Core Strategies, and Action Steps .....	32
Defining and Documenting Success .....	41
Conclusion .....	43
Appendices .....	44

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to the many people and organizations that provided input and supported this effort to update the Plan, including citizens, mayors, city council members, social service providers, and people experiencing homelessness.

<b>Kitsap County Board of Commissioners</b>	<b>Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition Member Agencies</b>	
<b>Robert Gelder</b> , Chair	Agape Unlimited	Kitsap Legal Services
<b>Charlotte Garrido</b>	Beacon Communities	Kitsap Mental Health Services
<b>Ed Wolfe</b>	Brain Injury Alliance of Washington	Kitsap Public Health District
<b>Homeless Housing Plan Update Committee</b>	Bremerton Foodline	Kitsap Recovery Center
<b>Kirsten Jewell</b> , <i>Housing and Homelessness Division Coordinator, Kitsap County Human Services (Chair)</i>	Bremerton Housing Authority	Kitsap Rescue Mission
<b>Monica Bernhard</b> , <i>Community Services and Development Manager, Kitsap Mental Health Services</i>	Bremerton School District	Kitsap Transit
<b>Bridget Callahan</b> , <i>Housing Solutions Center Manager, Kitsap Community Resources</i>	Catholic Community Services	Meals on Wheels Kitsap
<b>Marta Holt</b> , <i>Property Manager and Homeshare Administrator, Housing Resources Bainbridge</i>	Catholic Housing Services - Max Hale Center	North Kitsap Fishline
<b>Beverly Kincaid</b> , <i>Partner &amp; Grant Professional, Sound Resources NW</i>	City of Bremerton CDBG Program	Olive Crest
<b>Sheryl Piercy</b> , <i>Social Services Director, Salvation Army</i>	Coffee Oasis	Parent-Child Assistance Program
<b>Sandra Paulino-Winborn</b> , <i>Financial Services Specialist 4, DSHS</i>	Crime Victim Assistance Center	Peninsula Community Health
<b>Sean Raybell</b> , <i>Housing Specialist, Department of Corrections</i>	DSHS – Bremerton CSO	R W Martin Youth Services
<b>Sarah Van Cleve</b> , <i>Housing Director, Bremerton Housing Authority</i>	Goodwill Industries	Salish Behavioral Health Organization
	Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County	Society of St. Vincent de Paul
	Helpline House – Bainbridge Island	The Salvation Army
	House of Hope Ministries	Sound Resources NW
	Housing Kitsap	South Kitsap Helpline
	Housing Resources Bainbridge	StandUp for Kids
	Kingston Cares	United Way of Kitsap County
	Kitsap Community Resources	WA Department of Veteran’s Affairs
	Kitsap County CDBG Grant Program	WA Employment Security Department
	Kitsap County Aging and Long Term Care	Weaver Foundation ~ Georgia’s House
	Kitsap County Housing & Homelessness Div.	West Sound Free Clinic
	Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office	West Sound Treatment Center
	Kitsap County Veteran’s Assistance Program	West Sound Youth for Christ
	Kitsap Interfaith Network	YWCA of Kitsap County



## Executive Summary

---

The Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan contains data and information collected in 2017 and 2018, as noted. It was updated during 2018 and approved by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on May 23, 2018. The 2019 Update was approved November 25, 2019, as noted in Appendix E. Response to Dept of Commerce Guidelines.

### History

Historically there had been no statewide, integrated approach to homelessness in Washington. House Bill 2163, passed in 2005, attempted to remedy this situation by requiring each county to develop a homeless housing plan, providing a funding source through document recording fees to directly address the goals identified in these plans, and outlining reporting requirements. Subsequent changes to the legislation have added funding and changed requirements. Most recently, legislation passed in March 2018 increased the amount of funding available, specified additional performance and reporting requirements, and changed required components for homeless housing plans.

### Progress Since Last Plan

Action Steps identified in the 2016 Plan and implemented during the last two years resulted in significant shifts in the homeless crisis response system to:

- 1) Target prevention to those most needy and divert people from experiencing homelessness as much as possible,
- 2) Identify and prioritize serving the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, including expanding street outreach and providing more immediate and accessible shelter beds,
- 3) Increase alternative housing options,
- 4) Improve system efficiency and efficacy by using performance measures and evidence-based practices, and
- 5) Improve communication with the public about homelessness.

The 2018 Plan builds on these accomplishments to further improve the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System.

### Development of this Plan

The Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan Update Committee, a subcommittee of the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition (formerly called the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition), a network of homeless services and affordable housing providers, worked extensively with Kitsap County Human Services Housing and Homelessness Division staff to analyze the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Kitsap County by reviewing the Homeless Point In Time count data, Homeless Management Information System data, results from a survey of community members and providers, a survey of people experiencing homelessness, a stakeholders workshop, meetings with elected officials, and review of national evidence-based practices.

The Plan includes data analysis, a needs assessment, coordination and linkage of resources to avoid duplications, and identification of community-wide collaborative approaches. The included Action Plan is intended to address homelessness by promoting a continuum of housing and support services that augment individual and family stability, resiliency, and economic independence.

This Plan is intended to complement the 2016-2020 CDBG/HOME Consolidated Plan (HUD), the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, the Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness Plan, and other local plans that address homelessness and affordable housing.

The Plan has been updated every 3-4 years to respond to changes in legislative and policy requirements, changing availability of homeless services, evidence-based practices, completion of identified action steps, and identification of new focus areas.

## Scope of the Plan

This plan addresses issues of homelessness throughout Kitsap County, including:

- Information about progress made since the last plan was approved,
- Current demographics of homelessness in Kitsap,
- Resources available,
- Current needs and gaps, and
- An Action Plan that outlines specific action steps that will be undertaken over the next 3-5 years.

## Plan Goals

The overall goal of the Plan is to ***work together as a community to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one time occurrence in Kitsap County through an efficient and effective homeless response system.***

The Action Plan is comprised of five Goals, each with supporting Core Strategies and New Action Steps, which will be used over the next five years to address homelessness. Each Goal also includes Performance Indicators of Success.

- 1) **Make homelessness rare** (prevention strategies).
- 2) **Make homelessness brief** (crisis response strategies).
- 3) **Make homelessness one-time** (ensure long-term housing stability strategies).
- 4) **Continuously improve the homeless response system** (increase capacity and efficiency strategies).
- 5) **Expand community engagement** (leadership, planning, and communication strategies).

## Gaps and New Action Focus Areas

Needs and gaps in the homeless crisis response system have been identified, with specific new action steps, timelines, and responsible parties identified to address them:

- **Implement discharge planning** for homeless individuals entering the community from jails, correctional facilities, foster care, hospitals, and behavioral health systems of care
- **Encourage development of affordable housing** and alternative housing models through incentives and policy changes
- Introduce diverse housing types to meet various needs and income levels. For example:
  - **Add 120 low-barrier night-by-night shelter beds** and alternative shelter options (tiny houses, safe parks, etc.) throughout the County
  - **Add 15 respite care shelter beds** for people with medical needs that are not able to be supported in other shelters
  - **Add 60-80 Permanent Supportive Housing** units for people with long-term behavioral health and physical health issues that create challenges to stable housing
- Focus on **tenancy supports and employment/education connections**, including the new Medicaid Transformation Project Supported Housing and Supported Employment benefits
- Expand the use of **performance measures and data** to ensure the most efficient use of public funds
- Implement **trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices**
- **Expand leadership, accountability, and opportunities for community education and volunteering**

It is important to note that this plan does not attempt to specifically identify strategies and actions to increase the number of affordable housing units. An Affordable Housing Task Force and Affordable Housing Inventory and Needs report are part of the Action Plan, which will provide leadership and data to develop a separate plan to address this critical need.

The Plan in its entirety is available online at  
<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Housing-and-Homelessness-Landing.aspx>

## Introduction

### Homelessness Among our Neighbors

Here in Kitsap County, homelessness is not as visible as it may be on the streets of Seattle, but it affects hundreds of people directly, every day, right here in our urban and rural communities. These are our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and community members.

According to the 2018 Point In Time Homeless Count, on any given day there are estimated to be more than 450 people living on the streets, in vehicles, and in the woods of Kitsap County, in shelters, and in transitional housing.

Homelessness happens to people of all ages, genders, education levels, races, income levels, and household types. It happens to good people in our community who work hard to be self-sufficient but live on the brink of economic instability. Health issues, poor credit, job loss, family break-up, domestic violence, mental illness or substance use disorders can also push people into homelessness. Whatever the underlying reason for their homelessness, they are in crisis. Visible or hidden, everyone deserves a safe and decent place to live.

### History of Homelessness

Homelessness was a relatively rare phenomenon until the 1980s, when many economic and social changes converged to cause its dramatic rise. These changes included:

- Lack of growth in real earnings for those with low incomes,
- Growing scarcity of appropriate affordable housing,
- Demolition of old buildings that provided inexpensive Single Room Occupancy (SRO) opportunities, and
- Closing of institutions (*i.e.* beds at Western State Hospital) that had long served individuals with mental illnesses.

The number of homeless families and individuals continued to rise during the 1990s. Factors included:

- On-going deinstitutionalization of persons with mental illness without the development of adequate community-based housing and appropriate support services,
- Reduction of living wage jobs due to foreign outsourcing and modernizing technology,
- Rise of a service economy with low paying jobs, and
- Flat and/or reduced spending on social programs at the state and federal level.

More recently, the Great Recession of 2007—2009 created the highest unemployment rates in decades, resulting in fewer workers employed, a decline in earned income, fluctuating rents, an increase in home foreclosures, and a reduction in state and federal funding for need-based assistance programs. These factors pushed many low-income households, and even some middle-income families, into crisis, including homelessness.

### Spectrum of Services at Coffee Oasis Spark Charlie's Hope

Street Hope, Coffee Oasis' Street and School Outreach program found Charlie, age 19, as he exited Renaissance Alternative High School due to lack of stable housing. Charlie's parents' addictions to methamphetamines had torn the family apart and his sister was placed in Child Protective Services.

Once connected to Coffee Oasis, Charlie's relationship with the Program's director blossomed. During that time his father entered an Oxford House to support his addiction recovery.

Soon Charlie entered Coffee Oasis' Partnering Hope program to support his goals of getting a driver's license, completing his education at Renaissance High School and working with his dad to secure housing in order to bring his sister back into the family.

Next steps brought Charlie into Coffee Oasis' HOPE INC job training program, resulting in an internship, and eventually a permanent job at the YMCA. Also, following monitored weekly visits, Charlie's sister was returned to the care of Charlie's dad, who secured employment and rented a three-bedroom home that the three now live as a family unit. Sadly, Charlie's mom has not overcome her addictions.

## Causes of Homelessness

Today, many of our community's low-income households are at-risk of becoming homeless – often a single paycheck away from losing their housing. Many individuals lack education and job skills to be prepared to compete for living-wage jobs, have an insufficient personal safety net to successfully weather temporary or chronic adversity, and may have limited options for improving their situation. Ultimately, they lose hope for a future that envisions economic self-sufficiency and social resiliency.

While economic problems and evictions are often the final event leading to homelessness, individuals with serious behavioral health issues are particularly vulnerable. They are often unable to maintain a job (or if they do, it is at very low pay), have difficulty managing medicines appropriately and rely on multiple services to sustain self-sufficiency. Others at risk are members of dysfunctional households who are often victims of domestic violence, runaway or abandoned youth or youth who have aged out of foster care, large families, or veterans who have been negatively impacted by the traumas of war. The combination of rising housing costs, limited income, and a severe shortage of affordable housing are other major factors leading to homelessness. The issue of homelessness is evident across Kitsap County.

Ultimately, homelessness is a result of other societal factors that create financial instability and inability to afford housing: lack of affordable housing, inter-generational poverty, expensive health care costs, lack of living-wage jobs, lack of education and training, severe mental illness, and substance use disorders. Addressing homelessness is, necessarily, working backwards attempting to fix the condition (homelessness) and then providing individualized social supports to address the underlying social issues facing each individual household.

## Social Impact of Homelessness: The Cost of Doing Nothing

Homelessness not only has huge impacts on the individuals experiencing it, it is also expensive for our community. Homelessness almost always escalates an already unstable family situation. Youth and adults with mental illness or drug and alcohol problems get worse when they do not have stable housing to get the behavioral and/or medical attention they need.

Homelessness costs our community in other ways, as well. Each year, Kitsap County residents' tax dollars are spent caring for homeless people through our emergency services – including 911, emergency rooms and clinics, law enforcement, fire and rescue units, jails, detoxification programs, public health system, the judiciary system and more.

Homelessness has a particularly troubling impact on children. Homeless children often are impacted by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) resulting in impediments to growth and development and overall weak performance in school. Numerous studies have found that housing instability and homelessness lower academic performance, increase the chances of repeating a grade, and reduce high school completion rates. Homelessness also puts children at greater risk of serious physical health problems.<sup>1</sup> All of these factors contribute to perpetuating the cycle of homelessness.

Homeless adults have a hard time gaining employment and holding a job. Evictions and foreclosures hurt landlords, banks, and neighborhoods. Law enforcement spends countless hours responding to complaints about illegal camping and illegal overnight parking.

### Downhill Slide, Then Hope

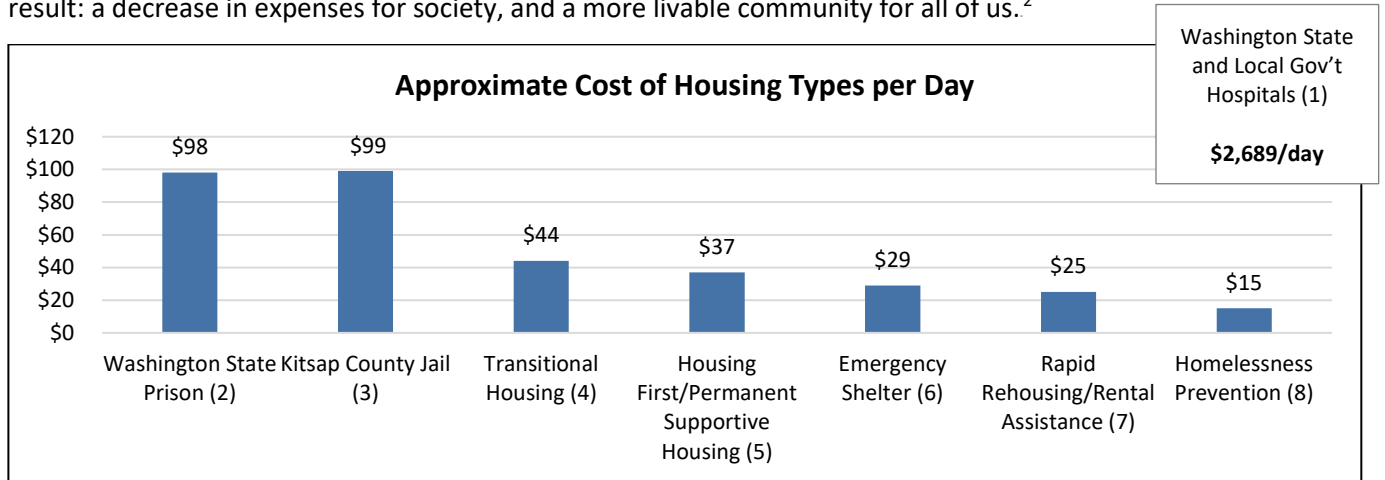
In his mid-30's, Tom, who had a long history of using and selling cocaine, arrived at Benedict House, a Kitsap shelter and transitional residence for men. He had worked as a truck driver for most of his life but had a serious accident that crushed his right hand making it impossible to continue driving.

Lost, injured, homeless, and stigmatized, Tom ended up at the Benedict House. Tom's case manager was able to help him access an orthopedic specialist to perform restorative surgery on his hand.

Tom is making excellent progress as a result of the restorative surgeries and therapy that he is receiving, while concurrently participating in a 12-Step program to curb his addiction. Tom has been accepted into permanent housing at Catholic Housing Services Max Hale Center and will now live independently.

<sup>1</sup> The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Report: Recession Could Cause Large Increases in Poverty and Push Millions into Deep Poverty, 11/24/08.

Cost studies around the nation, however, have proven that many of these individuals and households can succeed in transitioning back to stable housing, and often self-sufficiency, if they access appropriate supportive services. Once housed, their use of emergency services declines sharply as family or individual’s stability improves. The result: a decrease in expenses for society, and a more livable community for all of us.<sup>2</sup>



(1) 2010 Kaiser State Health Facts  
 (2) Washington State Prison, 2016  
 (3) Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office, 2017  
 (4)(6)(7)(8) Washington State Department of Commerce, State Homeless Housing System Overview  
 (5) 1811 East Lake Project, Seattle, DESC.

Although implementing the Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan will require significant community investment, it will not cost our community as much as continuing to try to manage homelessness indirectly through law enforcement, emergency services, and less effective temporary solutions over the years to come.

### History of the Plan

This plan is part of a national movement to end homelessness. As part of that national effort, Washington State passed legislation in 2005 (ESSHB 2163), and subsequent legislation in later years, mandating that each county focus on reducing homelessness. Each county is required to (1) develop and periodically update a Homeless Housing Plan, (2) collect funds to pay for its implementation through a document recording surcharge at the county Auditor level, (3) collect data about homeless households and the services they receive to evaluate progress, and (4) coordinate efforts among homeless service providers.

The Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition developed the first Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan, which was approved by the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council in December 2005. Since that time, the Plan has been updated every three to four years.

### 2018 Plan Update

The picture of homelessness and the body of research about the most effective ways to help people regain housing stability have changed rapidly. Since the first Plan in 2005 many new strategies have been implemented, the landscape of providers has changed, we have much better data about our homeless households, and new evidence-based practices have been developed and replicated around the country.

While the original 2005 legislative mandate was to “reduce homelessness by 50% by 2015”, there is now a more sophisticated understanding of the causes of homelessness. The goal in Kitsap now, and nationwide, is to **make homelessness rare, brief, and a one-time event**. Until the underlying social issues that lead people to become homeless are addressed, the homeless crisis response system’s role is to prevent homelessness whenever possible and help people quickly regain stable housing and overcome their barriers to sustaining that housing.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Medicaid and Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Individuals: Literature Synthesis and Environmental Scan, Martha Burt, Carol Wilkins and Danna Mauch, 1/6/11

For this latest update, the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition formed an *Ad hoc* Homeless Housing Plan Update Committee to oversee the process of updating the plan to reflect the current situation. One objective of this update is to focus on gaps in what’s currently being provided and offer specific goals and strategies to fill them. Another objective is to incorporate strategic thinking about what is needed over the next three to five years to continue the progress effectively addressing homelessness in Kitsap County.

Input for the plan was gathered from a broad range of sources:

- Point in Time Count data,
- Homeless Management Information System data,
- Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition members through survey of service providers,
- Community members through a survey and a stakeholder workshop,
- Individuals experiencing homelessness through a survey,
- Meetings with elected officials, and
- Other plans and evidence-based practices from around the country.

This Plan includes three substantive sections:

- **A Progress Report**, which briefly discusses progress made in addressing homelessness since the last Plan update, and outlines the current homeless response system and resources available;
- **The State of Homelessness**, which provides a review of data and statistics regarding homelessness in Kitsap in 2017; and
- **The Action Plan**, including the current needs and gaps, as well as goals, core strategies, and new action steps that our community should undertake to address homelessness over the next three to five years.

Although these sections overlap, each can “stand alone,” presenting relevant information on a single aspect of homelessness in Kitsap. Collectively, these sections complete the picture of what will be required to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

## Purpose of the Plan

The Homeless Housing Plan Update Committee identified three main purposes of the plan, in addition to fulfilling the legislative mandate:

- **Blueprint for Implementation:** A clear and concise agreement about the community’s plan to reduce homelessness.
- **Tool for Advocacy:** An informational focal point to inspire local advocacy and leadership to embrace homelessness as a priority for action.
- **Reference for Funders:** An articulation of the community’s priorities for funding, ensuring that these priorities meet the Federal, State, and local requirements that the funded programs are in alignment with the community’s homelessness plan.

The plan lays out broad goals and strategies to guide government, non-profit agencies, and other partners to achieve the desired outcomes necessary to reduce homelessness and create community impact.

## Future Plan Updates

The Homeless Housing Plan Update Committee recommends updating the plan periodically to reflect the changing factors that affect homelessness, recent successes in reducing homelessness, new innovations in homeless housing programs, as well as new legislation. The plan should be updated every three to five years, or as required by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

## Crisis and Response

The past decade has been challenging for many Kitsap County citizens, as the value of their wages has diminished, the number of households living in poverty has risen, and the lack of affordable housing has affected many households, resulting in housing instability and homelessness. In response, Kitsap’s social service providers have created a homeless crisis response system to meet the growing demand, with more beds and units available even in the face of diminishing state and federal resources. Together this “Continuum of Care” has been recognized by the Washington State Department of Commerce as a leader in implementing major changes in the way people are assisted to regain housing stability. However, barriers and gaps still exist that impede progress toward the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

### A HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Although Kitsap’s economy is recovering, mirroring positive economic forecasts around the state, those households at the lowest income levels are still struggling to find and maintain stable housing.

#### Affordable Housing Shortage

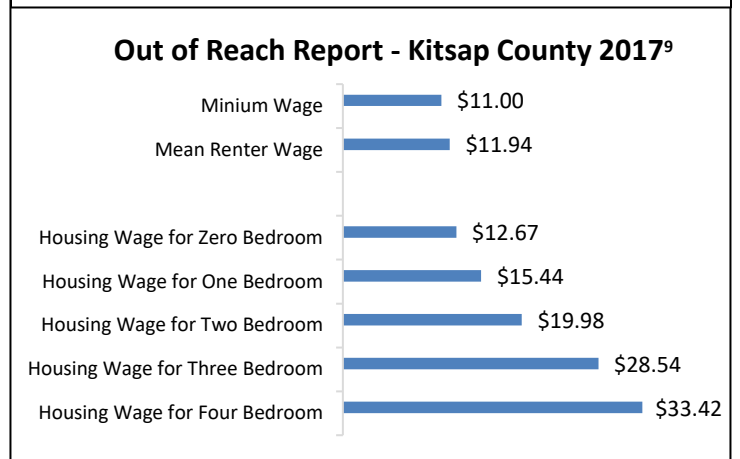
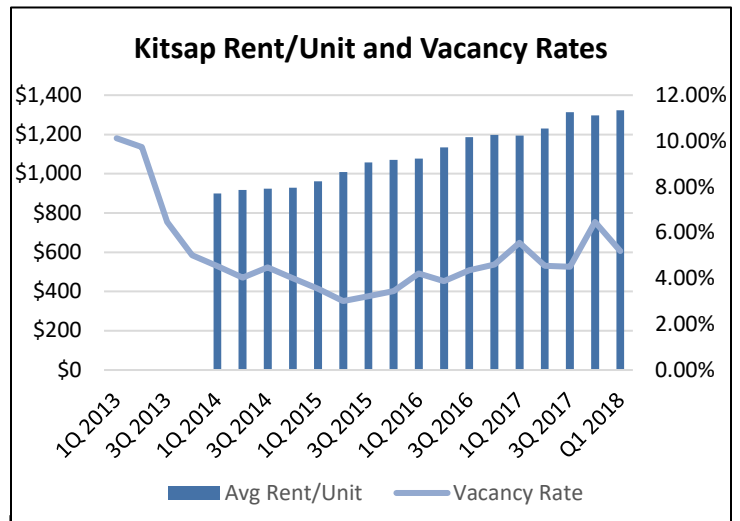
The gap between incomes and the cost of available housing pushes many people into homelessness, particularly in a market like Kitsap where housing prices rise faster than incomes.

A 2017 report by the Washington State Department of Commerce shows that ***increasing rents is the largest driver of homelessness*** in Washington State.<sup>3</sup> National research indicates that every \$100 increase in rent is associated with an increase in homelessness of 6% in metro areas and 32% in non-metro areas.<sup>4</sup> Kitsap County includes both.

At the end of first quarter 2018, the average rent per unit in Kitsap County was \$1,323. The average unit rent increased \$128 (10.7%) from the prior year and \$424 (47%) since the beginning of 2014. Vacancy rates have fallen from 10.12% at the beginning of 2013 to below 5% for the last several years. Vacancy rates were 5.2% at the end of first quarter 2018.<sup>5</sup> Vacancy rates can also fluctuate due to changes in Naval Base Kitsap personnel levels.

Housing is considered “affordable” when it costs no more than 30% of household income. Kitsap housing costs are well beyond the affordability of low-income households, particularly households with children, where an adult must provide childcare<sup>6</sup>:

- In 2017 affordable rent for a person earning minimum wage (\$11.00) was \$572.



<sup>3</sup> “Why is homelessness increasing?”, Washington State Department of Commerce, Housing Assistance Unit, 2017

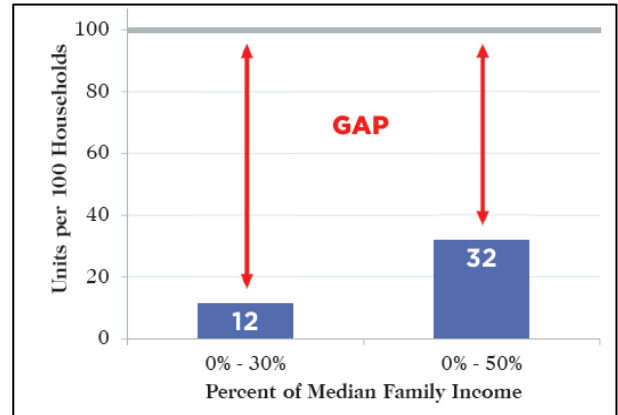
<sup>4</sup> Journal of Urban Affairs, New Perspectives on Community-Level Determinants of Homelessness, 2012

<sup>5</sup> Apartment Insights Washington, 2018

<sup>6</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness, Out of Reach Report, Kitsap County, 2017.

- In Kitsap, the estimated mean renter wage was \$11.94; making \$621 an affordable rent with a single wage-earner.
- However, in Kitsap the fair market rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment was \$1,039 (statewide: \$1,229). The annual household income needed to make this affordable was \$41,560, or \$19.98 per hour.
- For a household of any size earning 30% or less of Area Median Income (\$23,130), affordable rent would be no more than \$578.
- For households receiving a disability payment through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (\$781/month), they can afford rent of only \$234.

The Eviction Lab at Princeton University recently released data showing that Kitsap County had about one eviction per day in 2016 (357 evictions), a 1.09% eviction rate, nearly double the .58% eviction rate in 2014 (187 evictions).<sup>7</sup> As rents increase and households are unable to keep up with the cost of housing, evictions are an inevitable result.



In addition, a 2015 Washington State Housing Needs Assessment revealed that for Kitsap County, there are only 12 affordable and available housing units for every 100 households earning less than 30% of the Median Family Income (about \$22,500).<sup>8</sup>

### Declining Value of Wages

Nationally, statewide, and locally, the value of wages has not kept pace with inflation and the cost of goods and housing. In 2017 in Washington, a minimum wage worker earned an hourly wage of \$11.00 and the average wage earned by Kitsap renter households was \$11.94, however those wages are not nearly sufficient to afford housing and other basic needs.<sup>9</sup> In addition, in Washington State households with the lowest 30% of income pay the highest proportion of taxes than in any other state due to the state's regressive tax system which results in a greater tax burden on the poor.<sup>10</sup>

### Rising Poverty Rates

According to community health indicators prepared by the Kitsap Public Health District, more of our Kitsap neighbors are experiencing poverty than ever before<sup>11</sup>:

- 10% of residents are living below the Federal poverty level (2015), an increase from 8% in 2005.
- 9% of youth are living below the Federal poverty level (2015), an increase from 6% in 2005.
- 31% (2015) of households are spending more than 30% of income on housing, similar to 32% in 2005.

<sup>7</sup> 2018 Eviction Lab data, Princeton University

<sup>8</sup> 2015 Washington State Housing Needs Assessment.

<sup>9</sup> MIT Living Wage Calculator, Kitsap County, 2017.

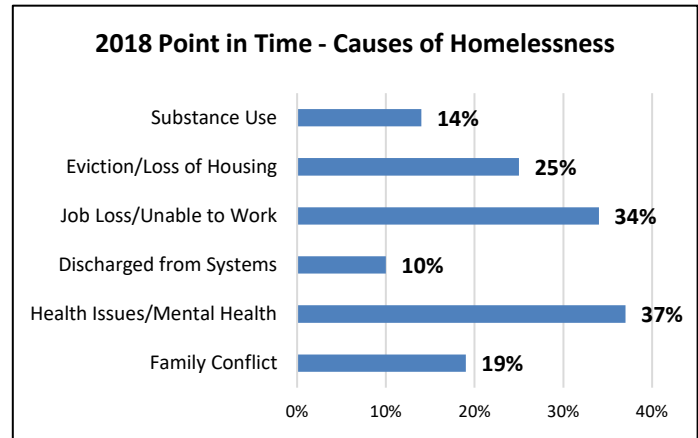
<sup>10</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 2015 Report

<sup>11</sup> Kitsap Public Health District, Public Health Indicators, September 2017.



### Other Causes of Homelessness

The lack of income to pay for housing is a result of the breakdown of other social factors, such as economic security, employment, education, and the health care system. The Great Recession that began in 2007 had a huge impact on economic and housing factors that affect homelessness. The effects of the Great Recession still affect many households today. The resulting economic instability, foreclosure, unemployment, insufficient outreach to some of the most vulnerable citizens including veterans, loss of retirement and savings, and loss of health benefits forced an unprecedented number of households into homelessness. Many of these households were not previously considered to be at risk of homelessness, but were affected by prolonged unemployment, foreclosure, or rising health care costs.



Mental health, substance use disorders, and physical health issues are a factor in a large number of households’ homelessness. Inadequate resources to address their needs is a significant challenge today. Another key reason for homelessness is discharges from other systems of care, such as jail, foster care, and health care systems. During the Summer 2017 Point in Time Count, surveys collected in the Kitsap County Jail revealed that 43% of inmates had involvement with homelessness in the past or anticipated upon release. Of these, 67% were homeless immediately prior to jail and 78% expected to be homeless upon release.

With so many of our neighbors living on the edge of housing instability, small crises are often the tipping point leading to homelessness. These crises are often related to loss of employment or financial hardship, physical or mental health issues, being discharged from other systems of care (jail/prison, foster care, physical or mental health), substance use disorders, or family break-ups<sup>12</sup>. In addition, emerging research shows the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on the physical and behavioral health of adults, increasing the likelihood of homelessness.

## PROGRESS AND INNOVATION

When individuals or families are in danger of becoming homeless, or have already lost their housing, the goal is to get them into housing and provide services that best meet their needs as quickly as possible. This “homeless crisis response system” involves many organizations, a diverse set of programmatic tools, and multiple funding sources. Twelve years after the originating legislation, Kitsap has made progress in many areas, adding emergency housing beds, expanding outreach, and supportive services and programs.

Action Steps identified in the 2016 Plan called for a significant shift in the homeless crisis response system to:

- 1) Divert people from experiencing homelessness and target prevention to those most needy
- 2) Identify and prioritize serving the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, including expanding street outreach and providing additional immediate shelter beds
- 3) Increase short-term and long-term alternative housing options
- 4) Improve system efficiency by using performance measures and evidence-based practices, and
- 5) Improve communication with the public about homelessness.

<sup>12</sup> 2018 Kitsap Point in Time Count

Below are highlighted significant changes or accomplishments since the last update of the Homeless Housing Plan for 2016 – a lot was accomplished in 2 ½ years!

### Prevention and Diversion

The most cost-effective way to decrease homelessness is to intervene before individuals and families lose their housing. Often, a household on the brink of homelessness can avert the crisis with a small amount of financial support and the necessary supportive services to regain financial stability. Contrast this minimal cost for prevention with the immense cost to the family, social service agencies, and the community when individuals or families become homeless. By focusing on diversion and prevention, we can effectively reduce homelessness.

**Prevention and Diversion**

- Housing Solutions Center implemented a Diversion Program
- Prevention programs focused on most needy
- Therapeutic courts expanded and divert people with behavioral health issues from jail
- Steps to Housing program provides easy one-stop connection with resources

The Housing Solutions Center of Kitsap County (HSC, opened in 2012) is our coordinated entry program, a single point of entry where all residents seeking assistance with housing or homeless services are welcomed, assessed, and referred to appropriate housing and resources for which they are eligible. The HSC also keeps a community-wide emergency housing waitlist. In mid-2016, the HSC launched a more robust diversion component to the intake process, working with each client to determine ways to avoid going into shelter if other options are available – such as family and friend resources, employment supports, or assistance negotiating with landlords.

Prevention programs were re-oriented to focus on identifying households that had the least other resources available to them, were the most vulnerable, or the least likely to be able to help themselves. Prevention was also targeted to those who would be successful after a one-time infusion of rental assistance.

Therapeutic court diversion programs were expanded in Kitsap over the last several years to identify good candidates for alternative sentencing and supportive services to help people get treatment for underlying behavioral issues and keep them out of jail and prison where these issues would not be addressed. There are now therapeutic courts for mental health, substance use, and veterans.

The HSC also launched a Steps to Housing program, which provides a weekly drop-in opportunity for households concerned about housing stability to easily get connected with resources.

## Identifying and Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable

Both philosophically and financially, it makes sense to focus on helping those in our community who are most at-risk of harm living on the street and/or least able to help themselves – we often refer to people in these situations as “most vulnerable.” Since its inception, the homeless crisis response system has, by default, focused resources on those who could seek resources and advocate for themselves. Programs prioritized households who were thought to have the best outcomes for the least amount of investment. However, this has meant that people at the other end of the spectrum have been neglected in the system and this has contributed to extending their homelessness. In response to directives from the Department of Commerce and a growing recognition of this problem locally, the 2016 Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan began to shift the system to identify and prioritize the hardest to serve individuals – focusing efforts to bring the services to the people who need it most.

The HSC began experimenting with vulnerability assessment tools – giving incoming households an additional screening tool to determine their capacity in various areas. This screening results in a vulnerability index score, which assists with determining who is prioritized for shelter and housing program placement. Through trying various vulnerability index tools, the HSC has developed and implemented a customized tool for Kitsap.

In addition, the HSC has expanded outreach to the Bremerton ferry terminal, select libraries, and the Kitsap County Jail. The Coffee Oasis, our primary youth homelessness provider, launched a jail outreach program for young adults, and West Sound Treatment Center started a jail outreach program for people who are seeking treatment for substance use disorders upon discharge. The Kitsap Rescue Mission has stepped up to be a key organization in outreach to encampments, as well as opening a day room program for people to have a safe and welcoming place to go during the day.

Building on a program launched many years ago by the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition and the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management (DEM), the Severe Weather Shelter (SWS) program was greatly expanded in the last two years. The SWS program relies on host organizations to supply volunteers to open shelter beds in churches and community centers when the DEM determines that inclement weather make it dangerous for anyone to be sleeping outside. A single SWS operated for many years in Bremerton and moved in 2016 to operate out of the Bremerton Salvation Army. Over the last several years, organizations in Kingston, Poulsbo, Silverdale, and Port Orchard have volunteered to host additional severe weather shelters so that people experiencing homelessness throughout the county are able to survive these winter nights.

The Severe Weather Shelter at the Salvation Army was so highly utilized that the Salvation Army opened a 60-bed Winter Shelter, open every night during December through March rather than only on severe weather nights. It has been extremely popular with guests and served more than 470 unique individuals last winter. The low-barrier model welcomed guests with their spouses/partners, accommodated their possessions, and sheltered their pets – this encouraged many people who had not been eligible and/or willing to come into shelter in the past to participate in the program and begin building relationships and accessing other services. The Winter Shelter ran over capacity most nights during the 2017-2018 season. Upon its closing in March 2018, many of the guests will go back to living in the woods and on the streets.

### Identify/Prioritize Most Vulnerable

- Housing Solutions Center implemented vulnerability index screening tool
- Greatly expanded outreach, including several programs in the jail
- Expansion of Severe Weather Shelter program to North Kitsap and South Kitsap
- Opening of Salvation Army low-barrier Winter Shelter and Kitsap Rescue Mission night-by-night shelter
- Kitsap Connect program serves most vulnerable high utilizers of emergency services

The Salvation Army Winter Shelter served 470+ unique individuals between December 2017 and March 2018.

Also, in Bremerton, the Kitsap Rescue Mission started a night-by-night shelter with 25-beds. Guests are required to register in advance with the HSC and must meet certain requirements. The Mission shelter works closely with the Winter Shelter to take referrals for families and others that need a more structured environment.

The Kitsap Connect program was launched through a partnership with Kitsap Public Health, the Salvation Army, the Housing Solutions Center, and Kitsap Mental Health Services. It works to identify the highest utilizers of emergency rooms, emergency medical services, and law enforcement with the goal of reducing costs to these systems and improving health outcomes through a coordinated care model that includes public health nurses, behavioral health professionals, and a housing specialist. The vast majority of their clients are chronically homeless and extremely high-needs. Through 2017, they have assisted 67 individuals to form positive social relationships, connect with resources, improve their health, and (for some) find housing.

This shift to focus on outreach to those who may not be accessing resources and prioritization of emergency housing for those who are the most vulnerable has not been easy, but a good start is underway. It has been challenging for shelters to serve people with higher needs, often with staff and programs structures that are not equipped for this population's needs. Shelter stays can be longer because it can take longer to get high-needs clients stabilized and is even more difficult to find permanent housing placements for them. Action Steps in the 2018 Plan will continue this work.

### Alternative Housing Options

Another focus over the last two years has been expanding alternative housing options, such as legal encampments, boarding houses, home sharing, and tiny houses. Kitsap County Commissioners approved a permanent Transitory Accommodation Ordinance that allows permitting of encampments, tiny house villages, boarding houses, and other temporary housing solutions on both small and large scales. Despite some promising opportunities, no organizations have applied for a permit under this new code to date.

#### Alternative Housing Options

- Kitsap County Transitory Accommodation Ordinance
- Homes for All Tiny Cottages project underway
- City of Poulsbo/Coffee Oasis youth Boarding House

In 2016, Kitsap County, Cities, and Tribes sponsored a Homelessness Workshop with nationally recognized guest speakers, drawing more than 120 Kitsap leaders from across many sectors. This convening led to the creation of a cross-sector leadership group, the Homes for All Leadership Group, which has been spearheading the development of tiny cottages for use as emergency housing. Partnering with area churches and a wide array of organizations in different sectors, the Homes for All project hopes to pilot a tiny cottage village in South Kitsap in 2018.

The City of Poulsbo has partnered with the Coffee Oasis, a youth housing provider, on piloting a youth boarding house model on city property. The City hopes to expand the model to other sites in the next few years.

### System Efficiency

Each year progress has been made to improve the efficiency of the housing and services delivery system; the last two years continued this work with some additional changes.

A Strategic Analysis of Funding Sources undertaken in 2010 resulted in the creation of the Coordinated Grant Application Process, implemented in 2011, which combines the applications for the major local government funding sources for homeless housing, social services, and community development into a single application and review process. This eliminates duplication of funding and increases the efficiency for grant administration and for grantees. In 2017, the Consolidated Homeless Grant, a funding source from the Washington State Department of Commerce, was

#### System Efficiency

- Better funding coordination with Consolidated Homeless Grant
- Expansion of Project Connects and Point in Time Count outreach

brought under the administration of the Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division. This has resulted in a more consistent and coordinated approach to funding homeless programs and services. Work will continue to streamline and maximize efficiency in the funding process over the next several years.

The Point in Time Count has been conducted in coordination with a low-income services fair, Project Connect, for the last ten years. In 2017, large-scale outreach efforts were added to the survey process to locate more households living on the streets and in wooded areas. Also in 2017, a Summer Point in Time Count was piloted. In 2018, Project Connect resource fairs were added in North Kitsap and South Kitsap to improve access for households throughout the county and to improve data collection during the Point in Time Count.

### Communication and Engagement

As mentioned earlier, elected leaders and key organizations gathered for a Homelessness Workshop in June 2016. This led to the formation of the Homes for All Leadership Group, which is coordinating a tiny cottage pilot program in South Kitsap.

Responding to citizen requests for more information about homelessness, the Housing and Homelessness Division began producing data summaries about different aspects of homelessness. In addition, the Division assists organizations and individuals with data upon request.

#### Communication and Engagement

- Homes for All Leadership Group
- Homelessness Data Summaries and information available
- Community group presentations
- Promoting Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week activities
- Point in Time Count volunteer project

The Housing and Homelessness Division staff, Homes for All Leadership Group and leaders from other Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition organizations frequently respond to requests from community groups (such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Elks, League of Women Voters, citizen advisory groups, and school groups) to make presentations. Over the last two years, they have presented information about homelessness to more than 20 groups.

In 2017, the Housing and Homelessness Division launched a volunteer effort to support outreach efforts for surveying during the Point in Time Count. More than 100 citizen volunteers have participated during the last three Point in Time Counts.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, usually held the week before Thanksgiving, is organized nationally. Over the last two years, the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition has been building support and promoting specific activities to raise community awareness during this week, including a Hunger and Homelessness Awareness March.

### Specific Population Programs

Certain homeless populations require specific services or housing situations to be able to acquire and sustain housing. Several programs exist to serve particular populations, such as veterans, youth, severely mentally ill, those with chemical use disorders, and survivors of domestic violence. In addition, people who are on fixed incomes and/or disabled experience significant challenges affording permanent stable housing. As our population ages, we can expect this to affect a growing number of Kitsap residents. We need to further develop innovative, evidence-based programs in order to move these sub-populations out of homelessness.

#### Specific Population Programs

- Youth: Coffee Oasis – HOST Home Program, Youth Crisis Hotline, youth boarding home, and Kingston services
- Veterans: Homes for All Who Served – Functional zero for unsheltered veterans

Homeless youth, countywide, have benefitted from an ever-expanding array of services offered by the Coffee Oasis programs. In addition to youth street outreach, drop-in centers, case management, job training, and a

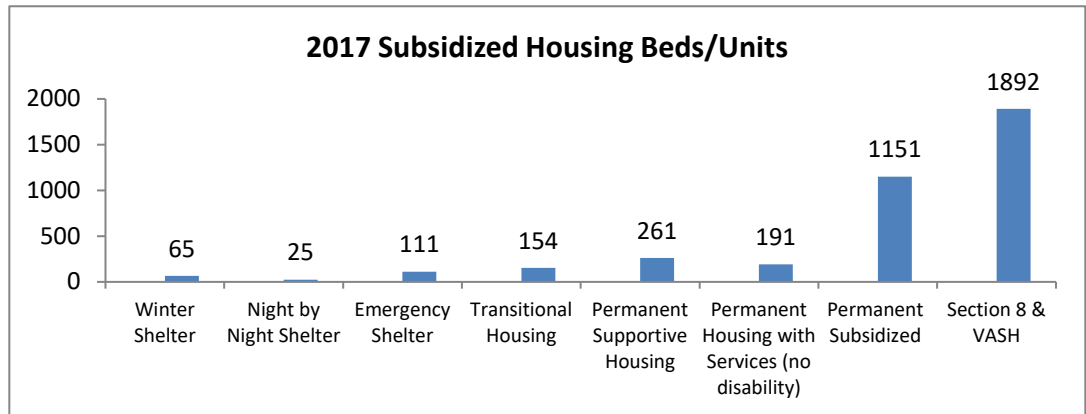
youth shelter, over the last two years the organization has brought online a 24-hour youth crisis hotline, is piloting a HOST home program wherein youth are temporarily placed with volunteer families, opened a youth boarding house in Poulsbo, and is expanding services to Kingston.

Following the lead of a national initiative to end veteran homelessness, federal, state, and local veteran housing providers came together to form the Homes for All Who Served initiative. The group did a needs analysis, developed a plan to improve services for homeless veterans, and implemented many improvements for service delivery to veterans. Hundreds of veterans have been successfully housed and the goal of “functional zero” for unsheltered veterans was achieved. More work remains to ensure that sheltered veterans are able to find and maintain permanent stable housing.

## CURRENT RESOURCES

### Leadership

The political and community commitment to address the issue of homelessness is essential. Over the last few years, leadership in this effort has enabled Kitsap to make extraordinary progress in addressing homelessness through HMIS implementation, the Housing Solutions Center, and support for the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition. The leadership has been by Kitsap elected officials, the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition, the Homes for All Leadership Group, and many faith-based organizations.



### Providers

The Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition is a very active organized network of over 50 different homeless housing and service organizations that create a continuum of housing and services for homeless households. Together these organizations comprise the homeless crisis response system.

### Housing Units

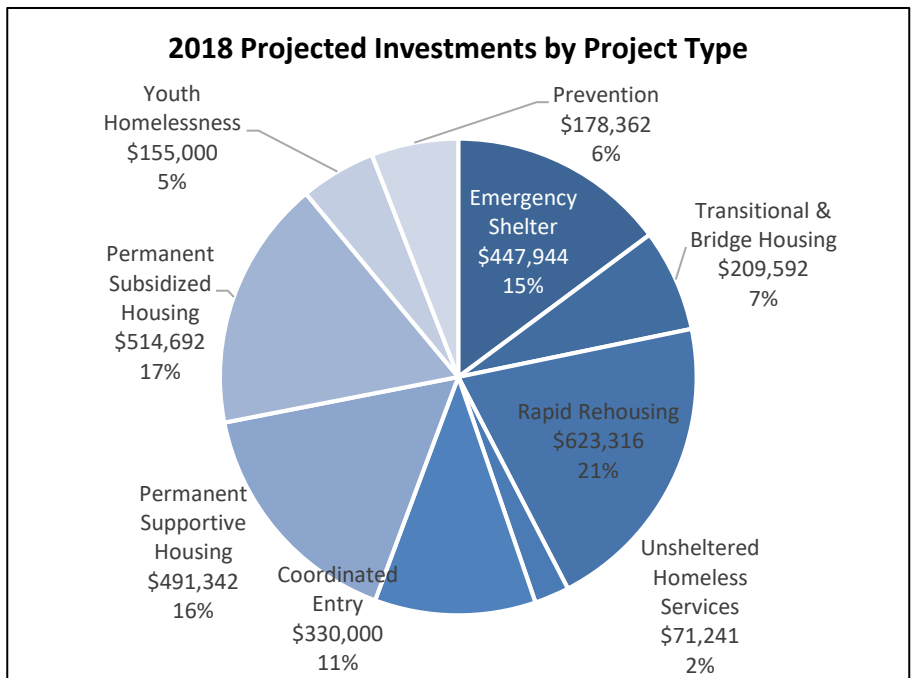
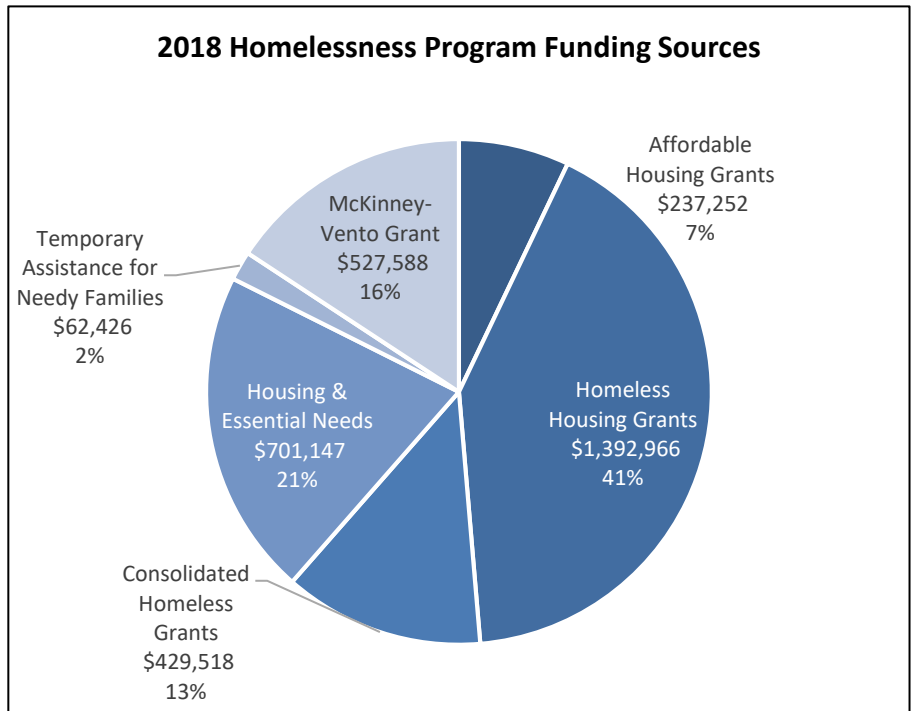
Through these providers, the emergency, interim, and subsidized housing listed on the chart above are currently available.

### Funding Sources

In order to fund these programs, Kitsap County housing and services providers rely on a number of federal, state, local and private funding sources of funds.

Many of these funding sources are specifically “targeted” towards homelessness and are restricted to services and projects which directly benefit homeless individuals and families and others with special needs. These charts summarize state and local targeted funding sources and how they are spent on Kitsap program types.

In March 2018, the Washington State legislature made a significant increase to the amount of funding available for homeless programs through local and state grants. However, this funding will not start to become available for grants until mid-2019 to 2020.



## Kitsap Homelessness Today

---

### DEMOGRAPHICS

Understanding the scope of homelessness in Kitsap County is an important step in developing key strategies to address it. Homelessness is an extremely complex social challenge and requires significant community investments to create an impact. There is a constant flow of people becoming homeless while others move out of homelessness into housing. Many may only experience one episode of homelessness, while others (often termed “chronically homeless”) may experience multiple episodes over several years or remain homeless for many years. Fortunately, we have better data and statistics on the homeless population than ever before to guide our efforts.

Before discussing statistics and data, it is important to recognize that it is very difficult to arrive at a definitive number of homeless households or accurate statistics about our homeless population. The following variables impede our ability to accurately identify the number of individuals and families that are homeless and the complex barriers they face while attempting to overcome homelessness:

- The face and composition of homelessness is changing all the time. Each day new households are forced into homelessness and each day homeless households are re-housed and re-gain self-sufficiency.
- Due to the ongoing stigmatization of being homeless, many individuals and households either do not self-identify as homeless and do not seek services, or do not admit to being homeless. Our data collection efforts require voluntary participation, so households that do not seek services or volunteer to be counted in our homeless census are not included in statistics. This is the hidden face of homelessness.
- Data about homelessness gathered from different sources does not always provide a consistent picture, since each source may define homelessness differently or collect data differently.

Data about homelessness is collected in several ways, through the efforts of the social service and housing providers who work with people experiencing homelessness:

#### Point in Time Count

The Point in Time Count (PiT) is required by the Department of Commerce and HUD in order to receive homeless grant funds. The information from the count is compiled and submitted to WA State and is used locally for evaluation and planning purposes. The PiT surveys sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on the fourth Thursday in January during a specific 24-hour period in all Washington State counties. Kitsap County has conducted an annual Point in Time Count of the homeless since 2005. The PiT provides limited information about the full scope of homelessness, because external factors affect the results: weather, volunteers, and the social stigma of homelessness. Many communities consider the PiT to undercount homelessness by a factor of two to three times. However, the PiT provides a large sample, from which we can extrapolate general information about our homeless population, including reasons for homelessness.

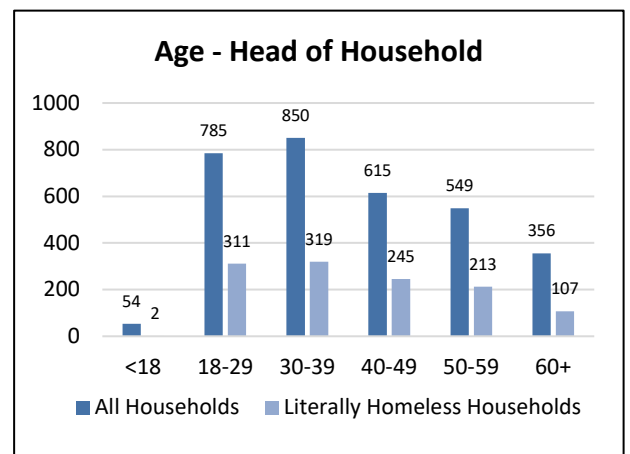
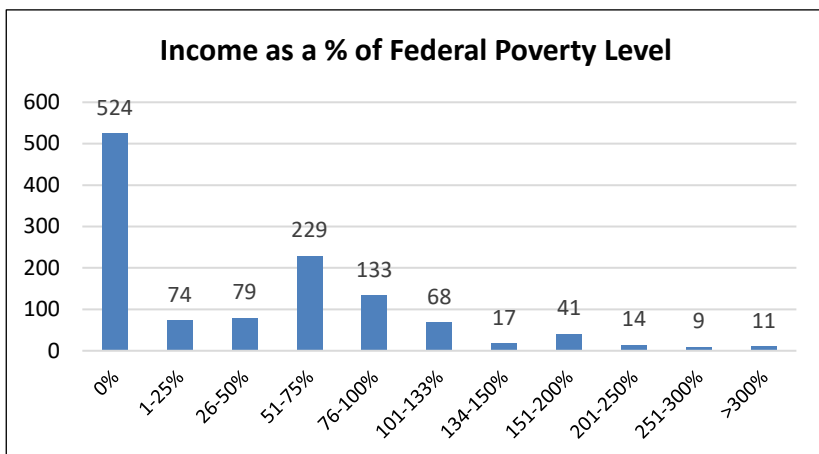
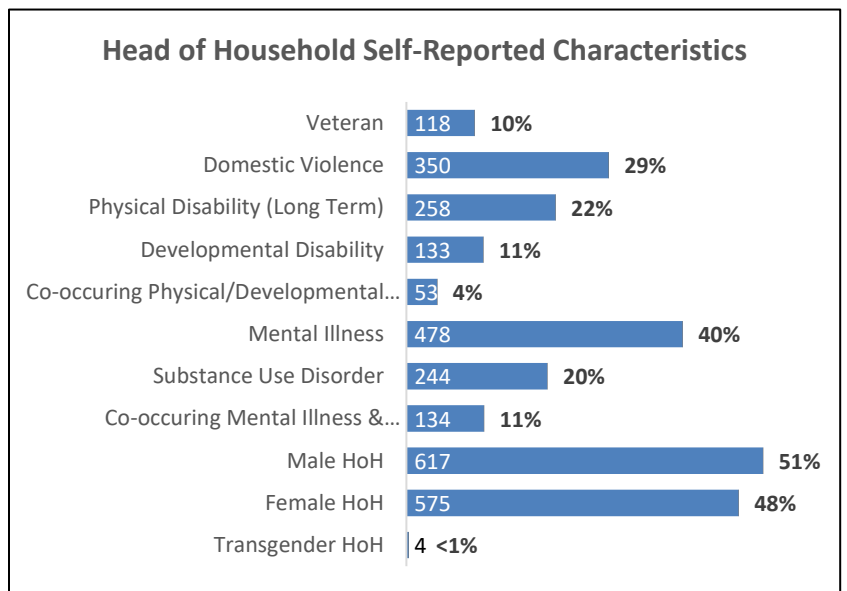
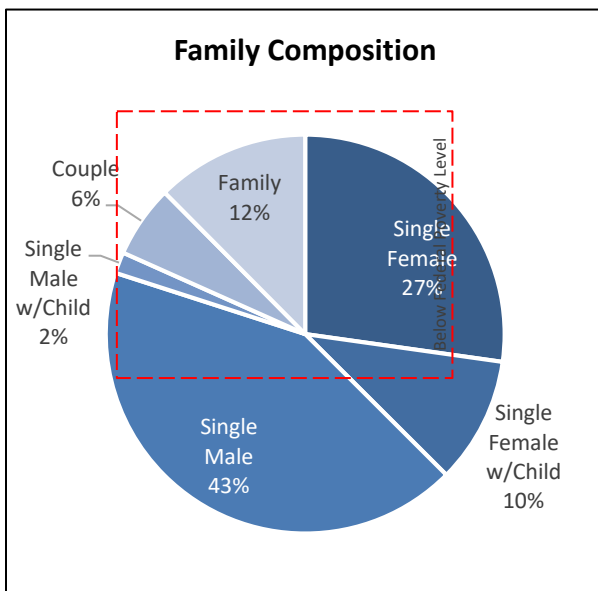
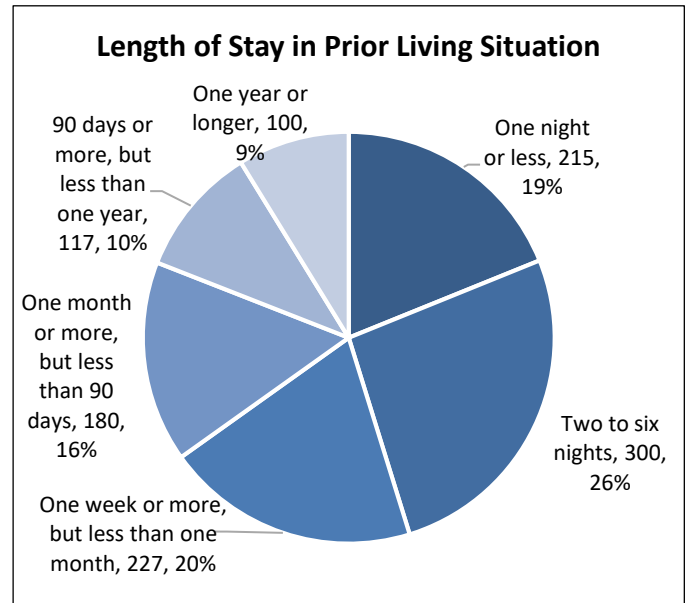
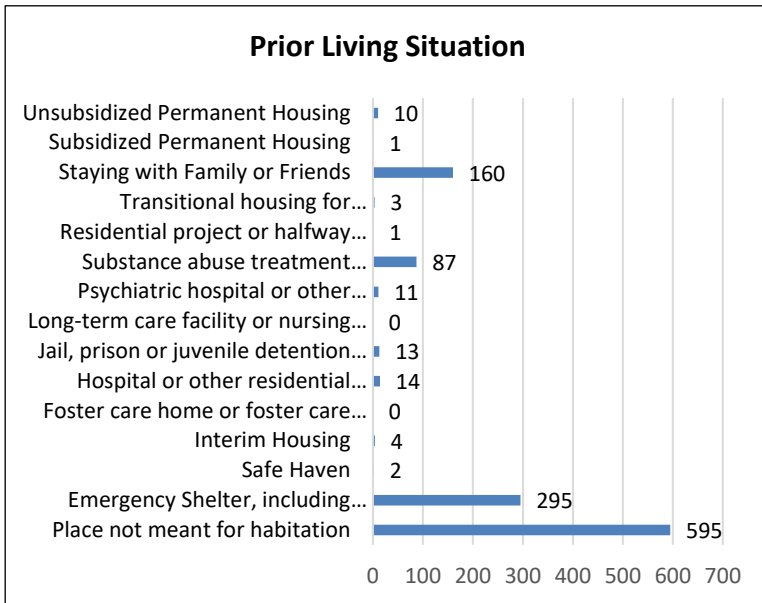
#### Homeless Management Information System and Housing Solutions Center

The second tool that is used to collect information about homelessness in Kitsap is the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This is a federally mandated and state-managed database of information that is required to be collected by homeless housing and service providers about every client who receives homeless assistance provided by federal or state funding. Privately funded programs are not required to participate, though in Kitsap several of these programs choose to do so.

Required HMIS data includes demographic information such as gender, age, prior living situation, length of time homeless, education level, ethnicity, and family composition. Clients must provide signed consent to have identifying information entered into the system. When a client enters a particular housing or homeless services program, information about their participation in the program is also recorded in HMIS.



## 2017 Demographics for Households Experiencing Homelessness in Kitsap<sup>13</sup>

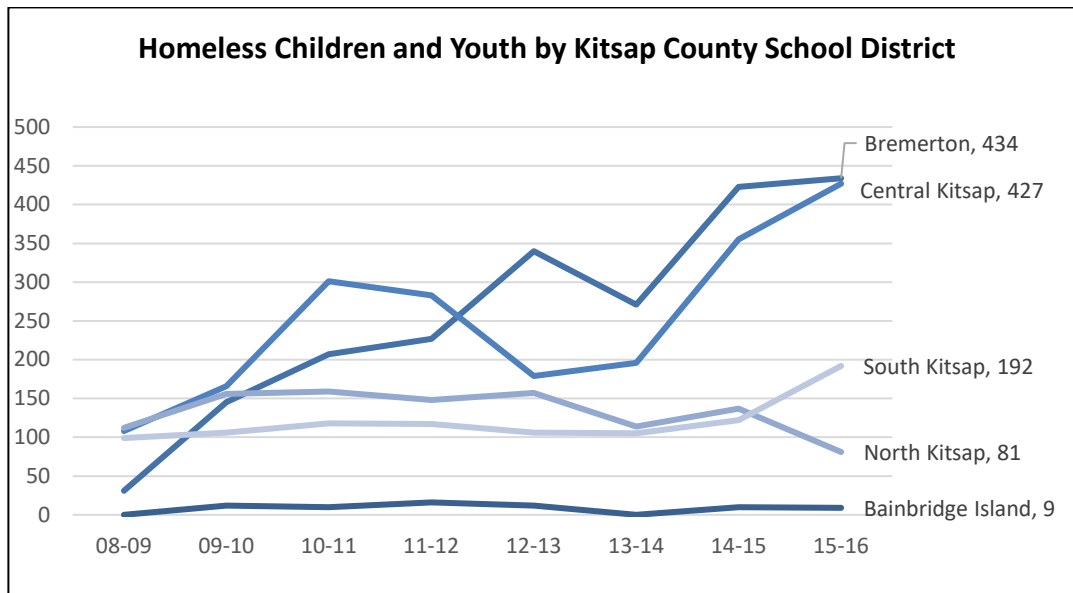


<sup>13</sup> Data from the Homeless Management Information System, through the Housing Solutions Center, 2017, Literally Homeless Households.

HMIS information is used at the state level to develop state-wide statistics and models. At the local level it provides accurate information about clients who access services. Its limitation is that clients who are not using services, either by choice or because needed services are not available, are not included. Thus, it provides limited information about under-served populations or gaps in service.

### Youth Homelessness

Each school district is also required to collect information about student homelessness and submit it to the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction<sup>14</sup>. This represents students that were identified by school district staff as experiencing homelessness, but is considered to be a fraction of the actual number.



Statistically, this equates to about one student in every classroom experiencing homelessness.

## SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To make sure that what we are doing is having the desired effect, specific system performance measures are used, based on data collected through the HMIS and other sources. Some of the performance measures listed below are mandated by the Department of Commerce – these are indicated by a ★.

### RARE: How many people experience homelessness?

The Point in Time Count provides information about homeless households who choose to participate in a survey on one particular day, regardless of whether they are seeking or receiving services and includes individuals who are sheltered and unsheltered, by federal definition. The Homeless Management Information System and the Housing Solutions Center provide information only about clients who seek and access services.

#### ★ At a Point in Time

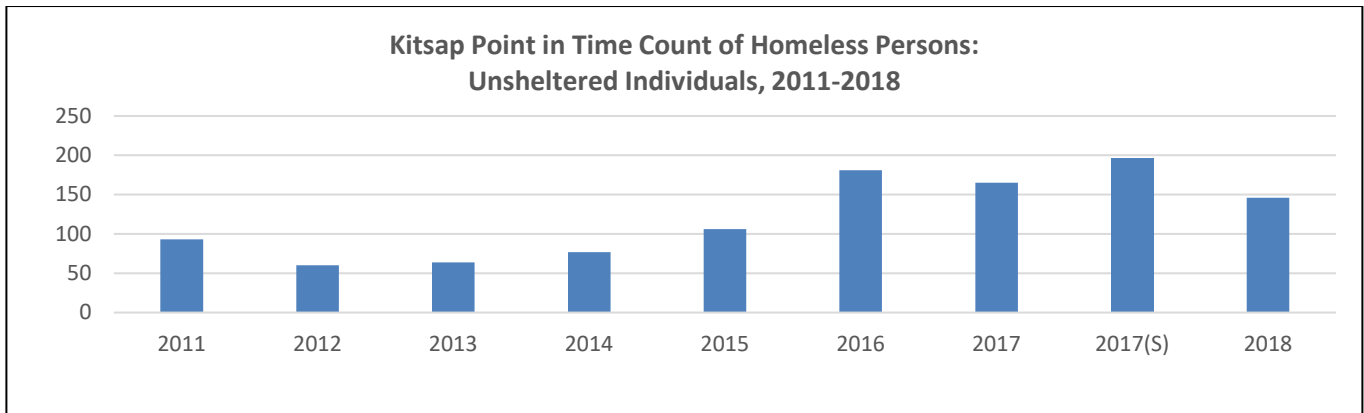
The following table shows data compiled from annual Point In Time count from 2011-2018.

- In 2018, 69% were being served by current facilities, staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- 31%, or 146 individuals, were not being served by current homeless housing programs and were living in situations not meant for human habitation, such as abandoned buildings, illegal encampments on private and public property, on the streets, or in their cars.

<sup>14</sup> Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, <http://www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/Data.aspx>



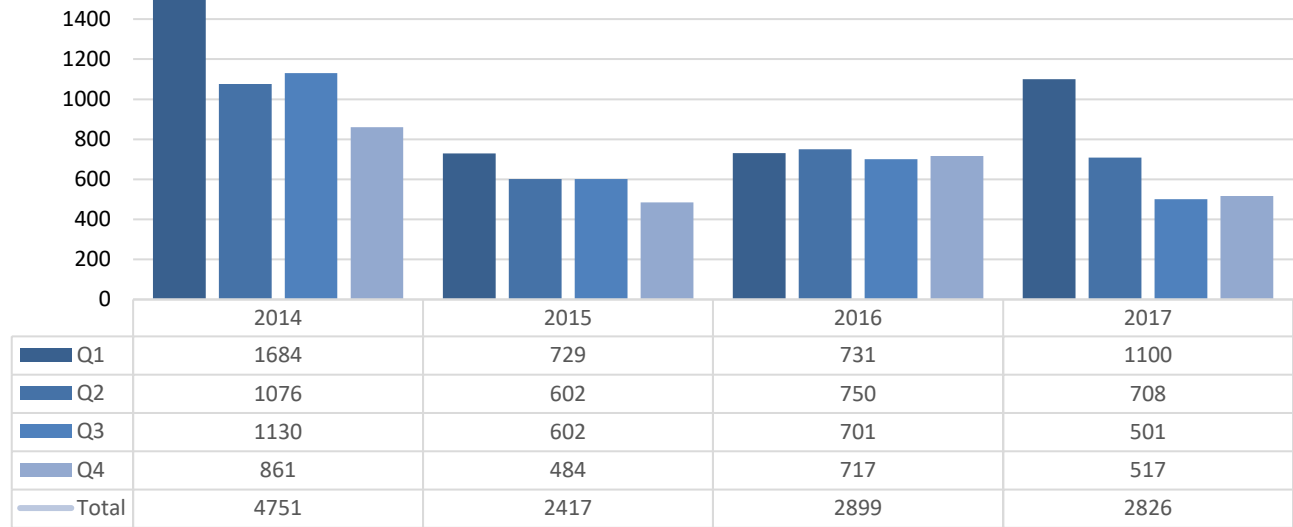
The overall number of individuals who were counted in the annual Point in Time Count has decreased between 2017 and 2018 by 9%. However, the number of sheltered people is a direct reflection of the number of transitional housing units and emergency shelter beds available. For example, the chart above shows an additional 47 people sheltered in the Winter Shelter for 2017 and 66 for 2018. Winter Shelter capacity increased between 2017 and 2018, so that Winter Shelter-stayers plus unsheltered people add up to the same number for both years (212).



**Annually**

HMIS data collected upon entry into the Housing Solutions Center program indicates the number of households seeking assistance for housing stability.

**HSC Quarterly Enrollments by Household:  
2014-2017 Literally Homeless and At-Risk**



Key 2017 statistics for people seeking housing stability assistance at the Housing Solutions Center:

- **Housing Status:** In 2017, the HSC enrolled 2,826 unduplicated households comprising 4,847 individuals. Of these, 33% or 1,199 households comprising 1,756 individuals, reported being literally homeless.
- **Prior Living Situation:** The prior living situation for literally homeless households: 50% were in an unsheltered situation (such as an encampment, living in a car, or place not meant for human habitation), 24% were previously staying in a shelter, 13% were staying with family and friends, and 7.3% were in a substance abuse treatment facility or detox.
- **Characteristics:** The following are literally homeless self-reported characteristics: Mental illness (40%), domestic violence (29%), physical disability (22%), and substance use disorder (20%).
- **Income:** 43% of literally homeless households reported \$0 income, 87% of households have incomes at or below the federal poverty level. \$700 is the minimum income for a household to be considered able to maintain housing independently, though at this income level, they are very likely to be severely rent-burdened (paying 50% or more of income on housing).

### Per Capita Homelessness

The Kitsap Public Health District reported that in 2016, 1.7% of individuals in the County were currently or imminently experiencing homelessness, an increase from 1.5% in 2011.<sup>15</sup>

2017 HSC data indicates that 1,756 unduplicated individuals were literally homeless over the course of the year. With an estimated Kitsap population of 264,811, that means that 1 in every 150 residents experienced homelessness in 2017.

### ★ New to Homelessness

Another performance metric is measuring the number of people who are new to homelessness. This is measured by the number of households who were literally homeless or at imminent risk of losing housing and who received HSC services, and had not received homeless services within the last two years. 2017 HMIS data indicates that 680 households were new to homelessness (75%) and had not received homeless services in the prior two year period.

<sup>15</sup> Kitsap Public Health District, 2017 Kitsap Core Public Health Indicators Report (revised), p. 9, [http://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/KPHD\\_Health\\_Indicators.pdf](http://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/KPHD_Health_Indicators.pdf)

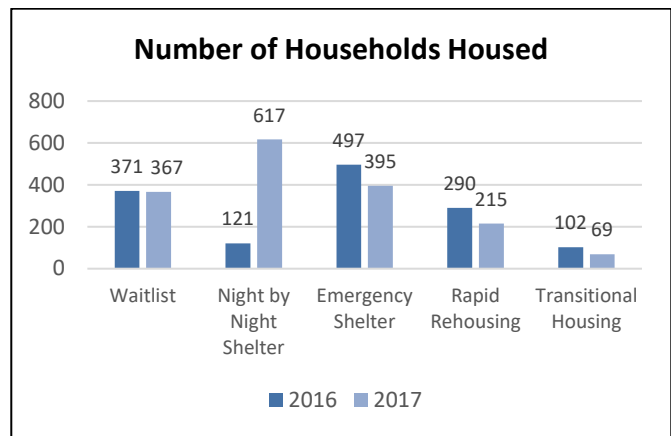
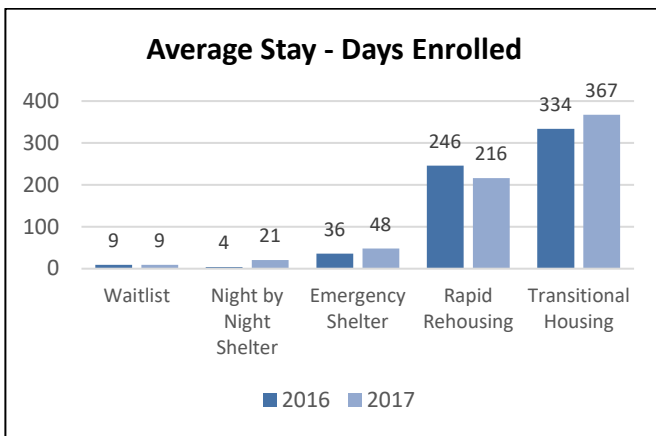
★ **Prevented from Homelessness**

In 2017, the homeless crisis response system provided targeted prevention assistance to 259 households, about the same number as in 2016.

**BRIEF: How long are people homeless?**

★ **Length of Time in Housing Programs**

HMIS records the length of time people spend in different types of housing and the number of households served. Between 2016 and 2017, shelter stays and transitional housing stays increased, while the length of time people were in a rapid rehousing program decreased. Night by night shelter beds were added, so there was a significant increase in the number of households able to be served. As emergency shelter stays increased, the number of people able to be served over the course of a year decreased; the same is true for transitional housing. Waitlist times and households stayed the same between the two years.

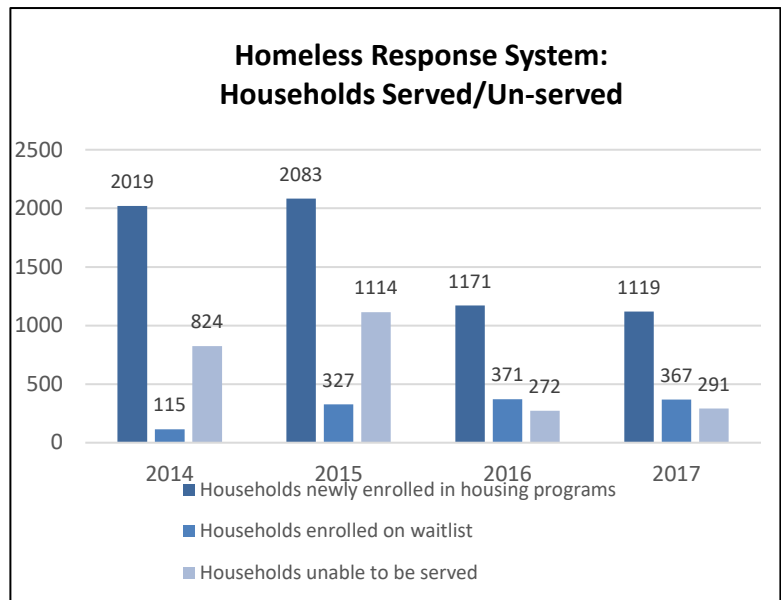


Shorter stays in temporary housing are considered to be better for building long-term stability. In addition, when people regain permanent housing faster, more people are able to be served with the limited temporary housing resources. HUD sets the goal of less than 20 days in emergency shelter.

This data does not include people who are unsheltered and are NOT seeking services – often these individuals experiencing “chronic homelessness” are unsheltered for extended periods of time (1+ years) or repeatedly over the course of many years.

**Length of Time Homeless**

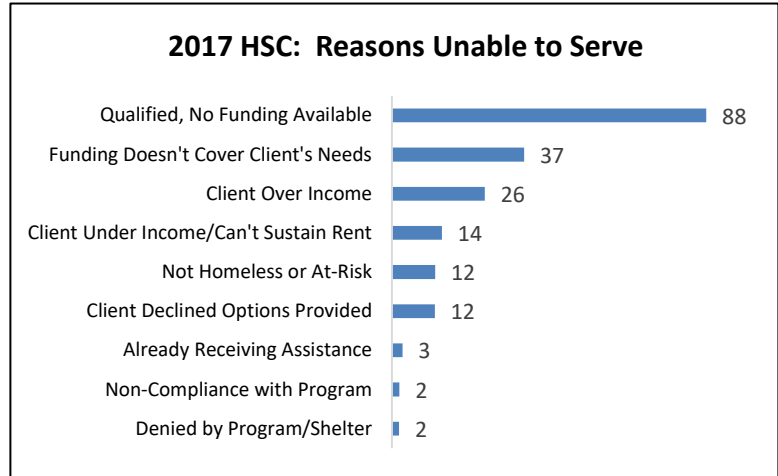
Sixty-five percent of Kitsap’s homeless individuals who access services through the Housing Solutions Center are homeless for less than one month before seeking services, being housed through one of Kitsap’s social service agencies, or overcoming homelessness on their own. (Chart under Demographics section.)



At the same time, 100 individuals were identified as “chronically homeless” (i.e. they have been without housing 1+ years or have had four episodes of homelessness within three years).

**Unable to Be Served**

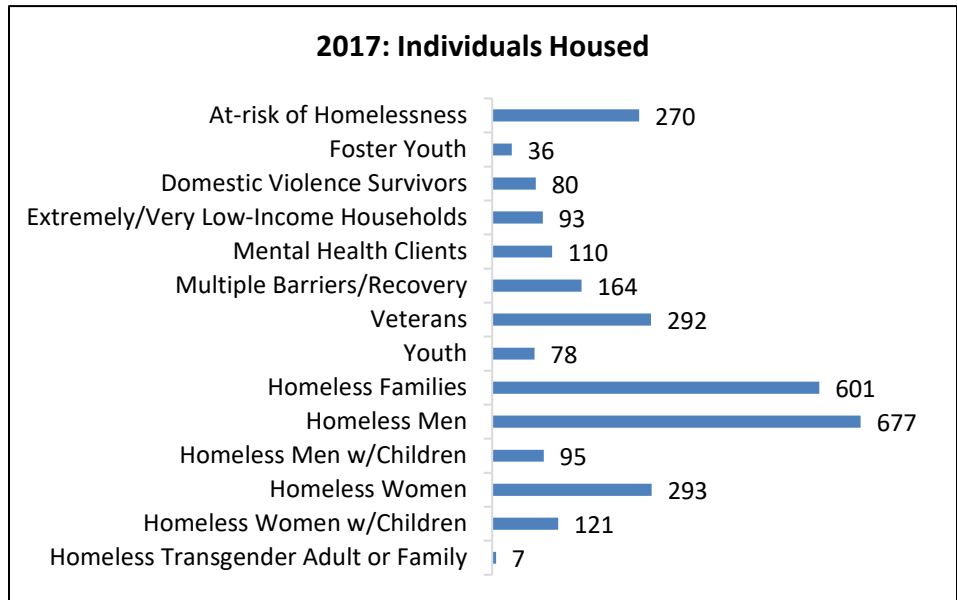
This metric reflects whether the homeless crisis response system has adequate capacity to assist all households who need it. When households are assessed at the HSC, they are 1) immediately referred to shelter or a housing program, 2) placed on a waiting list if there is a shelter that they are eligible that will have an opening in the near future, or 3) if there are no housing programs for which they are currently eligible, they are considered “unable to be served”. For these households, they are connected with as many other resources as possible to address their needs. 2017 HSC data indicates that 16.3% of households seeking assistance were unable to be served.



A breakdown of reasons people are unable to be served shows that the most frequent reason is that no rental assistance funding or insufficient rental assistance funding was available at the time. Some clients were unable to be served due to being over income or under income to qualify for programs.

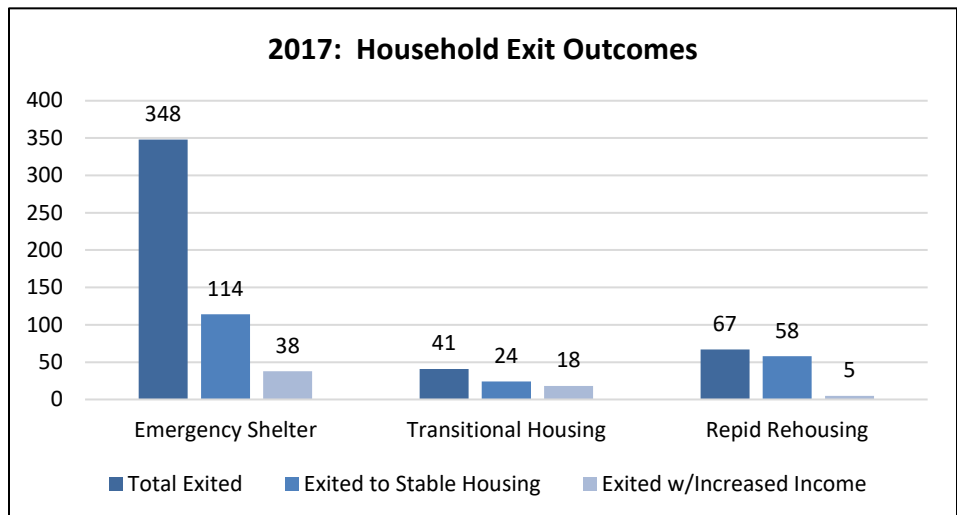
**ONE-TIME: How many people are re-housed? How many people experience homelessness again?**

A total of 2,917 individuals were housed in the homeless response system during 2017, broken roughly into these demographic categories.



**★ Exits to Stable Housing, Increased Income**

Households exiting housing programs to stable housing destinations is the ultimate goal of the homeless crisis response system. Increased income indicates a higher likelihood of self-sufficient housing in the future. Of the 456 households exiting emergency shelter,



transitional housing, and rapid rehousing programs in 2017, 196 exited to stable housing and 61 exited with increased income (of those exiting emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing programs).

★ **Returns to Homelessness**

Of the 468 households who exited to permanent housing in the two years prior to 2017, 85% had not returned to homelessness; 15% returned to homelessness (71 households), a significant increase from 7.6% in 2016.

**Conclusion**

Though no single data source provides definitive information about homeless demographics, the picture that results from the data sources cited above indicate more than 2,800 households, with a variety of household compositions and needs, require homeless housing and services on an annual basis. Each household has unique needs that must be met in order for them to access a path to regain stable housing and self-sufficiency.

Single males make up the largest demographic of literally homeless households, though women are more likely to be head of household. The vast majority have incomes that are below the federal poverty line, making it difficult to secure and maintain long-term housing without some increase in income. Mental illness is the most frequently reported characteristic – highlighting the need for emergency and permanent housing for people with behavioral health issues.

Economic factors continue to precipitate households being pushed into homelessness, particularly the dramatic increase in rents over the last several years. People with fixed incomes are particularly vulnerable to rent increases.

Overall, Kitsap providers are doing a better job of quickly providing immediate housing and services, however the focus on prioritizing the most difficult to serve, has put a strain on shelters and has slowed exits to permanent housing because of insufficient permanent supportive housing. While the waiting list for shelter time is relatively short for most households, there are a significant number of households that are unable to be helped because we do not have the programs and resources to do so.

Most households are able to maintain stable housing after leaving programs to a stable housing destination, which points to successful program models. However, some households cycle through the system and use a higher proportion of resources. This calls for solutions that target highly vulnerable households with many needs and barriers – they will be more expensive to serve in the short-term, but this will have the biggest long-term impact on community resources, the quality of life for these households, and our ability to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

**RARE**  
**1 in 150 people experienced homelessness in 2017.**  
**About 150 people were unsheltered on a given day; many more when the Winter Shelter is closed.**

**BRIEF**  
**1 in 6 were not able to be housed immediately.**  
**1 in 8 were not able to be housed with existing resources.**

**ONE-TIME**  
**75% of households seeking housing assistance were new to homelessness had not received assistance within the last 2 years.**  
**85% of households who exit to stable housing are not homeless again within 2 years.**

## Action Plan

---

### Needs and Gaps, Core Strategies, and New Action Steps

***We will work together as a community to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one time occurrence in Kitsap County through an efficient and effective homeless response system.***

Despite strong leadership and a diversity of existing resources, homelessness is still a persistent issue in Kitsap, illustrated by the current demographics of homelessness. The update process revealed specific barriers and gaps that represent some of the underlying causes of Kitsap’s inability to meet the needs of all homeless residents.

This plan is not intended to be a comprehensive list of the existing strategies and programs already in place in our county. Instead, it anticipates that the existing continuum of housing and homeless services that has been developed over the last decade is maintained, with improvements that reflect evidence-based practices. This plan also does not enumerate every possible action step that could be implemented; instead it focuses on achievable action steps that are needed to fill identified gaps in housing and services. The Action Plan includes a narrative description of goals, current needs and gaps, core strategies, and new actions steps. It is followed by an Action Plan Matrix organized in the following way:

- Goals constitute the overarching critical path to making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time, while improving our response system and engaging our community.
- Core Strategies for each goal outline our overall methodology, principles, and current approaches to achieve each goal. They often encompass multiple actions and programs already in effect.
- New Action Steps for each goal are listed with projected timelines and responsible organizations – these action steps are the focus for improving the homeless crisis response system over the next 3-5 years. Because many of the strategies are closely related, some of the action steps support more than one strategy.
- Indicators of Success are the performance metrics that help us measure our progress on achieving each goal. These indicators are not linked to individual strategies or actions but show the aggregate impact of all of the strategies and actions.

### Focus Areas of This Update

Building on the re-orienting of the system in the 2016 Plan towards prioritizing the most vulnerable, the 2018 Plan expands emergency and permanent housing options for this population. The first step is to define additional housing types to meet varied needs and income levels. In addition, based on analyzing the many sources of input during the planning process, the additional needs and gaps in the homeless crisis response system have been identified, with specific new action steps, timelines, and responsible parties to address them.

- **Implement discharge planning** for homeless individuals entering the community from jails, correctional facilities, hospitals, and behavioral health systems of care
- **Encourage development of more affordable housing** and alternative housing models through incentives and policy changes
  - **Add 120 low-barrier night-by-night shelter beds** and alternative shelter options (tiny houses, safe parks, etc.) throughout the County
  - **Add 15 respite care shelter beds** for people with medical needs that are not able to be supported in other shelters
  - **Add 60-80 Permanent Supportive Housing** units for people with long-term behavioral health and physical health challenges to stable housing
- Focus on **tenancy supports and employment/education connections**, including the new Medicaid Supported Housing and Supported Employment benefits



- Expand the use of **performance measures and data** to ensure the most efficient use of grant funds
- Implement **trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices**
- **Expand leadership, accountability, and opportunities for community education and volunteering**

## 1. Make homelessness rare

One of the most cost-effective ways to decrease homelessness is to prevent the endless flow of individuals and families who become homeless from entering the system.

### Current Needs and Gaps

**Increased Demand:** The numbers of homeless individuals and households and requests for homeless services have grown over the past decade, as evidenced by data referenced earlier. As long as the myriad underlying social causes of housing crises exist, households will continue to become homeless. National research indicates that many households who report needing assistance to prevent homelessness may actually be resilient enough to resolve the issue independently, whereas those who are most vulnerable should be prioritized for assistance.

**People Re-entering the Community from Systems of Care:** People are frequently discharged from other systems of care, such as jails, hospitals, behavioral health programs, substance use disorder treatment, and foster care, into homelessness due to lack of housing options. In addition, Kitsap currently has very few emergency housing beds for people who have high behavioral health needs, significant medical needs not able to be tended while living homeless, or criminal histories.

**Affordable Housing Shortage:** Kitsap County, like many other cities and counties, is in the midst of a shortage of affordable housing – both subsidized and market-rate. The 2015 Washington State Affordable Housing Needs Assessment estimates that there are only 12 units of affordable housing for every 100 units needed by people earning less than 30% of Area Median Income (AMI). This results in 4,545 renter households at 30% of AMI and 4,110 renter households at 50% of AMI being cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing. An addition 2,700 home-owner households at 30% of AMI and 2,845 households at 50% AMI are cost-burdened. These are the households most at risk of housing instability and homelessness. The 2016-2020 Kitsap County Consolidated Plan includes a comprehensive affordable housing needs assessment and gap analysis.

### Core Strategies

**Preventing homelessness** through targeted prevention can avert eviction or foreclosure for those *most likely* to become homeless. **Diversion programs** make smaller investments of funds for non-housing items that prevent housing instability or homelessness. Prevention programs have improved efficacy if connections to existing supports (such as job training and placement, basic life skills, financial literacy, and education) are included, so that households can address the underlying reasons for their housing crisis.

**Pro-actively planning for housing and services for individuals re-entering the community** from jails, correctional facilities, foster care, hospitals, mental health programs, substance use disorder treatment, and homeless shelters, transitional housing, and other housing programs will prevent homelessness among people in these situations. In addition, **respite beds** are needed for people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs who do not have stable housing and are in need of related supportive services either temporarily or long-term.

**Additional units of affordable housing** for households at very low- and low- income levels are required to prevent the large number of rent-burdened households being forced into homelessness. *This plan does not attempt to specifically identify actions to increase the number of affordable housing units.* Instead, it proposes an Affordable Housing Task Force and an Affordable Housing Inventory and Needs Assessment report to provide leadership and data to develop a separate plan to address this critical need. In addition, this Plan's scope only includes action steps that can be accomplished by local governments, Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition members, the Homes for All Leadership, and other organizations who are part of the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System. A more extensive group of stakeholders will need to be involved in the development of an affordable housing plan.

Alternative housing models may also provide some solutions – in other counties Single Room Occupancy units, boarding houses, shared housing and tiny cottage houses have proved to be a viable way for more low-income households to remain intact.

### **New Action Steps**

Proposed Action Steps for 2018 – 2020 focus on:

- Reducing discharges from other systems of care into homelessness
- Increase the availability of affordable housing through developing and implementing policies that incentivize development of affordable housing and allowing alternative housing models

## **2. Make homelessness brief**

For all households who experience homelessness, being identified, connected with resources, and getting into emergency housing as quickly as possible is the goal. After they are stabilized, transitioning to permanent housing as quickly as possible ends their homelessness.

### **Current Needs and Gaps**

**Accessibility:** While the coordinated entry system is successfully doing intake, assessments, and referrals, the accessibility of these beds remains a challenge for some households. Households who are particularly vulnerable and/or unable to advocate for themselves are often not accessing services. The vast majority of shelter beds are located in Bremerton, making it difficult for households in other parts of the county to use these beds.

**Housing and Resources for Chronically Unsheltered Individuals:** Currently individuals with the most severe, persistent, or complex barriers to housing stability are the most under-served. Because they are often not seeking housing, it is difficult to estimate how many are living in places not meant for human habitation, such as camping illegally, living in cars, or in abandoned buildings. They tend to be difficult to place in existing shelter beds and, if they are unwilling or unable to comply with programmatic rules are unsuccessful in existing permanent supportive housing programs. Mental illness is reported by 40% of people experiencing homelessness in Kitsap, and substance abuse is reported by 24% - these factors usually significantly contribute to housing challenges. A growing body of research supports a Housing First housing model for these individuals to become stably re-housed, prioritizing keeping them in housing and then making supportive services available but not mandatory.

**Immediate Shelter:** While Kitsap added 20 night-by-night shelter beds and 60+ winter only night-by-night shelter beds since 2016, the demand still outstrips the supply, particularly when the winter shelter is closed 8 months of the year. Additional year 'round low-barrier night-by-night and 24 hour shelter beds are needed that will serve people with high needs – accepting people's pets, possessions, and partners – that will serve as temporary respites for these households until a longer-term solution could be arranged, rather than returning to unstable living conditions or situations unsuitable for human habitation.

**Permanent Housing Availability:** Many people seeking referrals from the Housing Solutions Center are not able to be referred because although they may have housing instability and are at imminent risk of losing their housing. These households are often under income to be able to afford the minimum rent to provide long-term sustainability required for some programs (many have \$0 income), or they are over income to qualify for other programs (sometimes with fixed incomes), despite being extremely low-income. In particular, Kitsap has a severe shortage of housing for people with long-term behavioral health and/or physical health impairments that make housing stability impossible without additional supports.

### **Core Strategies**

Vulnerable and chronically homeless households should be **identified as quickly as possible and prioritized** for shelter and services. **Easy access and appropriate connections to crisis response housing through the coordinated entry program** makes unsheltered homelessness brief. **Providing immediate shelter** beds for all who want it and having low-barrier shelter beds in more geographic locations means that more households will not be forced to survive outside. **Alternative models of emergency housing**, such as tiny shelters, safe parks, and

legal encampments can expand the options available for people moving out of homelessness – they should not be considered permanent housing, but an interim step to build relationships with providers and improve connections with supportive services.

The goal is to **place all households into permanent housing as quickly as possible**. To achieve this, appropriate and affordable housing must be available. For households with low barriers to self-sufficiency, **rapid rehousing** with short graduated subsidies and short term support services is appropriate. Households with more complex behavioral and health barriers are not able to afford or successfully maintain mainstream housing and need **permanent supportive housing**. **Housing First** is a model of permanent supportive housing that provides housing with low barriers or requirements, and is paired with tenancy supports and offers of supportive services, with the goal of keeping people with significant behavioral health, chronic substance abuse disorders, and/or physical health issues permanently housed for as long as possible.

New state legislation prohibits landlords from discriminating on the basis of income source, such as rental assistance or housing vouchers. It also provides a mitigation fund for landlords who have damage to their units. **Education for landlords** about these new laws will help expand landlord partnerships.

### **New Action Steps**

Proposed Action Steps for 2018 – 2020 focus on:

- Increasing the number of low-barrier shelter beds.
- Increasing alternative shelter options, such as tiny houses and safe park programs.
- Creating new units of permanent supported housing for people who need long-term behavioral health and physical health supports to stay housed.
- Leveraging more existing housing units to assist people moving out of homelessness, both through Housing Authorities and in the private market.

### **3. Make homelessness one-time**

To ensure long-term housing stability, households must be quickly connected with resources to help them address and overcome any barriers to housing stability.

#### **Current Needs and Gaps**

**Supportive Services:** Expanding connections with supportive services is needed, including consistently incorporating these resources into housing stability plans. In addition, an increased focus on personal safety net and skill-building is needed to help households retain housing stability.

**Employment and Education:** Employment is frequently reported as a challenge for people experiencing homelessness – both the ability to get and maintain employment while living homeless, and to find employment that generates sufficient income to move back into housing when large deposits are often required.

#### **Core Strategies**

Once households are stabilized in appropriate permanent housing, they can address the issues or barriers to self-sufficiency that caused the housing crisis. Rapid **connection with individually tailored services and resources**, including employment supports and education are essential. In addition, **developing resiliency** through personal skill-building provides long-term benefits, including prevention of further episodes of homelessness.

In addition, **criminalization of homelessness** should be prevented – a growing trend throughout the country, despite evidence that it is expensive and ineffective.

### **New Action Steps**

Proposed Action Steps for 2018 – 2020 focus on:

- Implementing new Medicaid Supported Housing and Supported Employment benefits

- Incorporating employment/education strategies into housing stability plans

#### 4. Continuously improve the homeless response system

Although Kitsap has a robust homeless response system, it must continuously innovate to respond to changing needs and incorporate emerging successful strategies.

##### **Current Needs and Gaps**

**Performance Measurement:** Although many individual organizations are using performance indicators, including outputs and outcomes, currently there is not widespread use of performance measures at the countywide and agency level to help identify whether collective progress is being made to accomplish community impact. In addition, organizations could benefit from training on how to use performance measures and targets to improve their performance.

**Best Practices:** Over the last 10 years, significant research has demonstrated the most effective practices in delivering homeless housing and programs (e.g. progressive engagement) , yet in some areas Kitsap has not yet widely adopted these practices. This is often due to the organizational capacity issues discussed below.

**Limited Capacity:** Capacity issues exist on two levels in our community. First, the existing emergency, supportive and permanent affordable housing available is not adequate to meet the demand. Homeless services, such as emergency shelters, are being strained and usually run at capacity. Since there are not sufficient homeless housing units or beds available to meet the demand, homeless individuals and families are forced to find shelter in temporary or unsuitable conditions. Waiting lists for permanent subsidized housing, such as Public Housing, are often years long.

Second, some agencies' abilities to manage the expansion of an existing program or develop a new program are limited. This may be due to a need for more specific expertise and experience within agencies. Agencies can also be reluctant to expand or create new programs without assurance that they have funding for the ongoing operation and maintenance of these programs. Agencies may also need assistance developing their agency capacity through training on capacity-building and emerging evidence-based practices.

##### **Core Strategies**

At a time when demand is increasing and resources are decreasing, doing more with less is imperative. Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the homeless housing system through maximizing system coordination, provider capacity, and overall system capacity is critical.

**Using performance measures and data to drive decision-making and improving coordination among different systems of care and among service providers** will improve efficiency.

In addition, ensuring that **planning for homelessness and affordable housing are integrated** with other planning effort and the evolution of other services delivery will provide a more cohesive and comprehensive response.

We must **ensure the strategic investment of public funds** through incorporating evidence-based practices in new and existing programs to shift the response system. In particular, **incorporating trauma-informed care and person-centered care** principles throughout the homeless crisis response system will provide a more compassionate and effective response.

**Provider capacity and outcomes can be improved** through providing training on evidence-base practices, performance measurement, and implementing shelter care standards.

##### **New Action Steps**

Proposed Action Steps for 2018 – 2020 focus on:

- Expanding the use of performance measurements, including providing training

- Ensuring the most efficient investments of grant funds
- Increasing the use of trauma-informed care and other evidence-based practices

## 5. Expand community engagement

Community understanding and support for addressing homelessness is essential for generating the leadership and resources to be successful.

### Current Needs and Gaps

**Leadership:** Although leadership for homeless issues is strong within the homeless response system, it would be strengthened to incorporate a broader representation from other sectors and systems of care that interact with the issues of affordable housing and homelessness and to widen its scope beyond tiny cottages to the many other homelessness issues facing Kitsap.

**Citizens Outreach and Involvement:** One of the most frequent themes at the Stakeholders meetings for this Plan was the need for having coordinated and consistent communication about the issue of homelessness with the broader community so that compassion for those experiencing homelessness can be increased, leading to greater community support and involvement.

**Planning Integration:** Housing stability is increasingly being identified as an important component of the success of other sectors, such as health care and behavioral health. Coordinating and integrating strategies is just beginning to be recognized as essential to success for clients in all these systems of care. The timing of the update to this Plan is intended to allow for increased coordination between planning efforts.

**Insufficient Funding:** While Kitsap County agencies have funding sources targeted to reducing homelessness, the demand for services and housing continues to grow. Federal funding sources that support permanent subsidized and permanent supportive housing have been reduced or stagnated over the past three to five years. More expensive operating costs mean that funding does not stretch as far as it once did. Because of this limited funding, existing funding must be invested as effectively as possible and advocacy at the state and federal level is essential.

### Core Strategies

**Leadership** on the issue of homelessness by our elected officials and representatives from across the different sectors that touch individuals experiencing homelessness is required to make the policy changes that are needed. **Raising awareness and engaging our community** is essential to creating the community and political involvement to expand solutions.

Creating and implementing a **specific communication plan** and providing data about homelessness to the community will raise awareness. Paired with specific **volunteer opportunities**, more community members will be able to engage in solutions.

**Advocacy at the local, state and federal** level increases the likelihood of the needed funding streams to implement this plan and make significant investments into affordable housing flowing into Kitsap County.

### New Action Steps

Proposed Action Steps for 2018 – 2024 focus on:

- Ensuring cross-sector leadership and accountability.
- Developing a communication plan to improve community outreach and education.
- Creating additional volunteer opportunities for the public.
- Advocating for additional funding.

By focusing efforts on these core strategies and specific new action steps that support them, we can make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.


















## Action Plan – Detail Matrix

The Action Plan – Detail Matrix outlines the specific core strategies that underly Kitsap County’s framework and approach to homelessness. New Action Steps indicate additional actions to be taken between 2018 – 2024 to further support the Core Strategies and Goals, with dates for initiating the action step and an implementation milestone. Also included are key responsible parties – though other agencies may be involved as well. Performance Indicators of Success provide a reference for how progress on the overall goal will be evaluated – often linked to specific Commerce performance measures.

Symbols reference different types of Action Steps: whether we can measure the direct impact of an action step or not (○ = Impact Not Measurable ● = Measurable Impact), whether additional funding is directly needed to implement the action step (\$ = Additional Funding), and whether there is a direct role for local government that includes changes in policies, procedures, or production of materials in the action step (◊ = Local Government involved).

GOAL 1		<i>Make homelessness rare.</i>	
★ Performance Indicators of Success		Core Strategies	
PI - 1.1 Fewer people experience homelessness for the first time PI - 1.2 Fewer people discharged from institutions to homelessness		<b>1.1 Prevention and diversion:</b> People are prevented from losing their homes through targeted prevention and diversion programs that keep people out of shelter. <b>1.2 Prevent discharges to homelessness:</b> People are not discharged into homelessness from other systems of care. <b>1.3 Diversion in court system:</b> Whenever possible, pre-adjudication and alternative sentencing programs are used to divert people experiencing homelessness from incarceration, to avoid criminal histories and prevent increased financial burdens both for people experiencing homelessness and for first responder systems. <b>1.4 Affordable Housing:</b> Increasing the availability and accessibility of housing that is affordable to people with low incomes is promoted. <b>1.5 Alternative housing options:</b> Non-traditional housing options are available and affordable for people at risk of homelessness. <b>1.6 Connection with services:</b> Households are connected with appropriate existing supports and benefits to avoid homelessness.	
⊛ New Action Steps		Timeline/Implementation Milestones	Responsible Parties
<b>1.2.A Create a plan for medical discharge coordination:</b> ○ Establish procedures for coordination between the coordinated entry system and local hospitals to improve housing placements at discharge		<b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2021 – Procedures in place	Housing Solutions Center CHI Franciscan/Harrison
<b>1.2.B Create a plan for behavioral health discharge coordination:</b> ○ Establish procedures for coordination between the coordinated entry system and behavioral health providers to improve housing placements at discharge		<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2021 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2022 – Procedures in place	Housing Solutions Center Kitsap Mental Health Services

HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

<p><b>1.2.C Identify homeless youth in Juvenile Court system:</b>   Implement a youth homelessness risk-assessment and identification tool in the Kitsap Juvenile and Family Court  </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019  <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2020 – Assessment tool implemented</p>	<p>Kitsap Juvenile &amp; Family Court Services</p>
<p><b>1.2.D Respite beds:</b> Create 10 medical respite housing beds for short-term stays for people with medical needs that are not able to be supported in other shelters    </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019  <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2019 – Three medical respite beds are being piloted</p>	<p>Catholic Community Services  Kitsap Mental Health Services  Peninsula Community Health  Bremerton Housing Authority</p>
<p><b>1.4.A Affordable Housing Task Force:</b> Convene a task force including a wide range of stakeholders to specifically develop and implement a plan to increase the availability and number of units of housing affordable to households earning 0% - 80% of area median income throughout Kitsap County    </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019  <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2019 – KRCC Affordable Housing Committee formed; 2Q 2020 – Affordable Housing Stakeholder Task Force established</p>	<p>Bremerton Housing Authority  Housing Kitsap  Housing Resources  Bainbridge  Kitsap Community Resources  Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division  Landlords  Home builders  Housing funders/financers  Other interested stakeholders</p>
<p><b>1.4.B Affordable Housing Inventory and Needs Report:</b>       Produce an affordable housing inventory and analysis report to determine Kitsap’s current housing landscape and inventory to determine what types of housing are needed currently and in the future and what policy changes are needed to promote production of affordable housing units</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2019  <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2020 – Study complete</p>	<p>Kitsap County Block Grant Program  Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division  City of Bremerton</p>
<p><b>1.4.C Policies supporting affordable housing and Permanent Supportive Housing:</b> Adopt inclusionary zoning and incentives to developers of affordable housing to increase units of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing    </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019  <b>Milestone:</b> Ongoing by County and Cities</p>	<p>Cities  Kitsap County</p>
<p><b>1.5.A Alternative housing models:</b> Develop and adopt planning policies that allow alternative housing models including SROs, boarding houses, home sharing programs, tiny houses, and others    </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019  <b>Milestone:</b> Ongoing by County and Cities</p>	<p>Cities  Kitsap County</p>
<p><b>1.5.B Toolkits for Alternative Housing:</b> Develop toolkits for organizations/people who want to operate boarding houses, tiny shelters, home sharing programs, and other types of alternative housing    </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 2Q 2020  <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2020 – At least 1 toolkit is completed</p>	<p>Homes for All  Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition  Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division</p>
<p><b>1.6.A Resource Guides:</b> Develop and distribute resource brochures about housing and homelessness services for specific populations, such as youth, seniors, veterans, and jail inmates    </p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2020  <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2020 – At least 2 population-specific resource guides are completed</p>	<p>Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition  Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division  Other interested stakeholders</p>

○ = Impact Not Measurable ● = Measurable Impact ◇ = Local Government involved \$ = Additional Funding

**GOAL 2** *Make homelessness brief.*

★ Performance Indicators of Success	Core Strategies	
<p><b>PI - 2.1</b> People experience fewer days of homelessness before being sheltered</p> <p><b>PI - 2.2</b> People experience fewer days of homelessness in shelters</p> <p><b>PI - 2.3</b> Fewer people are experiencing unsheltered homelessness</p>	<p><b>2.1 Identification and engagement:</b> People experiencing homelessness are quickly identified and engaged.</p> <p><b>2.2 Coordinated Entry Program:</b> Kitsap’s coordinated entry program ensures easy access and appropriate connections to crisis response housing and services. All placements to temporary housing are made through the Coordinated Entry Program, with the exception of DV Shelters and Winter Shelters.</p> <p><b>2.3 Prioritize based on need:</b> Prioritize assistance for people who are the most vulnerable, unsheltered, and/or chronically homeless, through the use of a standardized vulnerability screening tool.</p> <p><b>2.4 Immediate shelter:</b> Immediate shelter is available for all who want it, including a low-barrier shelter option.</p> <p><b>2.5 Connection with resources:</b> Households in shelter and in the shelter pool are connected with other community resources and benefits as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>2.6 Appropriate permanent housing:</b> Households are moved as quickly as possible to appropriate permanent housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid Rehousing in market rate housing with an income-based sliding scale subsidy;</li> <li>• Permanent subsidized housing for people with fixed incomes and no need for supportive services; or</li> <li>• Permanent supported housing for people with a disability that affects their ability to live independently.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.7 Partner with landlords:</b> Existing housing units are used whenever possible through partnerships with for-profit and non-profit landlords.</p>	
🌟 New Action Steps	Timeline/Implementation Milestones	Responsible Parties
<p><b>2.1.A Active List:</b> Use an Active List to identify, engage, and build relationships with households waiting for shelter and unsheltered homeless individuals</p> <p>○ ◇</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 2Q 2020 – Active List is fully implemented through Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>Housing Solutions Center Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Department of Commerce KHHC Members</p>
<p><b>2.1.B Outreach Tracking:</b> Implement method to collect data about outreach contacts</p> <p>○ ◇</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2020 – Outreach data is being consistently collected and analyzed</p>	<p>Housing Solutions Center Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division</p>
<p><b>2.4.A Create additional low-barrier shelter beds:</b> Create 70-90 year-round low-barrier shelter beds that accept “pets, possessions, and partners”, are accessible 24-hours a day, and provide supportive services and connections with community resources</p> <p>● \$</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2021 – New shelter is operational</p>	<p>Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Other community partners</p>



HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

<p><b>2.4.D Tiny Houses:</b> Create opportunities for tiny houses to be used as emergency housing – in villages, clusters, or individually sited</p> <p>● ◇ \$</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2020 – 1 Tiny House Village is operational</p>	<p>Homes for All members Kitsap faith organizations Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division</p>
<p><b>2.4.E Safe Park:</b> Create a Safe Park Program for men, serving 6-10 men living in their vehicles while connected with housing case management</p> <p>● \$</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2020 – Safe Park for Men is operational</p>	<p>Kitsap Community Resources</p>
<p><b>2.4.F Legal outdoor living options:</b> Create additional housing options to provide safety, sanitation, and security for people who chose to live outside, such as legal long-term camping or legal encampments</p> <p>● \$</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2021 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2022 – Additional housing option operational</p>	<p>Housing and Homelessness Coalition members</p>
<p><b>2.5.A Youth Resource Guide App:</b> Develop and distribute a resource guide for youth services, and develop a mobile app with this information</p> <p>○ ◇</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2020 – Youth Resource Guide complete</p>	<p>Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Commission on Children and Youth</p>
<p><b>2.6.A Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First:</b> Create 80 new units of permanent supportive housing, including but not limited to units employing a Housing First model, to serve people with severe, long-term behavioral and/or physical health issues</p> <p>● \$</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 2Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2021 – Housing units available for tenants</p>	<p>Bremerton Housing Authority Kitsap Community Resources Kitsap Mental Health Services Peninsula Community Health</p>
<p><b>2.6.B Homeless Preference for Section 8 and Public Housing:</b> Adopt a homeless preference for Section 8 and Public Housing units</p> <p>●</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 2Q 2020 – Preference in place</p>	<p>Bremerton Housing Authority</p>
<p><b>2.7.A Source of income discrimination/landlord mitigation program:</b> Produce and distribute materials to educate and inform landlords about new laws prohibiting source of income discrimination and the state landlord mitigation program</p> <p>○ ◇</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2018 – Brochure distributed; information on websites</p>	<p>Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Housing Solutions Center Bremerton Housing Authority Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Department of Commerce</p>

**GOAL 3** *Make homelessness one-time.*





















★ Performance Indicators of Success	Core Strategies
<p><b>PI - 3.1</b> More people exit homelessness to stable housing</p> <p><b>PI - 3.2</b> More people exit homelessness with increased income and/or benefits</p> <p><b>PI - 3.3</b> Fewer people return to homelessness after being stably housed</p>	<p><b>3.1 Provide supportive services:</b> Supportive services and tenancy supports are provided for people moving out of homelessness to remain in their housing.</p> <p><b>3.2 Employment and education connections:</b> Sturdy connections to employment and education are provided for people moving out of homelessness to increase their incomes.</p> <p><b>3.3 Tailored services:</b> Connections to appropriate tailored services and benefits are provided.</p> <p><b>3.4 De-criminalize homelessness:</b> Homelessness is not criminalized and life-sustaining activities (sleeping, eating) are allowed in</p>

○ = Impact Not Measurable ● = Measurable Impact ◇ = Local Government involved \$ = Additional Funding

	public places while interim survival mechanisms that create pathways to housing are supported. <b>3.5 Cultivate Resilience:</b> Resilience strategies for individuals and communities are supported and expanded.	
<b>✦ New Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline/Implementation Milestones</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
<b>3.1.A Implement Medicaid Supported Housing Program:</b> ○ Implement Medicaid Transformation Project Supported Housing Program	<b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2020 – FCS Housing Program fully implemented by at least one agency	Kitsap Mental Health Services Kitsap Community Resources
<b>3.2.A Employment and education planning:</b> Incorporate ○ employment and education goals into housing ◆ stability plans	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2020 – New housing stability plan tool incorporates employment and education goals	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division KC Housing & Homelessness Division Grantees
<b>3.2.B Implement Medicaid Supported Employment Program:</b> Implement Medicaid Transformation Project Supported Employment Program ○	<b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2020 – FCS Employment Program fully implemented by at least one agency	Kitsap Mental Health Services Kitsap Community Resources
<b>3.5.A Youth Peer Network:</b> Develop a youth ○ network/program to provide support and mentoring ◆ for youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness.	<b>Initiate:</b> 2Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2021 – Youth mentoring program in place	Coffee Oasis Kitsap Juvenile and Family Court Services Commission on Children and Youth

<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b><i>Continuously improve the homeless crisis response system.</i></b>
---------------	---

<b>★ Performance Indicators of Success</b>	<b>Core Strategies</b>
<p><b>PI - 4.1</b> Countywide performance indicators are being used</p> <p><b>PI - 4.2</b> Trauma-informed care practices are being used</p> <p><b>PI - 4.3</b> Evidence-based practices are being used</p> <p><b>PI - 4.4</b> Shelter care standards have been developed and adopted</p>	<p><b>4.1 Performance measurement:</b> Performance measures and data are used to drive decision-making and evaluate program progress.</p> <p><b>4.2 Data collection and sharing:</b> Accurate data is collected and shared between organizations in the response system and is shared (to the extent legal) with other systems of care working with people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p><b>4.3 Systems coordination:</b> There is robust coordination and planning among different systems of care and service providers.</p> <p><b>4.4 Best investments of funding:</b> Strategic investments of public funds are prioritized.</p> <p><b>4.5 Improve system capacity:</b> Increasing provider capacity to improve outcomes is supported.</p> <p><b>4.6 Evidence-based practices:</b> Evidence based practices are incorporated into the response system, including progressive engagement, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, person-centered care, motivational interviewing, and others.</p> <p><b>4.7 Racial equity:</b> All households have fair and equitable access to housing and services, regardless of race or ethnicity.</p>

 New Action Steps	Timeline/Implementation Milestones	Responsible Parties
<b>4.1.A Report on countywide performance measurement:</b>  Provide periodic reports on county-wide performance indicators and metrics to track progress 	<b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2019 – Quarterly performance dashboards produced	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
<b>4.1.B Provide technical assistance on performance measurement:</b> Provide technical assistance to homeless housing and services providers on performance indicators and data analysis  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 2Q 2020 – At least 2 training opportunities for providers have been provided	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Department of Commerce
<b>4.1.C Washington State Quality Award:</b> Apply for the Washington State Quality Award, an evaluation of overall program efficiency and effectiveness  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2019 – WSQA submitted	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Kitsap Community Resources Catholic Community Services
<b>4.3.A Develop a Juvenile Court Housing Program:</b>  Develop and implement a program to improve youth housing stability for youth involved with the Juvenile Court  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2019 – Housing stability in Juvenile Court Program is operational	Kitsap Homeless Youth Taskforce Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
<b>4.3.B Engage McKinney-Vento representatives:</b> Provide opportunities for networking, coordination, and training on homelessness for McKinney-Vento representatives from school districts  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2021 – McKinney-Vento Rep training/coordination system in place	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Olympic Educational Services District
<b>4.4.A Align funding sources:</b> Realign existing funding and new funding sources to meet funding requirements, maximize efficiency, and improve outcomes and reporting  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2020 – Realignment process complete	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division
<b>4.6.A Adopt trauma-informed care model:</b> Implement trauma-informed care practices throughout the homeless crisis response system and the providers who are part of the system  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2022 – Trauma-informed care model adopted by 75% of County homeless sub-contractors	Kitsap Strong KC Housing & Homelessness Division Grantees Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition
<b>4.6.B Training on evidence-based practices:</b> Provide training to providers on trauma-informed care and on other evidence-based practices to expand organizational capacities and improve outcomes (e.g. progressive engagement, harm reduction, motivational interviewing)  	<b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2019 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2020 – At least 4 trainings for homeless agencies have been provided	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Department of Commerce
<b>4.6.C Implement shelter care standards:</b> Develop and implement minimum standards of care/code of ethics and enforcement method for resident shelters and overnight shelters  	<b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2022 – Shelter care standards developed and adopted	Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division KC Housing & Homelessness Division Grantees Housing Solutions Center Kitsap Public Health District

<p><b>4.7.A Analyze racial equity:</b> Determine whether race and ethnicity are affecting vulnerability screening and placements</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2020 – Analysis of vulnerability tool and placements is complete</p>	<p>Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Housing Solutions Center</p>
<p><b>4.7.B Improve racial equity:</b> Convene working group, including leaders from communities of color, to develop recommendations for the HCRS on how to improve access to housing and services for communities that are disproportionately affected by homelessness; implement policy and procedure changes to improve racial equity</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 1Q 2021 – Recommendations for improvements for racial equity are developed and presented to the KHHC</p>	<p>Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division KC Housing &amp; Homelessness Division Grantees Housing Solutions Center Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition</p>

<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b><i>Expand community engagement.</i></b>
---------------	--

★ Performance Indicators of Success	Core Strategies
<p><b>PI - 5.1</b> Leadership group is convened and actively engaged</p> <p><b>PI - 5.2</b> Communication plan is developed and implemented</p> <p><b>PI - 5.3</b> Homelessness and affordable housing are included in on-going planning efforts in other sectors</p>	<p><b>5.1 Leadership:</b> Accountable community leadership supports this work with strategic and innovative solutions.</p> <p><b>5.2 Community education:</b> Materials and opportunities for education about homelessness issues are available to decision-makers and the public.</p> <p><b>5.3 Community engagement:</b> Community leaders and citizens are engaged to inspire taking action.</p> <p><b>5.4 Integrated planning:</b> Planning for homelessness and affordable housing are integrated with other planning efforts.</p> <p><b>5.5 Advocacy to increase funding:</b> Advocacy for programs and funding that support homelessness and affordable housing is critical to implementing this plan.</p>

🌟 New Action Steps	Timeline/Implementation Milestones	Responsible Parties
<p><b>5.1.A Leadership Group:</b> A strategic community leadership council on homelessness that includes participation at the executive level from a broad range of sectors including but not limited to: elected officials, policy-makers, homeless service providers, behavioral health providers, substance use treatment providers, medical providers, law enforcement, business-owners, emergency responders, land use planners, transit, education, youth providers, faith organizations, and others. The purpose of the group is to provide leadership on ending homelessness, improve cross-sector coordination of programs serving people experiencing homelessness, and devise and implement cross-sector strategies to support implementation of the Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan.</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> Ongoing</p>	<p>Homes for All Leadership Group Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Various other stakeholder groups (as listed)</p>

HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

<p><b>5.2.A Communication Plan:</b> Create a coordinated communication and outreach plan about homelessness to community members to raise awareness, de-stigmatize homelessness, promote compassion, encourage community engagement, using as many different avenues as possible (e.g. speakers bureau, newspapers, radio, podcasts, social media, website, events, etc.)</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 1Q 2020 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2021 – Coordinated Communication and Outreach Plan drafted</p>	<p>Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division Homes for All Leadership Group</p>
<p><b>5.2.B Data reporting:</b> Provide periodic easily accessible reports on data about homelessness and affordable housing to stakeholders, elected officials, decision makers, community leaders, and the public</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> 2Q 2019 – Data Summaries and Infographics on different aspects of homelessness available, with regular updates</p>	<p>Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division</p>
<p><b>5.3.A Volunteer opportunities:</b> Work with community partners on specific volunteer events to promote opportunities for personal connection and “humanizing” homelessness through volunteer projects</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> 3Q 2019 – Update “How to Help Brochure” completed</p>	<p>Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition United Way Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division</p>
<p><b>5.3.B Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week:</b> Sponsor events and activities during the annual national awareness week to increase community awareness and understanding of the issue of homelessness</p> <p>○</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 4Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> 4Q 2019 – H&amp;H Awareness Week activities increase each year</p>	<p>Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition</p>
<p><b>5.5.A Advocate for additional funding:</b> Advocate for, create, and attract additional dedicated funding to Kitsap for homeless housing and services</p> <p>○ ◆</p>	<p><b>Initiate:</b> 3Q 2018 <b>Milestone:</b> Ongoing</p>	<p>Homes for All Leadership Group Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition Community members and organizations</p>

<b>FUTURE ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>Action Steps that are needed, but do not yet have responsible parties or an implementation timeline.</b>
----------------------------	---

★ Future Action Steps	Notes
<p><b>Create low-barrier shelter beds in North Kitsap:</b> Create 20 year-round low-barrier shelter beds in North Kitsap that accept “pets, possessions, and partners”</p>	<p>This was originally listed as an Action Step in the 2018 Plan, but there is not currently an organization that is able to sponsor this project</p>
<p><b>Create low-barrier shelter beds in South Kitsap:</b> Create 20 year-round low-barrier shelter beds in South Kitsap that accept “pets, possessions, and partners”</p>	<p>This was originally listed as an Action Step in the 2018 Plan, but there is not currently an organization that is able to sponsor this project</p>
<p><b>Employment/training program:</b> Implement a new employment/training program specifically designed for people moving out of homelessness (like FareStart, Millionair’s Club, etc.), possibly including an employment mentorship program</p>	<p>Olympic Consortium, Olympic Workforce Development Council and WorkSource are willing to be active partners.</p>

HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

<p><b>Subsidized Housing for Households with Fixed Incomes:</b> Develop additional new units of housing for households who are on a fixed income, including seniors and people with permanent disabilities</p>	<p>This project would require a lead agency and significant fundraising. Homes for All Leadership Group to assist.</p>
<p><b>Daytime Gathering Places:</b> Expand the number of safe places for people to spend time and connect with services during the day, either in a program that operates in addition to existing housing programs or as part of a 24-hour shelter model</p>	<p>Need an organization to sponsor this</p>

## Defining and Documenting Success

---

### Defining Success

For many years success in homeless programs was defined by how many people received housing services. Over time, the idea of what constitutes success has shifted to focus on outcomes for the individuals served. It is not enough to say that services were received, but instead we must determine the efficacy of those services in reducing homelessness. This can be a difficult process, since long-term follow-up of people who received housing or services is difficult and impractical.

### Challenges

In addition, determining success in the realm of reducing overall homelessness is an elusive proposition. Several factors contribute to the challenge:

- **Dynamic Population** The homeless population is not static: there is a constant influx of people who are becoming homeless at any given time, while at the same time previously homeless people are being housed. While hundreds of homeless people may have been housed over a period of time, more have become homeless over the same period. Therefore, the overall number of homeless may have stayed the same or increased.
- **Prevention Efforts** Many of our efforts are geared at preventing homelessness and evaluating the long-term effectiveness of these programs is difficult to measure.
- **Inaccurate Data & Counts** There are numerous homeless people who either do not consider themselves to be homeless because they are “staying with friends” or “living in their car” or who do not want to be counted due to a variety of personal issues. Our community experiences these people and their homelessness, but they are not included in our voluntary homeless counts.

Challenges notwithstanding, it is crucial that we develop ways to assess whether the time, effort, and financial commitments to the issue of homelessness are effective.

### Tools

In addition to data from community partners, two primary tools will be used to assist with evaluating success:

#### **Annual Point in Time Count**

Each January the Kitsap County Department of Human Services Housing and Homelessness Program in partnership with the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition is mandated to carry out a countywide count of homeless people, both sheltered (currently receiving subsidized emergency or transitional housing) and unsheltered (living on the streets, in cars, with friends, or identified as incarcerated transients). Participation by people experiencing homelessness is voluntary. Data collected from this effort provides the state with basic statistics about Kitsap’s progress in reducing homelessness and provides the County and the community with information about the housing and services gaps.

#### **Homeless Management Information System**

This state- and federally-mandated database project collects detailed data about users of homeless housing and services. The collected data is used by the state to analyze the resources necessary to move individuals from homelessness to self-sufficiency. On a local level, it facilitates coordination among agencies and delivery of services to homeless individuals. It also allows excellent quality demographic and programmatic information to be collected about homeless households who are receiving services.

### Performance Indicators

For each of the Plan’s five goals, specific indicators of success are listed. Some are data-based, whereas others are performance-based. These performance indicators are also drawn from measures developed by the Washington State Department of Commerce, HUD, and referenced in the HEARTH Act.

Performance Indicators for the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan				
	Name	Measure	Metric	Source
<b>GOAL 1: Make homelessness rare.</b>				
1.1 ★	Prevention	Fewer people experience homelessness for the first time	# of new people who have become homeless	HMIS
1.2	Institutional Discharges	Fewer people discharged from institutions to homelessness	# of people discharged from institutions	Hospitals, Jail, Foster Care, etc.
<b>GOAL 2: Make homelessness brief.</b>				
2.1	Term of Homelessness	People experience fewer days of homelessness before being sheltered	Average # of days before getting into emergency shelter	Community Waiting List, HMIS
2.2 ★	Term in Shelter	People experience fewer days of homelessness in shelters	Average # of days spent in shelter	HMIS
2.3 ★	Unsheltered Homelessness	Fewer people are experiencing unsheltered homelessness	# of people unsheltered, sheltered, or in temporary housing	Point in Time Count, HSC
<b>GOAL 3: Make homelessness one-time.</b>				
3.1 ★	Exit Destination	More people exit homelessness into stable housing	# of people exiting from each type of program to each type of destination	HMIS
3.2 ★	Income at Exit	More people exit homelessness with increased income and/or benefits	# of people exiting programs with increased income	HMIS
3.3 ★	Housing Stability	Fewer people return to homelessness after being stably housed	# returns to homelessness within 2 years of stable exit	HMIS
<b>GOAL 4: Continuously improve the homeless response system.</b>				
4.1	Countywide Indicators	Countywide performance indicators are being used	Countywide indicators report is being produced	KHHC, KC Human Services
4.2	Trauma-informed Practices	Trauma-informed care practices are being used	# of agencies trained in using trauma-informed care practices	KHHC, KC Human Services
4.3	Evidence-based Practices	Evidence-based practices are being used in delivering services	# of KC contracts that include evidence-based practices	KHHC, KC Human Services
4.4	Shelter Care Standards	Shelter care standards have been developed and adopted	# of shelters that have adopted care standards	HSC Advisory Council
<b>GOAL 5: Expand community engagement.</b>				
5.1	Leadership	Leadership group and Affordable Housing Task Force are convened and actively engaged	Leadership group is selected and is meeting	KC Human Services
5.2	Communication Plan	Communication plan is developed and implemented	Communication plan is being used	KHHC, KC Human Services
5.3	Coordinated Planning	Homelessness and affordable housing are included in on-going planning efforts in other sectors	Housing and homelessness representatives participate in planning efforts	KC Human Services, other planning groups

★ Denotes performance measures that are mandated by the Department of Commerce.



## Conclusion

---

### Ending Homelessness Requires Commitment

Making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time must be one of our community's top priorities. It will require us to meld specific strategies to decrease homelessness and to implement broader policy changes to achieve an overall increase in affordable housing.

Our county's Homeless Housing Plan is an expression of a collective commitment to actively seek long-term and sustainable solutions to the issue rather than to simply manage episodes of homelessness as they occur.

We will need to examine our past assumptions about this issue and honestly and critically assess our present activities and initiatives. We need to do business differently – changing systems, redirecting existing resources, and securing additional funding commitments.

We must rely on all community stakeholders to drive policy changes that will result in reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in Kitsap County:

- County Commissioners, Mayors, City Council Members, Port Commissioners
- Tribes
- Federal, State and County Agencies / Department Heads
- Business & civic leaders
- Landlords
- Kitsap County citizens
- Homeless Population
- Housing Developers & Service Providers
- Non-profit organizations
- Foundations
- Faith-based organizations

### Moving Forward to Reduce Homelessness

It is evident that a new approach is needed since people continue to become homeless; those who are chronically homeless continue to lapse into homelessness using precious resources without successfully regaining housing; and too many people are turned away from assistance because of lack of capacity. This Plan proposes strategies to correct the flaws. This will require community investment. It builds on the successful programs we already have in place, expanding capacity to meet the level of need, and implementing policies and agreements to weave them together into one comprehensive and effective countywide system of care.

However, our success dependent on all of the organizations that make up the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System continuing to work together to implement the core strategies and the new action steps in this Plan. Together, we can make a huge impact on many people's futures.

### The Future of Homelessness

Many social and governmental factors beyond the control of Kitsap community members contribute to the epidemic of homelessness: low minimum wage, declining job market, lack of affordable housing, and high housing and rental prices. Huge efforts will be needed to meet the needs of people who become homeless.

However, with a clear plan to reduce homelessness, the community's investment of resources, and an unwavering commitment to our community members in crisis, we can be successful in making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

# Appendix A. Kitsap County Homeless Shelter and Housing Availability Matrix

**Note:** This chart shows public and non-profit shelter and affordable housing options. Additional shelter is provided by faith-based organizations on a small scale. Additional units of affordable housing are also available in the private market, some subsidized through rental assistance programs.

Type of Shelter/Housing		Accessible to These Populations														
		Total # of beds/units available	No Income	Single Men	Single Women	Women w/children	Men w/children	Couples	Large Families w/children	Un-accompanied Youth	Veterans	Pets Allowed	Criminal History	Sex-Offender	Substance Use Disordered	Behavioral Health
No CM	Severe Weather Shelter	about 70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Winter Shelter (Dec - Mar)	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Night-by-Night Shelter	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Case by Case	Case by Case	Case by Case
Yes Case Management	Youth Overnight Shelter (ages 16-21)	6	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓		Case by Case			
	Safe Car Park	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Case by Case			
	Legal Tent Camp	0														
	Respite Shelter (Medical care available)	0														
	Short-term Residential Shelter (up to 3 months)	105	✓	✓	✓	✓	No girls 10+ in dorm		✓	18+	✓		Case by Case			
	Transitional Housing	174		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		Case by Case	Case by Case		✓
	Tiny House Village - Permanent Supportive Housing	0														
	Permanent Supportive Housing - Rq'd Treatment	122 beds/units		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		Case by Case	Case by Case	✓
Housing First Model - Harm Reduction	4 units					DV only										
	Crisis Triage Center (up to 5 days stay)	16	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		✓	TBD	✓	Case by Case	✓	✓
	Residential Treatment Facility	16 total (11-30 day, 5 permanent)	Medicaid eligible	✓	✓						✓	TBD	✓	✓	✓	✓
No Case Management	Oxford Houses	185 beds		✓	✓			✓			✓		✓		✓	outpatient
	Boarding Houses (identified through HSC)	8 rooms		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
	Permanent Subsidized Housing for 55+ or Disabled	191		✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	✓				
	Permanent Subsidized Housing for 62+	331		✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	✓				
	Housing Choice Vouchers	1938		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
	Veteran Assistance Supported Housing (VASH) Vouchers	42		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓				
	Permanent Subsidized Housing for Individuals and Families	913		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				

**KEY**

Housing Options are Available

No Housing Available

Case by Case Consideration

Updated 4/10/18

## Appendix B. Homes for All Leadership Group



### Leadership Group

*Providing innovative leadership toward ending homelessness*

Civic	League of Women Voters
Education	Central Kitsap School District South Kitsap School District <i>Olympic College</i>
Community Support Services	Kitsap Community Resources Kitsap Connect Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition Kitsap Rescue Mission Kitsap Strong The Salvation Army <i>YWCA of Kitsap County</i>
Elected Official Chair	Commissioner Garrido
Faith Community	South Kitsap Project Share
Financial	Kitsap Credit Union
Health Care	Kitsap Mental Health Services Kitsap Public Health Peninsula Community Health Services Kaiser Permanente Washington
Housing	Bremerton Housing Authority Housing Kitsap HUD
Individuals	Victoria Hilt
Kitsap County	Community Development Human Services Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Veterans Advisory Board
Law Enforcement	Kitsap County Sheriff Washington Department of Corrections
Philanthropy	United Way of Kitsap County
Tribes	Suquamish Tribe
Workforce Development	Olympic Consortium

[homesforall@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:homesforall@co.kitsap.wa.us) 360-337-7287



## Small Cottage Communities

*Providing safe, secure, temporary, and affordable housing for those in need*

Our plan: Introduce a new affordable housing type (small cottages) to meet transitional, emergency and temporary needs.

The goal is a village in each commissioners' district, each with about twelve cottages.

Volunteers will construct the cottages. Their labor is donated, as are some of the materials. The cottages can be displayed in various locations to showcase them until a village is formed.

The village features some shared facilities, and provides security, sanitation, and support services:

- 🏠 The residents will share kitchen and bathroom facilities.
- 🏠 Fencing and possible vegetation around the village provides a sense of security for residents and neighbors; and residents are responsible to staff the check-in station.
- 🏠 A dumpster will be provided on-site, with regular pick-ups.
- 🏠 Case management is available to village residents.
- 🏠 Governing and strict rules of conduct

### Why small cottages?

- 🏠 Cottages improve our community, benefit businesses and neighborhoods, and create healthy neighborhoods by offering a safe, secure, sanitary, and affordable option for those who have no home.
- 🏠 Decent housing is cost saving (on health care, hospitals, law enforcement, and jails).
- 🏠 Areas that established the village concept (like in Seattle and Olympia), have seen reduced crime.

### Funding and friend-raising

The United Way of Kitsap County has volunteered to be the fiscal agent for Homes for All donations related to local cottages. Community assistance can help with cash and labor for the small cottages, and more. To recognize this valued support, we propose to place a plaque on each house sponsored by a particular group.

A Homes for All slide show relays the message that “We know how to solve homelessness,” and promotes consistent messaging regarding key actions for the project, which include:

- 🏠 building small cottages,
- 🏠 site selection,
- 🏠 neighborhood outreach,
- 🏠 screening of the population to be served, \*
- 🏠 finalizing the village, and
- 🏠 providing care support. Reputable organizations will manage a support system for people housed in this program.

\*The population for this project includes families and individuals, some veterans. Our focus is on persons experiencing housing instability and at high risk for homelessness. The Housing Solutions Center (HSC) will recommend (low/no income and good prospects to stabilize).

## Appendix C. Glossary

---

Definitions below are offered to assist in understanding some of the terms used in the Plan. Most of these terms refer to complex ideas; the definitions below should be considered a brief starting point for understanding. Additional information about each is available from online resources and local service providers.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being. These experiences range from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to parental divorce or the incarceration of a parent or guardian.

**Affordable Housing:** This term is used to describe housing, rental or owner-occupied, that is affordable no matter what one's income is. The federal government considers housing costs at or below 30% of one's income to be affordable.

**At-Risk of Homelessness:** People who are living in sub-standard, unstable or unsafe housing. This includes people who are "couch surfing," which means they are staying with family or friends, living in trailers, doubled or tripled up in small apartments or living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

**Chronic homelessness:** The experience of homelessness for a year or longer or three or more episodes of homelessness in two years. This is the federal HUD definition.

**Hardest to House or Hardest to Serve:** Refers to people with more complex needs and multiple challenges when it comes to housing, such as mental illness, addiction, other conditions or disabilities, justice-system histories, etc.

**Harm-reduction:** Harm reduction is an approach for substance use treatment that involves a set of practical techniques that are openly negotiated with clients around what is most likely to be achieved. The focus is on reducing the negative consequences and risky behaviors of substance use; it neither condones nor condemns any behavior. By incorporating strategies on a continuum from safer drug use, to managed substance use, up to abstinence, harm reduction practice helps clients affect positive changes in their lives. The harm reduction philosophy embraces respect, trust and a nonjudgmental stance as the essential components of an effective therapeutic relationship. A basic assumption in this approach is that clients want to make positive changes and the skilled clinician uses motivational strategies to help clients move along the change continuum as far as possible.

**Homelessness:** The experience of an individual or family who is not able to acquire and maintain permanent, safe, affordable, and decent housing.

**Low Barrier Housing:** Housing where a minimum number of conditions are placed on residents to enable serving individuals with a higher level of challenges to attaining and maintaining housing. Typically, this includes reducing barriers that might otherwise exclude or screen out tenants such as requirements for ID or documentation, having little or no income, having poor or lack of rental history, having poor credit or financial history, having involvement with the criminal justice system, having active or a history of alcohol and/or substance use, having active or a history of mental health issues, having a history of victimization, or other behaviors that are perceived as indicating a lack of "housing readiness." Maintaining residency is behavior-based. Low-barrier facilities typically follow a harm reduction philosophy.

**Motivational Interviewing:** Motivational interviewing is a directive, client-centered counseling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients to explore and resolve ambivalence. Compared with nondirective counseling, it is more focused and goal-directed.

**Night-by-Night Shelter or Drop-In Shelter:** Emergency housing that provides a short-term stay at no cost. Beds are not reserved for multiple days, but are made available on an individual night basis.

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** Permanent subsidized housing that serves individuals or households in need of ongoing supportive services and assistance such as people with mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, physical disabilities, or more than one of these.

**Progressive Engagement:** A strategy to enable service delivery systems to effectively target resources. Progressive Engagement refers to a strategy of starting with a small amount of assistance and then adding more assistance as needed.

**Residential Emergency Shelter:** Emergency housing that provides a short-term stay at no cost. Beds are reserved for residents until they exit the program. In the past, shelter stays were limited to 90 days, but recent guidance

from the Washington State Department of Commerce indicates that shelter stays do not need to be time-limited. Shelter stays typically include housing case management and connections with resources with the goal of securing appropriate permanent housing.

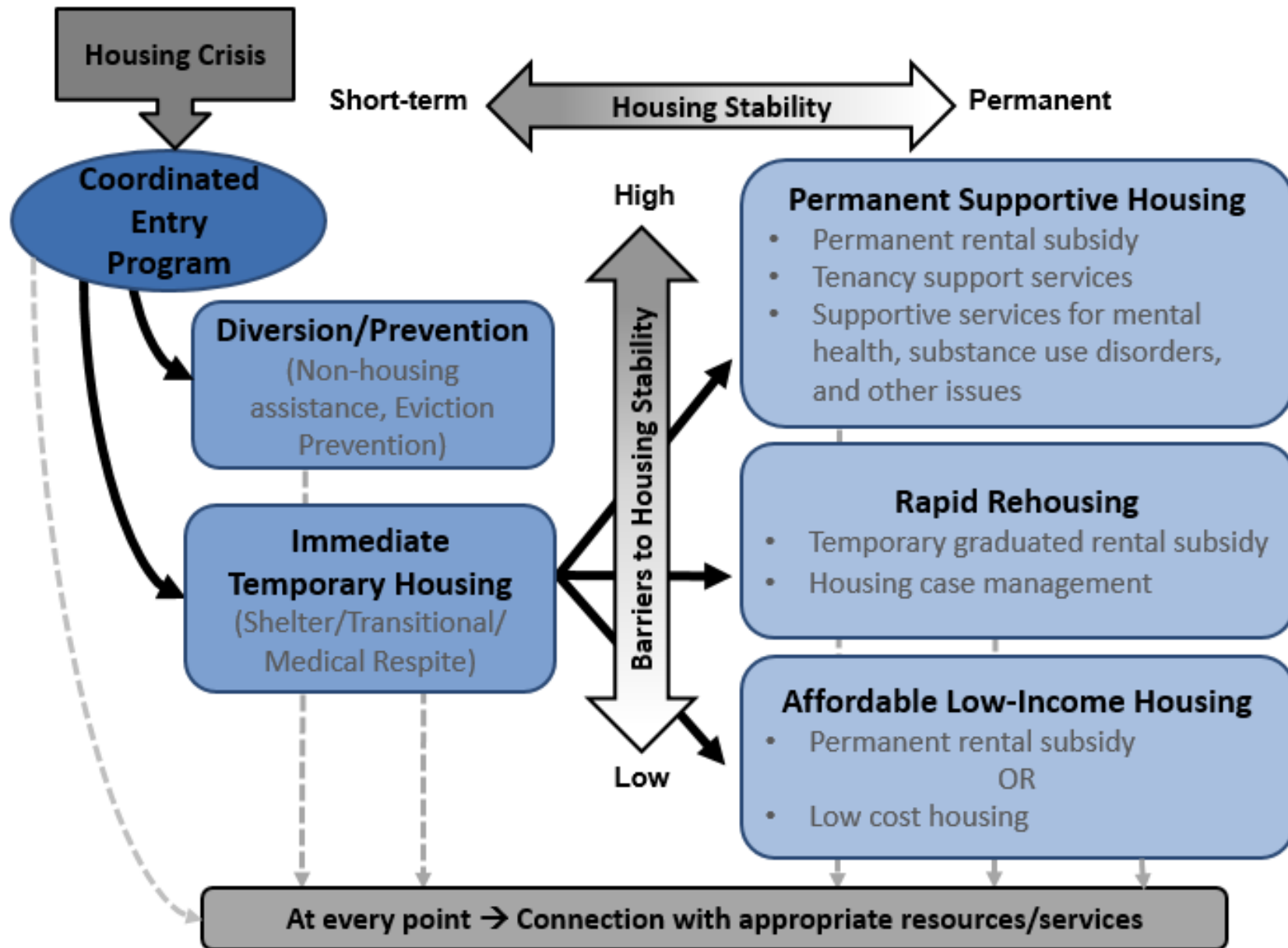
**Subsidized:** Housing that receives funding from the government or community organization. Tenants who live in subsidized housing pay rent that is less than market value, and typically is no more than 30% of their income.

**Supportive Services:** Services, other than providing physical housing and housing tenancy supports, which assist an individual or household to remove barriers to acquiring and maintaining housing. Supportive services can include mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, behavioral therapy, or other types of supports.

**Transitional Housing:** Subsidized housing for up to 2 years with rent typically set at no more than 30% of client's income. Case management services are included to prepare individuals to obtain housing and live self-sufficiently.

**Trauma-informed Care:** Trauma-informed care is a strengths based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors of trauma to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

## Appendix D. Diagram of Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System



## Appendix E. Response to Department of Commerce Guidelines *(Rev June 2019)*

---

### **New Legislative Requirement**

In the 2018 legislative session, Washington lawmakers passed new legislation that directed WA Commerce to issue specific guidelines to counties for updates to each county’s homeless housing plan. Commerce issued this guidance in December 2018, with updates in March 2019 and June 2019. County plans that respond to these guidelines must be approved by their legislative body no later than December 1, 2019.

### **Kitsap County Response and Plan Update**

#### **Summary of Plan Changes**

Kitsap County updated this plan in 2018 with extensive community input. It is already substantially in compliance with the Commerce Guidelines. Because of these factors and the short timeframe to complete an update, the decision was made to make only minor updates to the existing Plan:

1. Adding this appendix to describe how the Plan is in compliance with Commerce requirements; including the Commerce Objectives Crosswalk below;
2. In the Action Plan – Detail Matrix, adding and revising several Action Steps to address specific areas to better comply with Commerce requirements – these are noted in the chart below;
3. Adding symbols in the Action Plan – Detail Matrix to indicate three aspects:
  - a. Action Steps that will have a direct and measurable impact on homelessness vs. Action Steps that have an indirect and/or unmeasurable impact on homelessness;
  - b. Action Steps to be undertaken by the County/Cities governments and involve changes to policies, procedures, or products/materials that are produced; and
  - c. Action Steps that require additional funding;
4. Updating Action Steps and Implementation Timelines to reflect corrections/updates and projections and added “initiation” timeframes and “milestone” timeframes and results;
5. Adding Appendix D, a Diagram of the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System;
6. Adding the required Plan Impact projection; and
7. Adding the required Racial Disparities Analysis.

#### **Populations Covered by the Plan**

The 2018 Plan and the 2019 Plan Update are intended to provide an Action Plan for all homeless populations in Kitsap, including individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence. We recognize that certain strategies need to be targeted specifically for certain populations. In past iterations of Kitsap’s homeless housing plan, strategies for specific populations were called out specifically. However, we found that in a smaller county like Kitsap there is much overlap of services provided to multiple populations by the same programs. In the Action Plan, there are a few Action Steps to specifically address gaps for different populations, such as youth involved in juvenile justice. The intent is also to be as efficient and coordinated as possible – so all populations go through the same coordinated entry program (with some exceptions for DV survivors and a specific access point for youth), have access to rapid rehousing and employment connections, etc.

#### **Local Government Responsibility**

The Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System is, at its essence, a public-private partnership. The County is responsible for fulfilling legislated mandates – approving a homeless housing strategic plan, investing public funding in homeless programs through grants, collecting and analyzing accurate data, and coordinating the community effort to address homelessness. The County, and Kitsap cities and tribes, rely on a constellation of non-profit and faith-based partner organizations to carry out the work of providing housing programs and homeless services directly to the people who need them. The Action Plan includes different types of Core Strategies and Action Steps – some that are the sole responsibility of local government; some that are that are



carried out exclusively by community partner organizations (with or without government funding); and some that are a joint effort. As described above, the 2019 Plan Update indicates these different responsibilities in the Action Plan through symbol identifiers.

### **Plan Development Methodology**

Information about the original development of the 2018 Plan is provided in the Executive Summary and on pages 7 and 8. This response to the new Commerce Guidelines was developed by an *ad hoc* Homeless Plan Update Committee of the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition (KHHC), which met six times between May and the end of October 2019. Committee members were solicited from members of the KHHC and included representatives from:

- Kitsap Community Resources (the County’s Community Action Partnership agency),
- Peninsula Community Health Services (the Federally Qualified Health Care provider),
- YWCA (provider of the DV shelter and services),
- Kitsap Regional Library,
- Kitsap Mental Health Services,
- Bremerton Housing Authority,
- Kitsap Connect (serving high utilizers of emergency services),
- Catholic Community Services, and
- Housing Kitsap (Kitsap Consolidated Housing Authority).

The Committee reviewed the Commerce Guidelines and developed changes to the 2018 Plan that would bring it into compliance, as indicated above. The Committee and County staff consulted with the technical assistance provider supplied by Commerce to ensure that the changes to the plan would meet the requirements. County staff also participated on technical assistance calls regarding plan guidelines.

The Committee presented information about the proposed updates to the Plan at several KHHC meetings. They also provided an opportunity for education and input on the Racial Equity portion of the Plan Update at a KHHC meeting. Input, feedback, and corrections were solicited from the KHHC email list (including representatives of more than 50 organizations). Changes to Action Steps and Timelines were confirmed with the Responsible Parties.

The KHHC membership includes a number of individuals with lived experience of homelessness, including some individuals who work for social services organizations and some individuals who are active advocates. In addition, participation in developing the 2018 Plan by people with experience of homelessness was included through surveys and focus groups conducted at shelters.

This 2019 Update to the Plan was reviewed and approved by the KHHC membership at its regular meeting on October 16, 2019. The KHHC then forwarded the 2019 Plan Update to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. A Public Comment Period was held from October 29, 2019 – November 13, 2019. The Board of Commissioners conducted a Work Study meeting on the Plan Update on Wednesday, 13, 2019 and approved the 2019 Plan Update at its regularly scheduled and noticed public meeting on Monday, November 25, 2019.

### **Commerce Requirements**

The following information is Kitsap’s responses to Commerce requirements, including:

- Table that crosswalks Commerce’s Objectives with Kitsap’s Plan and notes any changes made in response to Commerce’s requirements.
- Plan Impact Analysis, including a summary of data generated by the use of Commerce’s Impact Modeling Tool.
- Racial Disparities Analysis, including information provided by Commerce and locally generated data.

COMMERCE OBJECTIVES CROSSWALK			
Commerce Objective	Commerce Measure of Success	Kitsap Response	Reference to/Changes to Plan
<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Quickly identify and engage all people experiencing homelessness under the state definition, and all unaccompanied youth under any federal definition, through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>a) Communities with Street Outreach projects: Increase percentage of exits to positive outcome destinations to the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide (<i>defined as &gt;76%</i>).</p> <p>b) Compliance with state and federal Coordinated Entry Data Collection requirements in order to build and maintain active lists of people experiencing homelessness and to track the homelessness status, engagements and housing placements for each household.</p>	<p>a) Street Outreach is performed by Coordinated Entry Navigators and community organizations. Some of this information is being tracked, but this Plan has been updated to implement a more formal method to track street outreach contacts and outcomes.</p> <p>b) Kitsap’s Coordinated Entry Program (the Housing Solutions Center) is in compliance with all state and federal Data collection requirements and was audited for compliance by Commerce in Summer 2019.</p> <p>Active Lists of people that are seeking housing assistance, but who are still unsheltered, are maintained in HMIS through the HSC’s Interest Pool and Unable to Serve HMIS programs. Households in the Interest Pool HMIS program are placed into housing interventions based on their vulnerability score.</p> <p>In addition, the Housing Solutions Center will develop an Active List of Outreach Contacts – people who are unsheltered but may not necessarily be seeking housing assistance yet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change 2.1.A from “Master List” to “Active List”</li> <li>• Added <b>2.1.B Outreach Tracking:</b> To implement a method to collect data about outreach contacts</li> </ul>

HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

<p><b>Objective 2:</b> Prioritize housing for people with the greatest need.</p>	<p>a) Compliance with state and federal Coordinated Entry requirements for all projects receiving federal, state and local homeless funds.</p> <p>b) Consider implementation of the Coordinated Entry Core Element recommendations and the Office of Homeless Youth’s Five Recommendations for Making Coordinated Entry Work for Youth and Young Adults.</p> <p>c) Successful implementation of prioritization policies for all projects receiving federal, state and local homeless funds, resulting in prioritized people consistently housed in a timely manner.</p>	<p>a) All programs receiving state or local homeless funds are <u>contractually</u> required by Kitsap County to use only Kitsap’s Coordinated Entry Program (the Housing Solutions Center) for placements, except for DV Shelters which can do direct intake and then refer participants to CE. Winter Shelters do direct intake and must refer guests with stays over 5 days to CE.</p> <p>b) CE for youth in Kitsap is contracted through the Housing Solutions Center to a youth services provider (Coffee Oasis) which is implementing the OHY Recommendations.</p> <p>c) All households entering the HCRS through CE are currently prioritized for placement based on a vulnerability screening tool. Prioritization policies are included in the CE policies. Kitsap’s CE provider recently implemented a dynamic prioritization method for all shelter, transitional housing, HEN, and rapid re-housing placements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised 2.2 – Added “All placements to temporary housing are made through the Coordinated Entry Program, with the exception of DV Shelters and Winter Shelters.”</li> <li>• Revised 2.3 – Added “through the use of a standardized vulnerability screening tool”</li> <li>• Revised 2.4.A – Added “are accessible 24-hours a day, and provide supportive services and connections with community resources”</li> </ul>
--	---	---	---

<p><b>Objective 3:</b> Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing.</p>	<p>System-wide performance:</p> <p>a) Increase percentage of exits to permanent housing to the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide (<i>defined as &gt;59%</i>).</p> <p>b) Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing to less than 10 percent (<i>defined as returns within two years after exit from Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and all Permanent Housing types</i>).</p> <p>c) Reduce average length of stay in temporary housing projects to less than 90 days (<i>defined as emergency shelter and transitional housing, based on program start date, exit date, and bed nights in HMIS</i>).</p>	<p>The goals of the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan are designed to support an effective and efficient HCRS. Goal 4 specifically addresses continuous improvements to the homeless crisis response system.</p> <p>Kitsap analyzes systemwide performance each quarter, using Commerce and HUD performance metrics. These performance metrics are included in all sub-contracts in accordance with the type of project.</p> <p>Each quarter sub-contracted agencies are required to report on the performance metrics included in their contracts.</p> <p>Please see Impact Analysis for more information about Kitsap’s current and future performance on these system-wide measures.</p>	<p>The <i>Needs and Gaps, Core Strategies, and New Action Steps</i> section of the Plan outlines areas where the HCRS needs improvement.</p> <p>Plan goals 1, 2, and 3 specifically list Core Strategies and New Action Steps that move people from homelessness to permanent stable housing as quickly and effectively as possible.</p> <p>Key measurable changes to the HCRS in this Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increasing low-barrier shelter beds</li> <li>▪ Increasing PSH</li> <li>▪ Increasing PH units for homeless</li> <li>▪ Implementing a Homeless preference for Section 8</li> <li>▪ Refer to other Plan Action steps with symbols that indicate measurable changes/improvements</li> </ul> <p>For other system improvements, refer to Action Steps 4.1 and 4.1.A. In addition, 4.1.B assists sub-contractors to better understand performance measures for their individual projects</p> <p>5.2.B Provides data reporting to elected officials and the public</p> <p>Page 39 lists Performance Indicators that Kitsap uses to track progress, including the ones required by Commerce (Performance Indicators 2.2, 3.1, and 3.3).</p>
--	--	--	--

HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

<p><b>Objective 4:</b> Project the impact of the fully implemented local plan on the number of households housed and the number of households left unsheltered, assuming existing resources and state policies.</p>	<p>a) An estimate of people experiencing homelessness that will be housed during 2024 after successful implementation of the local plan using existing resources, and the count of households left unsheltered at a point in time in 2024, based on credible data and research; including the data, assumptions, calculations, and related citations necessary for outside parties to review and reproduce the estimate.</p>	<p>See Estimate of Households Housed during 2024 below in the Plan Impact Analysis.</p>	<p>Assumptions for 2024 Plan Impact Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All existing housing interventions remain operational</li> <li>▪ 70 24/7 low-barrier shelter beds are added (Navigation Center)</li> <li>▪ 20 additional shelter beds are added (Kitsap Rescue Mission)</li> <li>▪ 80 units of Permanent Supportive Housing are added (Pendleton Place)</li> <li>▪ 17 units of permanent housing for homeless households are added (Morrow Manor and KCR Manette project)</li> <li>▪ Bremerton Housing Authority adopts a “homeless preference” for a portion of Housing Choice Vouchers – 30 homeless households/year are housed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 5:</b> Address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Completion of an initial analysis using a racial equity tool and data provided by Commerce <i>(defined as answering, at a minimum, questions provided by Commerce)</i>.</p>	<p>See Racial Disparity Analysis below.</p>	<p>An Additional Core Strategy was added: <b>4.7. Racial equity:</b> All households have fair and equitable access to housing and services, regardless of race or ethnicity</p> <p>Two Action Steps were added: <b>4.7.A Analyze racial equity:</b> Determine whether race and ethnicity are affecting vulnerability screening and placements</p> <p><b>4.7.B Improve racial equity:</b> Convene leaders from communities of color to develop recommendations for the HCRS on how to improve access to housing and services for communities that are disproportionately affected by homelessness; implement policy and procedure changes to increase racial equity</p>

## Plan Impact Analysis

### Introduction

Commerce provided a modeling tool to assist counties in projecting the impact of implementing their Plans. This tool uses a variety of data and factors to show a “current state” of homelessness and to project a “future state” in 2024 after the Plan is fully implemented. Below is a summary of key data and results from the larger modeling tool spreadsheet.

### Analysis

Kitsap’s Plan includes two types of Action Steps: 1) actions that will have a direct and measurable impact on homelessness (e.g. adding shelter beds), and 2) actions that have an indirect or less measurable impact on homelessness (e.g. implementing the Medicaid Supported Housing Program or adopting a system-wide trauma-informed model of care). For the purposes of this analysis, only actions that have a direct and measurable impact are included in the projection.

### Current State

State Fiscal Year 2019 data (July 2018 – June 2019) was used to generate the Current State Data is derived from the 2019 Point in Time Count and HMIS data:

<b>SFY 2019 Current State – Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System</b>						
	<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Transitional Housing</b>	<b>Rapid Rehousing</b>	<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	<b>Permanent Housing for Homeless Households</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Available Beds/Units	139	27	101	60	52	379
Households Served Annually	1,094	43	242	96	78	1,553
% Successful Exits	13%	100%	80%	57%	62%	23%
% Returns to homelessness within 2 years of successful exit	14%	16%	6%	14%	0%	12%
NET Successful Interventions	212	38	219	77	70	618
NET Deficit of Successful Interventions	1,408					
2019 PIT Unsheltered	157					

Note that the percentage of Successful Exits is heavily determined by the volume of households participating in each different intervention – Emergency Shelters account for 70% of households served, so shelter exits have the largest impact on overall Successful Interventions. Currently it is very difficult to gather accurate data about shelter exits from the drop-in and Winter Shelter programs because of the transience of the shelter stayers. If this information is not collected, it is considered to be an “unsuccessful exit.”

### **Future State**

Starting in 2020, we will work to improve data collection for exits from short-stay shelters and improve exits from shelters to permanent housing.

For the 2024 Future State, the following changes were projected:

- All existing housing interventions remain operational.
- 70 24/7 low-barrier shelter beds are added – the proposed Navigation Center.
- 20 additional shelter beds are added – Kitsap Rescue Mission completes its remodel project.
- 80 units of Permanent Supportive Housing are added – Pendleton Place is completed.
- 17 units of permanent housing for homeless households are added – the YWCA’s Morrow Manor is completed and the KCR Manette project is completed.
- An increase in successful exits is projected for Emergency Shelter (14% → 30%), Permanent Supportive Housing (57% → 60%), and Permanent Housing for Homeless Households (58% → 75%).
- A slight decrease in successful exits from Transitional Housing is projected (100% → 90%).
- Similar returns to homelessness after successful exits are projected across all interventions. Returns to homelessness are beyond the control of the HCRS and are typically due to economic factors, changes in the housing market, household changes, and domestic violence.

However, the following constraints have also been identified, which limit the impact of the above changes:

- An ongoing shortage of inventory of available and affordable housing, which significantly constrains the ability of households exiting housing interventions in finding permanent stable housing that they can afford.
- A long-term trend of rent increases that are outpacing wage increases, with a cumulative impact of rental rates that are out of reach for lower-income households.
- A lack of on-going supportive services for clients that are housed with complex needs to assist with tenancy support as well as accessible behavioral and physical health supports.
- Returns to homelessness that are affected by market and household conditions that are beyond our control.
- An unpredictable and variable transient military population that significantly impacts rental rates and competitiveness in the rental market – military personnel get increases to housing allowances which can drive up rental rates and make these households much more attractive to landlords.
- An employment market that is largely stratified into a relatively small percentage of professional and well-paying jobs (such as shipyard employees) and service sector jobs with wages are often insufficient to cover the cost of housing.
- Federal benefits for social security and disability that are far too little to support housing costs.
- Landlords that continue to find loopholes to not house people with rental subsidy support – including very high move-in costs (such as requiring 3x rent and/or very large deposits).
- Funding sources (document recording fees) that are variable and inversely linked to the housing market fluctuation and demand.

Because of these factors, we are projecting different performance outcomes that Commerce indicated as targets in the Plan Guidelines. The projected increases in five years are modest and realistic. This chart shows the differences:

HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

Commerce Performance Measure	Commerce Performance Targets	Kitsap 2019 Performance	Kitsap Projected 2024 Performance
a) Increase percentage of exits to permanent housing	To the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide ( <i>defined as &gt;59%</i> ).	ES = 13% TH = 100% RR = 80% PSH = 57% PH = 58%  TOTAL = 23% Exits	ES = 30% TH = 90% RR = 80% PSH = 60% PH = 75%  TOTAL = 35% Exits
b) Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing ( <i>defined as returns within two years after exit from Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and all Permanent Housing types</i> ).	To less than 10 percent	ES = 14% TH = 16% RR = 6% PSH = 14% PH = 0%  TOTAL = 12% Returns	ES = 15% TH = 15% RR = 10% PSH = 10% PH = 0%  TOTAL = 14% Returns
c) Reduce average length of stay in temporary housing projects ( <i>defined as emergency shelter and transitional housing, based on program start date, exit date, and bed nights in HMIS</i> ).	To less than 90 days	ES = 46 TH = 229 RR = 152 PSH = 228 PH = 243  TOTAL = 89 Days	ES = 46 TH = 229 RR = 152 PSH = 228 PH = 243  TOTAL = 55 Days

The projected changes indicated in the above chart result in the following outcomes for the system:

SFY 2024 Future State – Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System						
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing for Homeless Households	TOTAL
Available Beds/Units	229	27	101	130	69	556
HH Served Annually	1,802	43	242	208	104	2,399
% Successful Exits	30%	90%	80%	60%	75%	35%
% Returns to homelessness after successful exit	15%	15%	10%	10%	0%	14%
Number of Days in Intervention	46	229	152	228	243	55
NET Successful Interventions	580	35	216	171	97	1,100
NET Deficit of Successful Interventions	924					
2024 Projected PIT Unsheltered – No inflation	103 (-34%)					



HEADING HOME: Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan – 2019 Update

2024 Projected PIT Unsheltered – Including Population Growth & Rent-Driven Increase in Need	124 (-21%)
---	---------------

The Impact Analysis Spreadsheet also includes a financial comparison that translates these changes into several key numbers:

- The amount of additional funding needed to create and maintain the new beds and units of housing.
- The annual amount needed each year to keep up with inflation and basic economic changes.
- The year five (2024) amount needed to keep up with inflation and basic economic changes.

Financial Comparison		
SFY 2019 – All interventions, All funding sources (gov’t and private)	\$3,259,144	
SFY 2024 – All interventions, All funding sources (gov’t and private)	\$4,881,046	
Needed increase in funding for new beds/units	\$1,621,902	33% increase in base funding
Annual increase in funding needed to keep pace with population growth, rent-driven increase in need, rent inflation, and general inflation	\$179,821	4% net increase in annual spending
Five-year increase in funding/beds needed to keep pace with population growth, rent-driven increase in need, rent inflation, and general inflation	\$959,757	20% net increase in spending from 2020 to 2024

### Conclusion

Overall, the modeling tool projection indicates that, all other factors being equal, if Kitsap implements the action steps in the Plan that have a direct impact on homelessness and the homeless crisis response system makes realistic improvements in the percentages of households successfully exiting programs, the result would be a 21% reduction in the Point in Time Count of unsheltered households between 2019 and 2024.

The biggest impact would be through increasing exits to permanent housing from emergency shelter. This is true, in part, because the volume of people receiving a shelter intervention is so large that it skews the average. We will accomplish the change from 13% to 30% exits from emergency shelter to permanent housing by transitioning the current Winter Shelter beds (which inherently have poor data collection methods and no case management) to Navigation Center beds, which will include enhanced services and case management for better housing destinations. The additional units of permanent supportive housing will expand availability of housing placements for high-needs households. However, one of the best predictors of returns to homelessness is increases in rent, which is driven by market forces beyond our control.

The spending needed for the 21% reduction in homelessness by 2024 would be a base annual increase in funding of \$1,621,902 for the new beds and units. Some of this will be provided through local Homeless Housing Grants; the remaining funding will need to be secured from the 1/10 of 1% Mental Health Tax, private donations, other government grant awards and contracts, Medicaid, and private foundations. An additional \$179,821 of annual spending will be needed by 2024 just to keep up with population increases and inflation – a 20% increase over five years. 2019 spending = \$3,259,144; 2024 annual spending needed = \$4,881,046.

Because of factors listed above that are outside the control of local governments and Kitsap community partner organizations and Commerce’s direction that this Plan update be predicated on the assumption that there are no increases in state or local funding, meeting the target performance metrics that Commerce indicated in the Plan Guidelines will not be realistically possible, with the exception of the average length of stay in temporary housing project, which is already below the target in 2019.

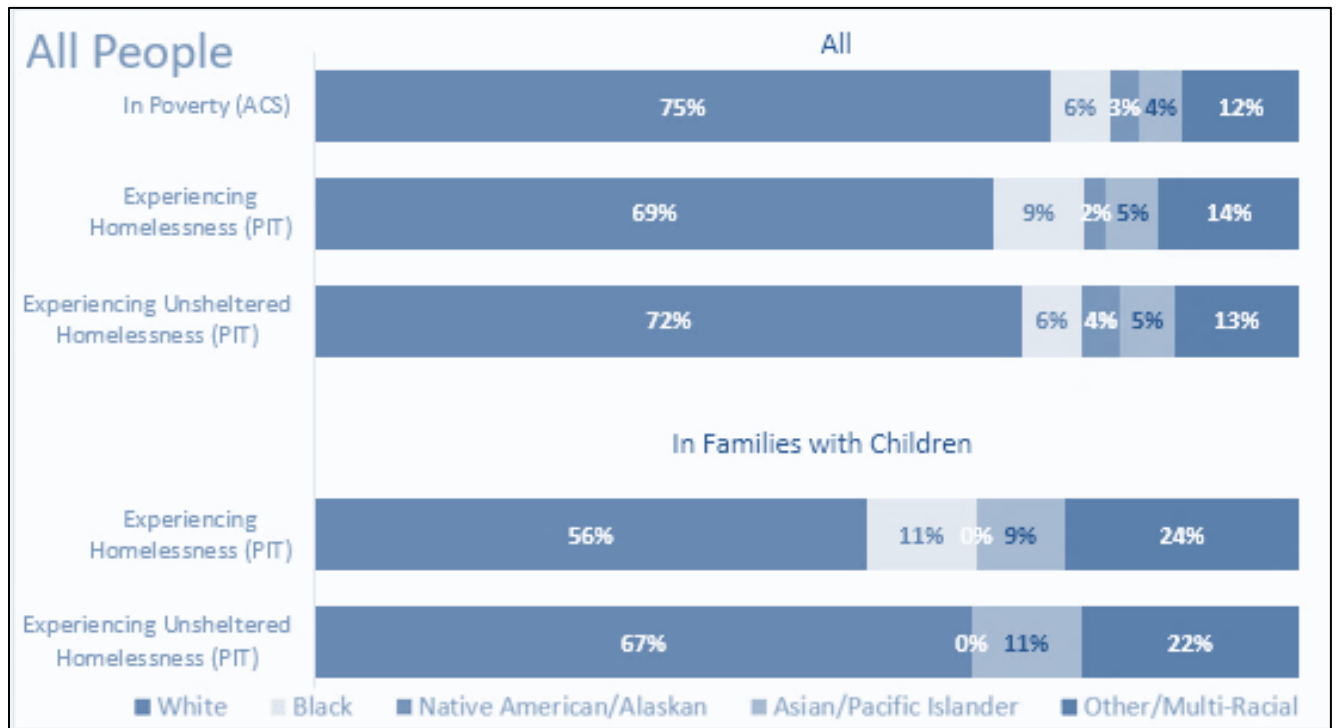
The Recommendations to the State section below outlines some potential state policy changes that could have a positive impact on achieving Commerce’s performance targets.

## Racial Disparities Analysis

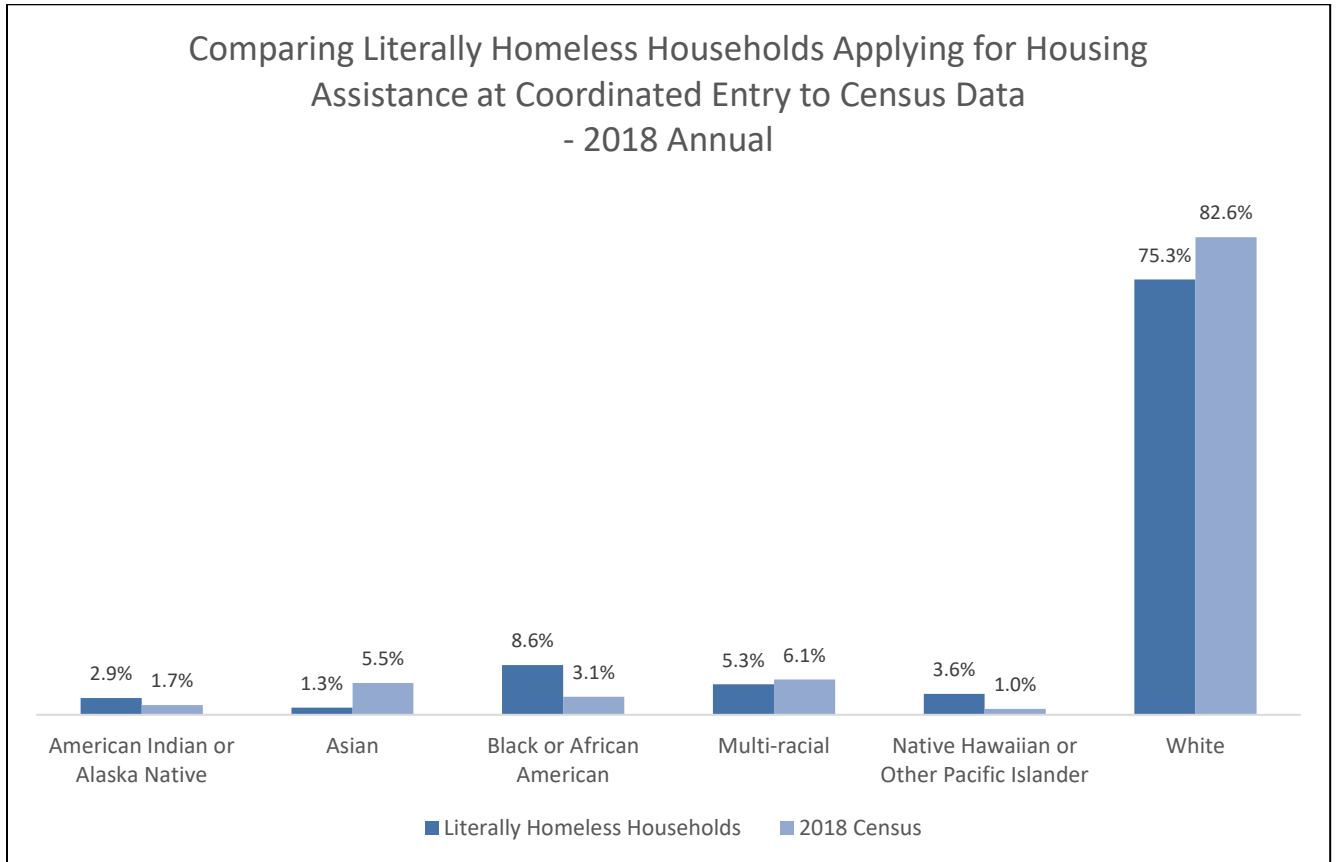
Commerce provided an Equity Analysis Tool that included racial disparities information for each county, using Point in Time Count and 2017 Census data. Kitsap County additionally analyzed local coordinated entry data to answer the following Commerce-required questions:

**1. Are any groups over or underrepresented in the homeless population? How does your county compare to other like size counties in the state?**

Data from Commerce’s Equity Analysis Tool indicates that compared to 2017 census data of people experiencing poverty, people of races other than White counted in the 2018 Kitsap County Point in Time Count are experiencing homelessness at a disproportionate rate. For Black individuals, there is the biggest disparity, with a poverty rate of 6%, but a rate of experiencing homelessness of 9%. However, the rate of Blacks experiencing unsheltered homelessness (6%) is the same as the rate of Blacks experiencing poverty (6%). For Native American/Alaskan individuals, the poverty rate is 3%, while the homelessness rate is 2% and the unsheltered homelessness rate is 4%. Asian/Pacific Islanders and Other/Multi-Racial individuals have slightly higher percentages of homelessness and unsheltered homelessness than their poverty rates.



In 2018 Kitsap’s coordinated entry program, the Housing Solution Center (HSC), saw 3,949 households who were experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. On the application, heads of households self-identified their race and ethnicity. Of the 3,784 households who chose at least one race, 75.3% heads of household identified as white, 8.6% as Black or African American, 5.3% as multi-racial, 3.6% as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 2.9% as American Indian or Alaska Native and 1.3% identified as Asian. One hundred and seventy-four (174) individuals marked “don’t know” or refused to answer.



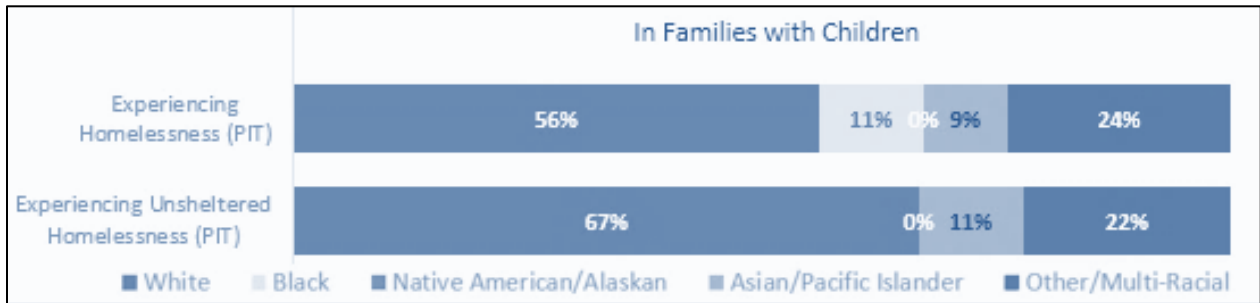
Compared to 2018 Census data for Kitsap County, individuals who identified as Black/African Americans, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaska Native are over-represented in the homeless population at rates 3x, 3.6x and 1.75x higher than the general Kitsap County population, respectively. For this analysis, the individuals/households included as “homeless” are those unsheltered (sleeping on the street, shelter, car, or other place not meant for habitation).

Fewer Asian head of households were being served by the HSC as compared to the general population of Kitsap County in 2018 (5.5% of Kitsap County residents identified as Asian in 2018 vs the 1.3% who identified as Asian and received services from HSC). Individuals served by HSC who identified as Hispanic/Latinx (8.6%) were a similar proportion as the 2018 Census data (8%).

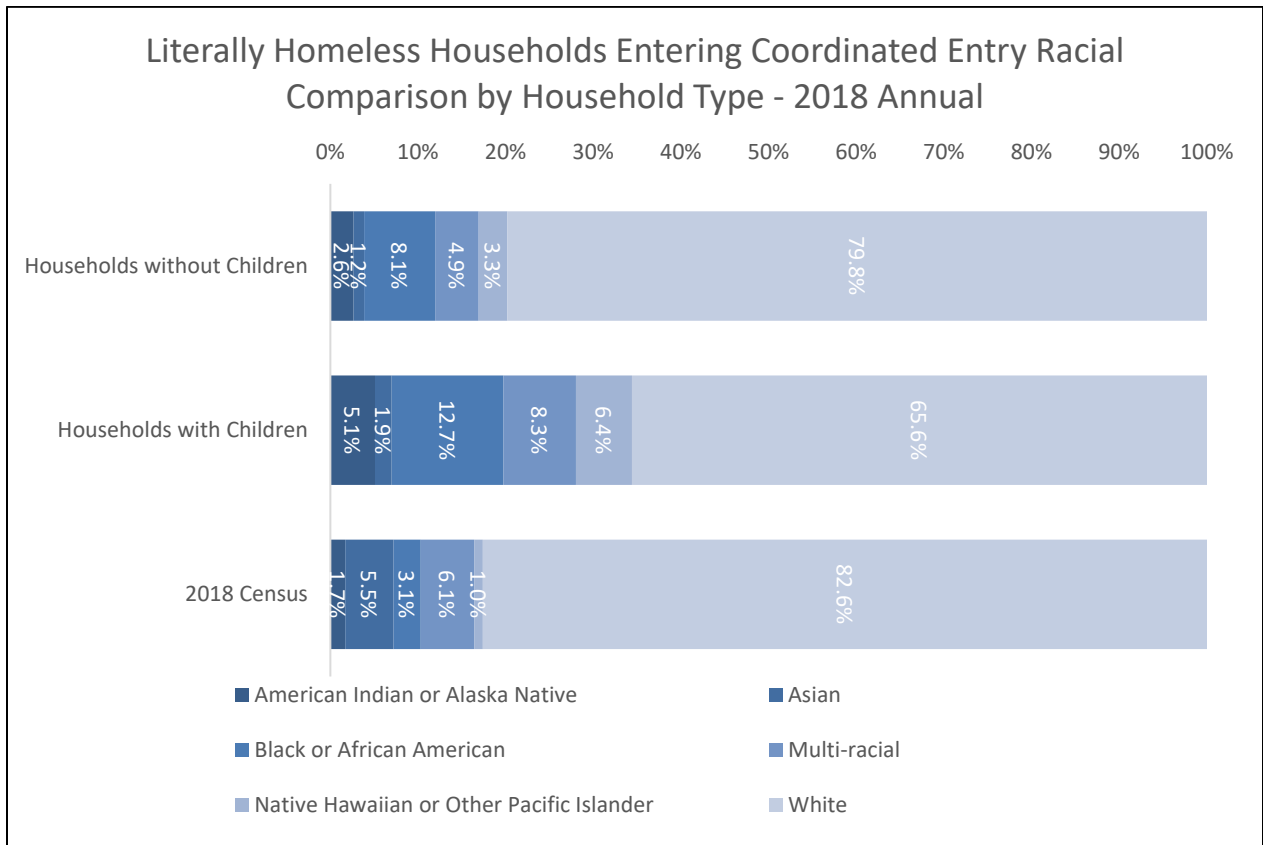
Compared to similar-sized counties, Kitsap has similar demographics as Thurston County in terms of race and ethnicity. Yakima has a lower proportion of individuals who identify as white (78% vs 82%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (6% vs 1%) than Kitsap and more people who identify as Other/Multi-racial (16% vs 9%) or Native (4% vs 1%).

## 2. What does the family data look like compared to all households?

Based on Commerce’s Equity Analysis tool, compared to all people counted in the Kitsap PIT count, Hispanic families with children were over-represented in counts for both experiencing homelessness overall and experiencing unsheltered homelessness, at rates 2.8x and 1.9x higher than the individuals in these categories who identify as Hispanic. Other/Multi-Racial Families with Children makes up 24% of the sheltered population and 22% of the unsheltered population, although this category only represents 6% of the Families with Children in Kitsap overall and 14% of all those experiencing homelessness. Only 2% of the Families with Children are Black, yet Black Families with Children make up 11% of those experiencing sheltered homelessness while 0% of those families were experiencing unsheltered homeless.

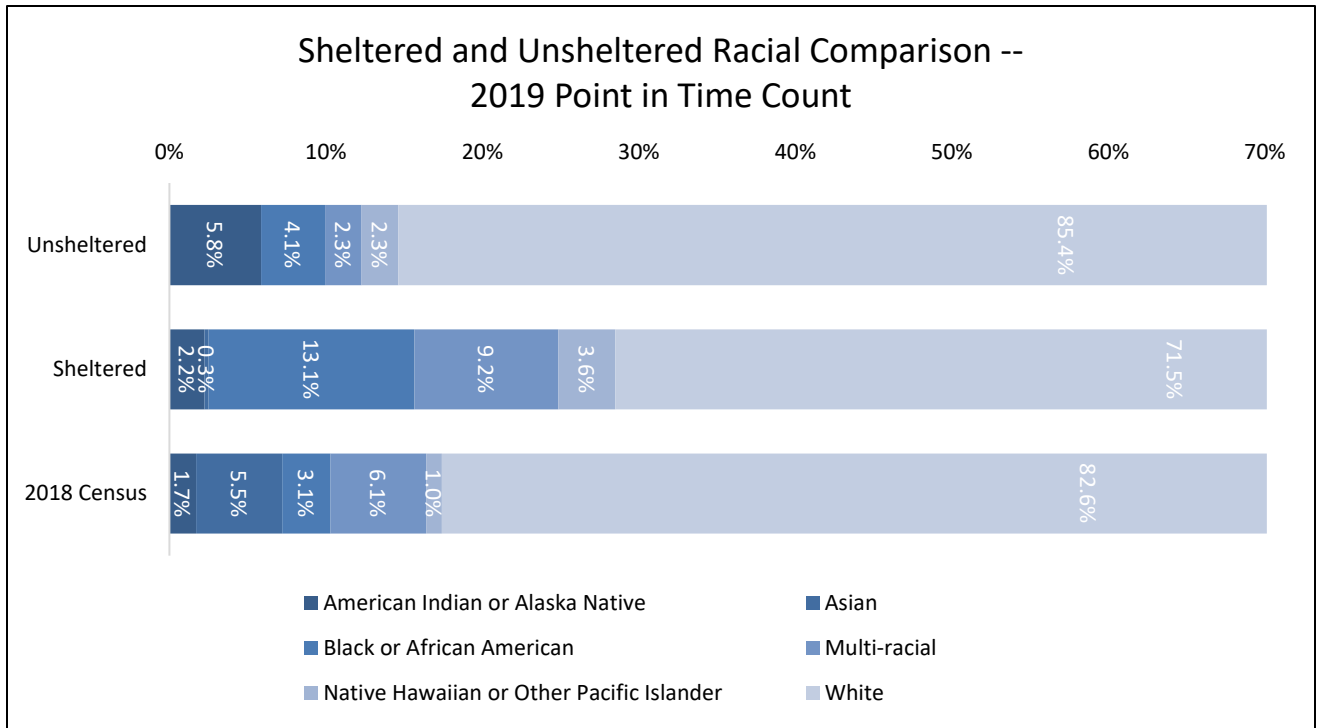
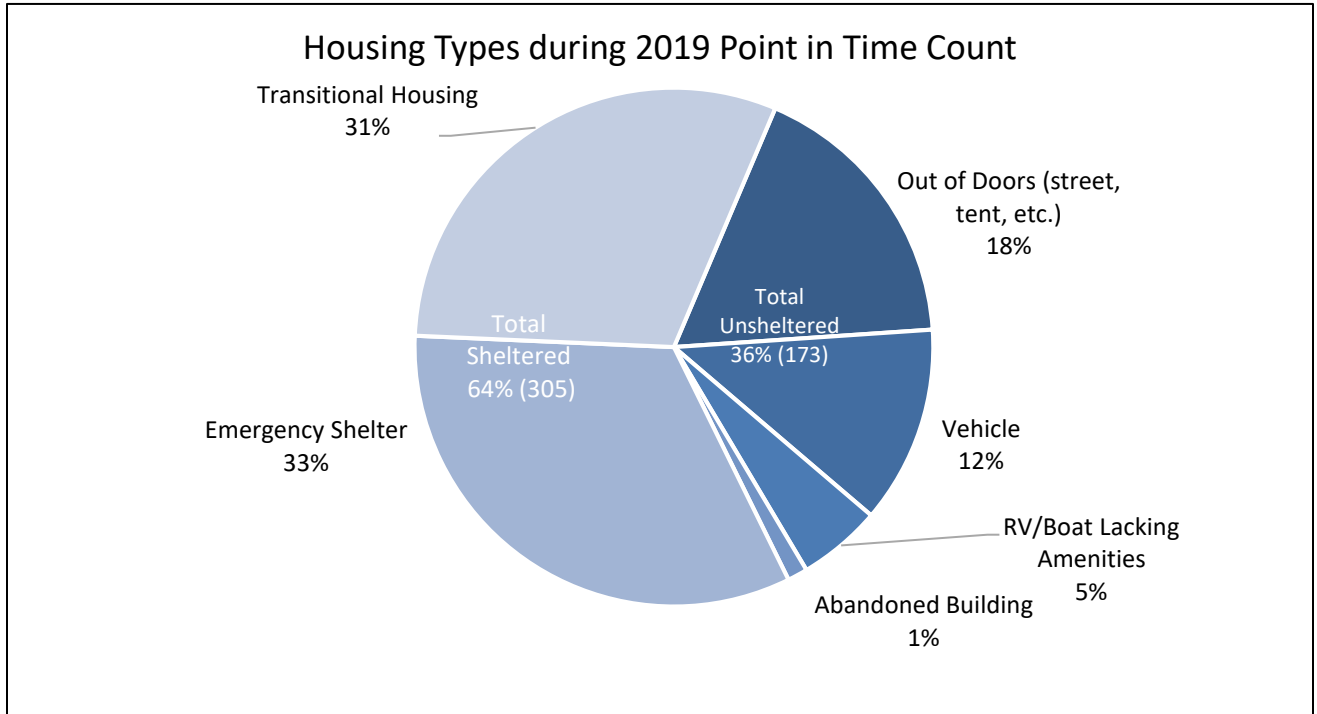


Data collected from the Housing Solutions Center provides an annualized view, showing that in all racial minority groups, households with children are more likely to be accessing services through coordinated entry than households without children.



**3. In PIT counts, are there significant differences between sheltered and unsheltered counts?**

According to the 2019 Kitsap PIT count, 173 people of 478 included in the survey group identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The largest percentage of unsheltered individuals were living out of doors.



An analysis of the racial breakdown of residents during the 2019 Point in Time Count indicates that all racial minorities were more likely to be sheltered than unsheltered, except for American Indian or Alaska Natives, who were more than twice as likely to be unsheltered.

#### 4. Are there specific local or state conditions that might lead to these differences?

Because Kitsap's overall PIT count was somewhat low (n=478) and this is a predominantly White (82%) county, some categories had few people in them, which can make drawing conclusions about certain percentages challenging. However, of note, there are more shelter options for families as opposed to singles which may account for the low number of unsheltered households with children.

In addition, we acknowledge that cultural norms and differences can affect a household's likelihood of accessing services. Cultural norms and expectations can also affect households doubling up and extended families and members of cultural groups providing stronger supportive environments without the involvement of public services.

Anecdotally, we have heard that households of color are sometimes refusing coordinated entry referrals for services other than housing – perhaps based on a distrust of the system, the perception of unwanted tracking of individuals, and the fact that primarily white “systems” and white organizations are providing the services. If data bears this out, this will be an area in which we can develop strategies to improve.

### Conclusion

Kitsap's population is predominantly White. Households headed by Black/African-Americans, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders, or American Indian/Alaska Natives are much more likely to become homeless in Kitsap County than White households. In addition, households with children headed by non-White households were more likely to request housing assistance than non-White households without children. All minority populations, other than American Indian or Alaska Natives, are likely to be living sheltered versus unsheltered; American Indian or Alaska Native-headed households are more than twice as likely to be living unsheltered.

These are important aspects of how racial disparity manifests in households experiencing homelessness. However, the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) is not the cause of this disproportionate impact of homelessness on people of color – in the same way that it is not responsible for any households *becoming* homeless. As referenced earlier in this Plan, homelessness is most often caused by the widening gap between incomes and housing costs. Factors such as un-managed behavioral health issues, long-term physical disabilities, inadequate federal benefits, a severe shortage of lower-cost housing, and social safety nets that are stretched too thin also conspire to keep people from returning to safe and stable housing. The racial disparity in homelessness is exacerbated for households of color by systematic institutional racism and socio-economic systems that perpetuate inequity. The HCRS does, however, have a very important role and responsibility to address this inequity by ensuring that all households are fairly and equitably provided with access to housing and services, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Kitsap's next steps to achieve this are as follows:

- Analyze Kitsap's coordinated entry vulnerability scoring tool to determine if race or ethnicity are affecting the scoring and adjust the tool, if needed.
- Analyze placements into shelter and other interventions to determine if race or ethnicity is an unintended factor and make adjustments to the placement policies and procedures to correct this, if needed.

- Convene a working group, including leadership from communities of color, to discuss how the HCRS can improve access and services to populations of color who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

Action Steps that include this work have been added to Goal 4.

## Recommendations to the State

The following are recommendations for changes to state policies that would assist local governments and community partners in reducing homelessness and improving the capacity to exit people to permanent housing destinations more quickly:

- Establish as a statewide cross-system priority to not release any individuals from state systems of care into homelessness.
- Develop and implement a statewide affordable housing plan to ensure equitable development of units in every county that are affordable to lower-income households.
- Provide additional funding targeted specifically for ongoing program operations to provide supportive services for people living in permanent supportive housing.
- Expand Foundational Community Supports to include in-home medical support and mental health supports.
- Change Foundational Community Supports benefit to allow multiple agencies to provide housing or employment services to the same client – at this time, only one agency can be reimbursed for services to each client at a time.
- Create a subsidy to supplement fixed income benefits (SSI and SSDI), so that elderly and disabled individuals do not lose their housing when rents increase, and their federal benefits do not.
- Address the “HEN benefits cliff” so that when someone moves from HEN to SSDI, they do not suddenly experience a significant reduction in their housing subsidy.
- Increase the ABD benefit to a level that supports maintaining stable housing.
- In analyzing performance results, drill down to more specific different types of housing interventions to better differentiate between what constitutes a positive exit.
- Fix the loopholes in landlord discrimination against people with rental assistance, such as requirements for income to be three- or four-times the rent.
- Expand and improve the Department of Corrections Earned Early Release program to increase the amount of the rental subsidy to be more consistent with area rents, extend the period of the rental subsidy, ensure that landlord-tenant laws are applicable, and mandate connection with broader community housing resources.

- Change the laws for HMIS data entry to not allow people to opt out of having personally identifying information entered (except for people fleeing domestic violence). This will ensure better coordination of services, reduce duplication of services, and allow better analysis of outcomes and performance metrics.
- Remove the Housing Finance Commission cap on the number of projects or amount of funding an affordable housing developer can receive each year, as long as the projects are in different counties or cities.
- To the extent possible, allow local governments to grant exceptions for zoning and land use for affordable housing projects.
- Advocate for a federal policy change for HUD to adjust the fair market rates for Housing Choice Vouchers to more accurately reflect actual local rates.
- Advocate for a federal policy change to increase the percentage cap on Housing Choice Vouchers that can be project-based.
- Advocate for a federal policy change that addresses the transient military population and the impact of military base expansions and troop assignments on the local housing markets - something like a housing impact fee or a link to increases in military housing allowances.



---

# City of Bremerton & Kitsap County Affordable Housing Recommendations Report

---

March 2020

Prepared for: The City of Bremerton and Kitsap County

**FINAL REPORT**

**ECONorthwest**  
ECONOMICS • FINANCE • PLANNING

Park Place  
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 615  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-823-3060

---

This page intentionally blank

For over 40 years ECONorthwest has helped its clients make sound decisions based on rigorous economic, planning, and financial analysis. For more information about ECONorthwest visit [www.econw.com](http://www.econw.com).

ECONorthwest prepared this report for the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County. It received substantial assistance, guidance, and data from staff at the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County as well as the development and affordable housing community.

That assistance notwithstanding, ECONorthwest is responsible for the content of this report. The staff at ECONorthwest prepared this report based on their general knowledge of housing development economics and affordable housing, and on information derived from government agencies, private statistical services, the reports of others, interviews of individuals, or other sources believed to be reliable. ECONorthwest has not independently verified the accuracy of all such information, and makes no representation regarding its accuracy or completeness. Any statements nonfactual in nature constitute the authors' current opinions, which may change as more information becomes available.

For more information about this report please contact:

Morgan Shook  
shook@econw.com  
Park Place  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Suite 615  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-823-3060

## **Disclaimer**

The information provided in this report has been obtained or derived from sources generally available to the public and believed by ECONorthwest to be reliable, but ECONorthwest does not make any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to its accuracy or completeness. The information is not intended to be used as the basis of any investment decisions by any person or entity. This report should not be considered to be a recommendation by any individual affiliated with ECONorthwest with regard to the real estate market in Kitsap County and its public jurisdictions.

# Acknowledgements

---

The following individuals provided input and vital contributions to this recommendations strategy and the technical memoranda that provide supporting information.

- Kirsten Jewell, Housing and Homelessness Division Manager, Kitsap County Department of Human Services
- Bonnie Tufts, Block Grant Manager, Kitsap County Department of Human Services
- Shannon Bauman, Block Grant Program Analyst, Kitsap County Department of Human Services
- Angie Silva, Assistant Director, Kitsap County Department of Community Development
- Kristen Howard, Associate Planner, Kitsap County Department of Community Development
- Allison Satter, Senior Planner, City of Bremerton
- Sarah Achaoui, Community Development Block Grant Administrator, City of Bremerton

Funding for this report came from City of Bremerton and Kitsap County Federal Community Development Block Grants and countywide Homeless Housing Grant Program funds.

# Executive Summary

---

In response to the housing challenges facing many households in Kitsap County, the County and the City of Bremerton sought an *Affordable Housing Inventory and Market Analysis* to find data and recommendations on ways to encourage more affordable housing. This report concludes this study, and includes key findings and recommendations for the City and County to consider as they continue to work with residents, nonprofits, and the private sector to encourage and support the development of more housing to meet residents' needs. This report:

- Offers an overview of the housing landscape, developers, and planning environment,
- Provides key data and analysis on the housing market and future housing demand in the County,
- Sheds light on the development considerations that are working well, areas that need improvement, and emerging development issues that require new solutions,
- Identifies key recommendations to improve the housing landscape in the county, including potential partnerships to create or strengthen,
- And helps Kitsap County jurisdictions plan for additional housing over the next 10-20 years.

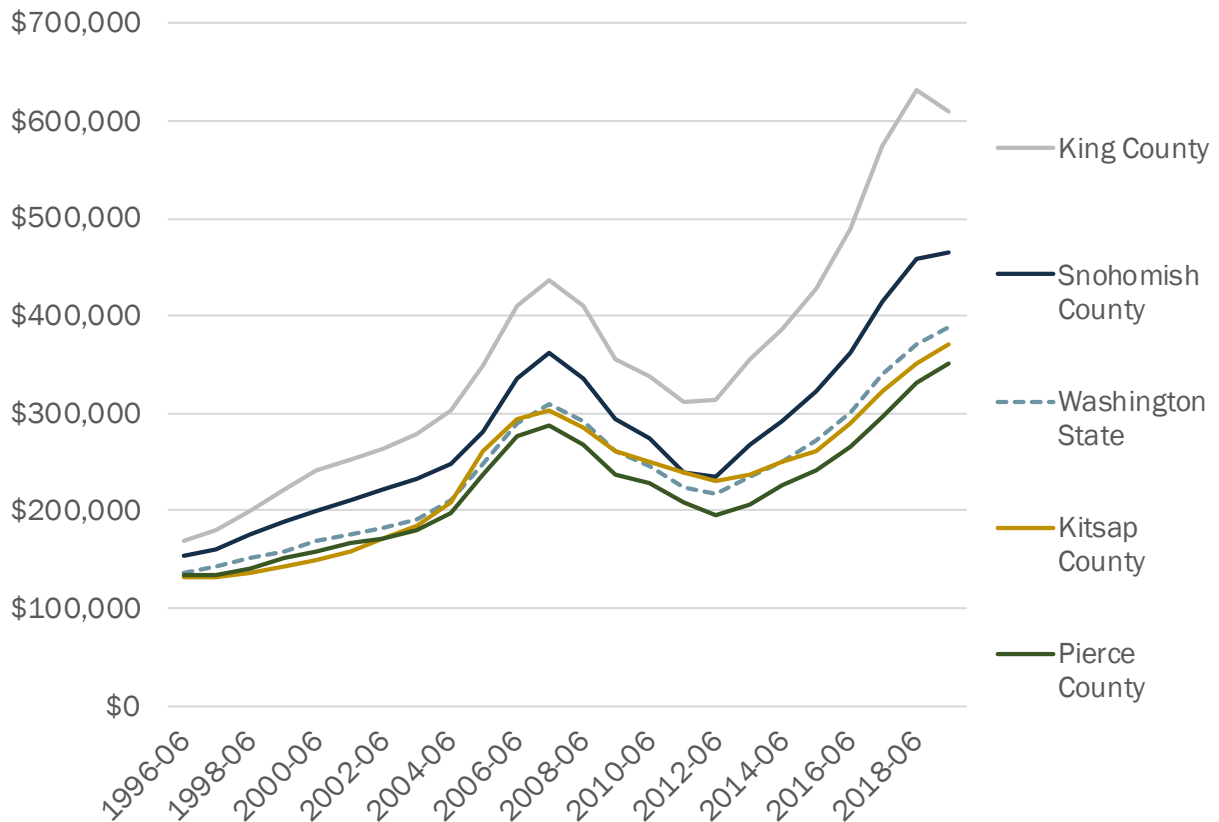
Kitsap County has several housing related challenges, including the need for a variety of housing types and the need for more housing affordable to low-income households. Based on population forecasts, Kitsap County and its jurisdictions will need approximately 25,150 new housing units through 2036, or about 1,480 per year for the next 17 years, of all types and price points. Over the 2010-2017 time period, jurisdictions across the County produced only 3,600 new housing units (including demolitions), or about 515 units per year (see Appendix B for more information on the current inventory and recent production trends). Thus, jurisdictions will need to almost triple their annual housing production to accommodate the expected 25,150 new units through 2036. Sub-county housing need and the distribution of the 25,150 new units across the county were not analyzed as part of this study. This work can be pursued with new funding grants from the Washington Department of Commerce.

Kitsap has also been significantly underproducing housing, producing only 42 new units for every 100 new households formed over the 2010-2017 timeframe. With development and construction costs just as high on the westside of the sound, but rents and price points lower, Kitsap has not been competitive for the post-recession housing supply increases seen in Seattle and the east side of Puget Sound.

However, the economic spillover from the rest of Puget Sound has made its way to Kitsap County. Because housing markets operate at a regional scale, the availability and affordability of different types of housing in one area affect the demand for that housing in other areas. Despite recent increases in prices, housing costs in Kitsap County overall have historically been relatively less expensive than elsewhere in the region (see Exhibit 1 below).

Households across the Puget Sound region facing price increases and cost burdening—as well as increased congestion or traffic—are now looking at the relatively more affordable housing in Kitsap. This increased demand for housing has had major implications for the local market, which has not caught up by building new supply. Residents in Kitsap County are feeling the brunt of these changes, seeing price pressure and low vacancies from growing demand and lack of production.

**Exhibit 1. Increasing Home Values for Multifamily, Single-family, Condo/Co-op Housing in Puget Sound Counties and Washington State, 1996-2019**



Source: Zillow Home Value Index, 2009-2019

These factors (explored comprehensively in the Housing Market Analysis in Appendix C), combined with the rural nature of Kitsap County, the natural land and infrastructure constraints of the area, and the presence of numerous vacation homes or second homes, present challenges in providing housing for Kitsap’s working and full time residents.

This report offers 10 high priority, near term recommendations for the City and County to consider in support of housing production and improvements to affordability across income spectrums. In general, they align with three major goals for housing production and affordability:

- A. **Help people stay in affordable housing.** This includes work to preserve existing regulated housing, preserve unregulated housing, improve affordability (or reduce

costs) for tenants, and enhance tenant protections. This goal focuses on affordable housing, workforce housing, and low-income homeownership opportunities.

- B. **Encourage the development of more affordable housing.** This includes work to expand partnerships, improve local affordable housing development capacity, boost existing programs and resources, and reduce development costs to encourage supply. This goal focuses on rent restricted affordable housing and to a lesser extent, workforce housing.
- C. **Expand housing options and grow housing supply to address existing shortages and future growth.** This includes projects and programs relating to reducing development costs or time the it takes to deliver a project from start to finish, changing zoning that limits density, and allowing more housing choices for new construction to meet the varying needs of Kitsap residents. This goal focuses on multifamily housing and alternative housing types, with the understanding that more supply can help relieve price pressure in a tight market.

The City, County, and other planning jurisdictions have meaningful work ahead. Recent annual housing production trends need to more than triple in order to meet the expected housing needs by 2036. These ten priority recommendations are aimed at significant changes to boost production and help vulnerable residents at risk of rent increases and displacement.

# Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES USED	2
HOUSING, FINANCE, AND DEVELOPMENT TERMS USED	4
<b>I. OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND KEY FINDINGS</b>	<b>8</b>
SUMMARY GOALS	8
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES	8
KEY FINDINGS	11
INFLUENCING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS COMPLEX	13
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS CAN HELP	14
<b>II. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS</b>	<b>15</b>
MANY ACTIONS WILL BE NEEDED TO MEET HOUSING NEEDS	15
MEANINGFUL ACTION WILL INCLUDE MANY PLAYERS	15
ACTIONS TOWARD THREE GOALS	16
<b>III. IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>IV. METHODS &amp; DATA SUMMARY</b>	<b>39</b>
METHODS	39
DATA SUMMARY	39
ASSUMPTIONS/CAVEATS	41
<b>V. APPENDICES</b>	<b>43</b>



# Introduction

---

Throughout 2019, ECONorthwest worked with staff at the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County to prepare this *Affordable Housing Inventory and Market Analysis*. This report offers concrete actions the County, local cities, and local planning jurisdictions can take to advance housing solutions to better meet the housing needs of all residents with a particular focus on improving the affordable housing landscape for low- and moderate-income residents across the County.

While the focus of this report is on improving affordable housing options in the County, several actions and recommendations are aimed at increasing the supply and production of housing affordable to moderate and higher incomes, with an understanding that supply of all types can help ease the affordability challenges posed by a tight market.

The findings and recommendations advanced herein are informed by three technical appendices that surveyed (a) the housing landscape and existing organizations providing housing and affordable housing in the county, (b) the housing inventory including characteristics, size, type, age, and price of housing, and (c) a housing needs assessment that evaluates the drivers of housing supply, drivers of housing demand, and the future needs for housing of all types and price points across the county over the next 20 years.

This report is broken down into the following sections:

- I. **Opportunities, Challenges, and Key Findings** lists the most important information from the supporting analysis that inform the recommendations,
- II. **Recommended Actions** offers *comprehensive action sheets* on 10 high-priority actions and another 33 recommendations that can help to increase housing affordability across Kitsap County,
- III. **Implementation** outlines the decision points, funding considerations, and lead agencies that can move forward on each action,
- IV. **Methods & Data Summary** describes the report creation process and summarizes key data sources,
- V. **Appendices** include short summaries of the three technical appendices that provide supporting data. The technical appendices can be found online at [www.KitsapGov.com](http://www.KitsapGov.com) or at [www.BremertonWa.gov](http://www.BremertonWa.gov).

Readers should come away with an understanding of the policy recommendations and concrete actions that Bremerton, Kitsap County and the jurisdictions can consider as they continue working to provide safe, affordable housing for all Kitsap residents.

## Geographic References Used

Throughout this analysis, statistics are referenced for different geographies across Kitsap County. This section steps through the geographic boundaries used, and nomenclature used to address different planning jurisdictions.

### Cities and Census Designated Places vs Urban Growth Areas

Our analysis uses a variety of data sources. Because the U.S. Census Bureau is the main source of data for the appendices that support this report, we use its definitions of “Places” and “Census Designated Places” (CDPs) to analyze and display the data pertinent to this study. Places typically refer to cities, towns, villages, and boroughs, and are “a concentration of population either legally bounded as an *incorporated* place, or identified as a Census Designated Place.”<sup>1</sup> CDPs differ from places in that CDPs are “statistical geographic entities representing closely settled, *unincorporated* communities that are locally recognized and identified by name.”<sup>2</sup> CDPs are statistically equivalent to incorporated places and they are the Census Bureau’s best approximation for unincorporated areas across the country.

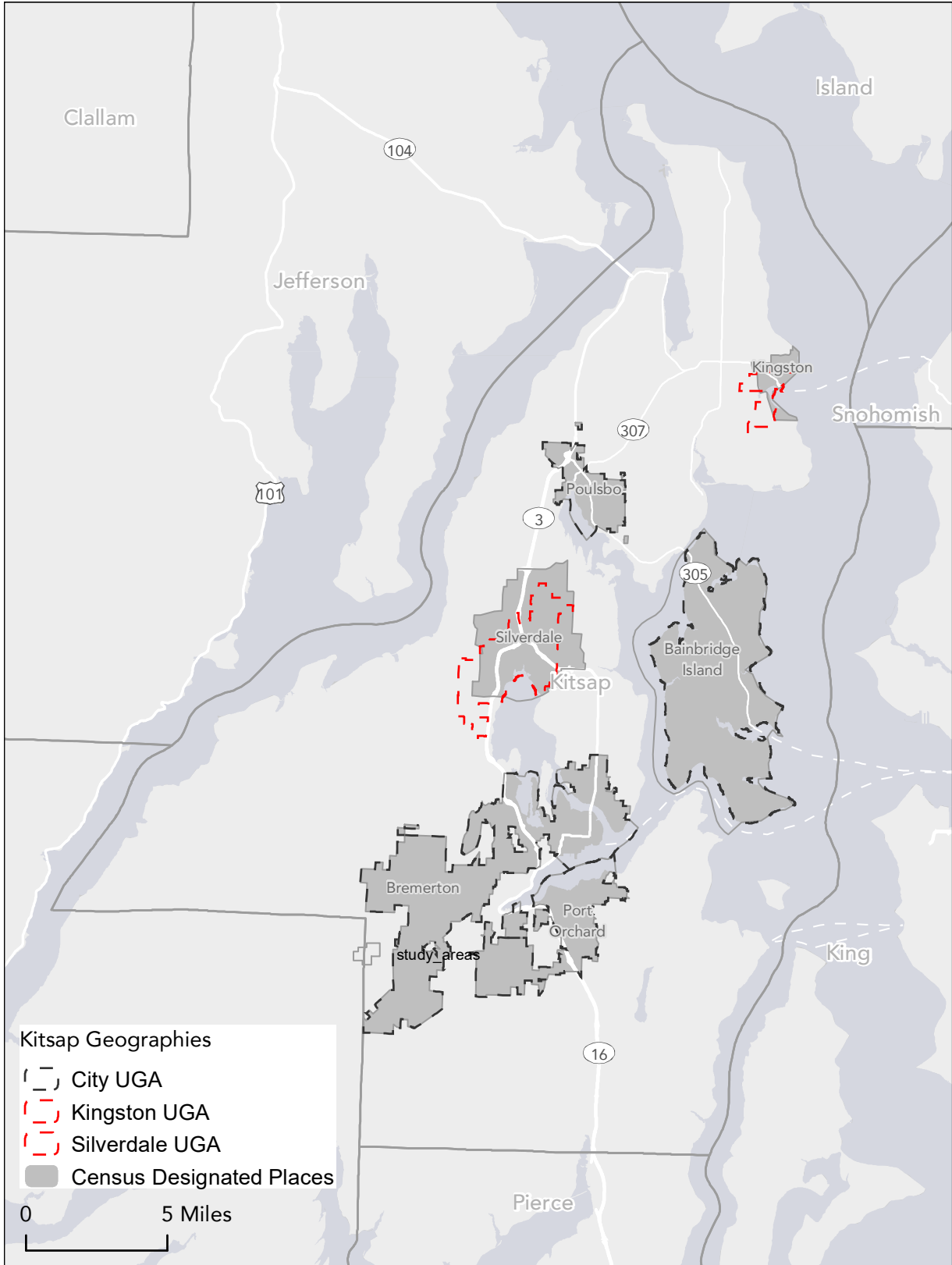
This analysis uses CDP boundaries instead of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), which are the County’s urban planning boundaries for Kingston and Silverdale, because the Census provides more data on these areas’ population and economic characteristics. The map in Exhibit A below shows the CDP boundaries in grey, the UGA boundaries for Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo in black, and the UGA boundaries for Kingston and Silverdale in red. As the map demonstrates, the UGA boundaries for Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo are aligned with the CDPs, and the Kingston and Silverdale UGAs have meaningful overlap. As such, they are a good approximation and allow us access to more data.

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Place* definition. Retrieved from: <https://factfinder.census.gov/help/en/place.htm>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Census Designated Place (CDP) Program for the 2010 Census – Proposed Criteria*, 72 Federal Register 17326-17329. April 6, 2007. Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2007-04-06/pdf/E7-6465.pdf>

**Exhibit A. We use Census Designated Places, Which Closely Align with Kitsap UGAs**



Source: UGA boundaries come from the Kitsap County Department of Community Development. Census boundaries come from Census GIS files.

## Kitsap County Inclusive vs Kitsap County Jurisdiction

In this analysis, references to “Kitsap County,” “Kitsap,” or “the County” relate to the county as a whole, inclusive of the other planning areas (cities and urban growth areas). For example, if a statistic shows the average age for Kitsap County residents alongside the average age for residents of the City of Bremerton, the ages of Bremerton residents would be included in the Kitsap County average.

Readers should assume that in-text references to “Kitsap County” or “the County” are inclusive of all other jurisdictions within the County. At times, we further clarify this point by referencing residents “across the County” or businesses “throughout the County,” or we will discuss “Kitsap County as a whole,” or a statistic for “the entire County.”

## Housing, Finance, and Development Terms Used

**Affordable Housing.** Regulated affordable housing that is income or rent-restricted to ensure the housing is occupied by households earning a certain income. Regulations are set according to the types of funding used to develop the housing, such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, or U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. Most rent-restricted affordable housing is restricted to be affordable to households earning under 60% MFI, but these restrictions vary. We refer to regulated affordable housing and rent-restricted affordable housing interchangeably in this memorandum.

**Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).** Community development financial institutions (CDFIs) are regulated financial institutions that exist to expand economic prosperity and opportunity to low income communities. They do so by providing access to financing tools, products, and services for residents and businesses. They operate much like banks or credit unions by offering loans, microloans, or venture capital. Most often, CDFIs are regulated by the U.S. Treasury Department.

**Community Land Trust.** A land banking model where a community organization owns land and provides long-term ground leases to low-income households to purchase the homes on the land, agreeing to purchase prices, resale prices, equity capture, and other terms. This model allows low-income households to become homeowners and capture a portion of the growth in home value as equity, but ensures that the home remains affordable for future homebuyers.

**Cost Burdened.** We use the term “cost burdening” to refer to households who pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. We use the term “severe cost burdening” for households paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing. These terms come from HUD, and include mortgage payments and interest, or rent, utilities, and insurance.

**Development Capital Stack.** The mix of funding sources either in a fund or used to pay for construction of a development project. Different types of funding are “stacked” together. Each type of funding sits at a different level in the stack corresponding to risk and rate of return (lower risk corresponds with lower return and vice-versa).

**Development Feasibility.** A new development project needs to be financially feasible, demonstrating that the revenues generated from rents are sufficient to cover operations, debt servicing, and capital reserves. A project’s development team will create a pro forma to determine feasibility and adjust the number of units, size, rents, and construction costs until the project revenues match expected operating costs (often referred to as “penciling out”). Affordable housing funders need to understand financial feasibility before they will award a project funding.

**Development Phases.** The typical phases are predevelopment, construction, and operation. Predevelopment can be split into early-stage predevelopment (project visioning, design, and concept planning) and late-stage predevelopment (securing project funding, securing sites, permits, and entitlements such as zoning or rezoning). Early-stage predevelopment projects often end up infeasible and cannot carry debt.

**Housing Affordability.** “Housing that is affordable” refers to any type of housing, regulated or not, that costs less than 30% of a household's pre-tax income. This definition is a generally accepted definition of affordability.

**Land Banking.** See Community Land Trust.

**Low Cost Market Rentals.** We refer to housing that is affordable to low income households but not regulated or restricted by a funding source, as “low cost market rentals.” These housing units are often affordable by nature of their location, condition, age, or the amenities offered nearby or at the property.

**Median Family Income (MFI).** The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) produces an area median family income each year to measure affordability thresholds against. Affordable housing deals, loans, and other HUD requirements will be assigned to a percentage of the MFI (see sidebar).<sup>3</sup>

---

#### **Kitsap County MFI**

According to HUD, Kitsap County's MFI was \$77,119 in 2017.

- 30% of MFI is about \$23,135
  - 50% of MFI is about \$38,559
  - 60% of MFI is about \$46,271
  - 80% of MFI is about \$61,695
  - 100% of MFI is \$77,119
  - 120% of MFI is about \$92,542
- 

**“Missing-Middle” Housing.**<sup>4</sup> Missing middle housing is a term coined by Opticos Design to refer to medium-density housing like duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, courtyard style apartments, cottage clusters, or accessory dwelling units. These types of housing developments were largely outlawed in the post-war period in favor of single-family housing units. Recent efforts call for relegalizing missing middle housing to increase density and affordability in highly walkable, opportunistic neighborhoods.

---

<sup>3</sup> HUD releases MFI data each year. However most of the data used in this study is through 2017, so we refer to the 2017 HUD MFI for consistency.

<sup>4</sup> Opticos Design. 2019. “Missing-Middle Housing.” Available from: [opticosdesign.com/missing-middle-housing/](https://opticosdesign.com/missing-middle-housing/)

**Mission-Based Developers.** Refers to public or non-profit organizations working to provide affordable housing and services. These developers may sacrifice financial return for the positive social impact of providing affordable housing.

**Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE).** Washington state law (RCW 84.14) allows for cities to exempt multifamily housing developments from property taxes in certain areas for a period of eight or 12 years in exchange for affordability restrictions on some of the units. This exemption reduces the costs of operating (and therefore developing) multi-family housing and helps to increase the supply of market rate and affordable housing.

**Net Operating Income (NOI).** In a new development proforma, NOI is equal to revenues less operating expenses. The amount of permanent financing that can be obtained is determined by the NOI.

**Permanent Debt / Permanent Financing / Take-Out Financing.** A long-term loan (maturity of 15-30 years) that is obtained after completion of construction. It is used to repay the short-term construction loan.

**Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT).** A financing vehicle that generates returns to investors by buying and operating workforce or moderately-affordable housing to generate quarterly cash flow. REITs are stand-alone companies or investment entities that own, and in most case operate, income-producing real estate. REITs generate stable, moderately-low risk real estate-investments for private equity, much like private investors invest in mutual funds. They are used broadly throughout most major development markets.

**Return On Investment.** Measure of profitability: net income as a percent of the equity or funding that went into the project. Banks, institutional investors, and for-profit developers will not build a project if they cannot guarantee a sufficient return on investment.

**Revolving Loan Fund.** A pool of money from which loans are issued to eligible recipients for specific uses. In the case of affordable housing revolving loan funds, the loans have lower interest rates and more generous terms compared to market loans. When the loans are repaid, new loans can be issued.

**Severely Cost Burdened.** See Cost Burdened.

**Transit-Oriented Development (TOD / ETOD).** Development located within walking distance (usually  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile) of a designated transit network or high-capacity transit stop. ETOD stands for equitable TOD, which approaches TOD with an equity lens to ensure that all communities, particularly minority, low-income or historically marginalized communities, benefit from transit investments and transit-related development.

**Unregulated or Unrestricted Housing.** See Low Cost Market Rentals.

**Workforce Housing.** The term “workforce housing” is often used to describe housing units that are affordable to households earning more than 60% MFI. These can be regulated or unregulated.

**Zoning / Rezoning.** Regulations are often statewide mandates that are implemented at a local government on the allowable land uses and density on a parcel of land. Landowners can apply to their local government to change the zoning of their parcel of land (whether a specific use and/or the density).

# I. Opportunities, Challenges, and Key Findings

---

This section summarizes the opportunities and challenges facing housing development in and across Kitsap County, and includes key findings from the data analyzed in the Housing Inventory and Needs Analysis. More information, including comprehensive data, charts, and graphs can be found in the three supporting appendices, the Housing Landscape Overview (Appendix A), the Housing Inventory (Appendix B), and the Housing Needs Analysis (Appendix C).

## Summary Goals

These opportunities, challenges, and key findings form the basis of the 10 high priority recommendations advanced in Part II and III. In general, they fall into three major categories of goals for housing:

- A. **Help people stay in affordable housing.** This includes opportunities and challenges to preserve existing regulated housing, preserve unregulated housing, improve affordability (or reduce costs) for tenants, and enhance tenant protections. This goal focuses on affordable housing, workforce housing, and low-income homeownership opportunities.
- B. **Encourage the development of more affordable housing.** This includes opportunities and challenges relating to expanding partnerships, improving local affordable housing development capacity, boosting existing programs and resources, and by reducing development costs to encourage supply. This goal focuses on rent restricted affordable housing and to a lesser extent, workforce housing.
- C. **Expand housing options and grow housing supply to address existing shortages and future growth.** This includes opportunities and challenges relating to development costs, zoning changes that limit density, and allowing more housing choices for new construction to meet the varying needs of Kitsap residents. This goal focuses on multifamily housing and alternative housing types, with the understanding that more supply can help relieve price pressure in a tight market.

## Opportunities and Challenges

The following opportunities and challenges are affecting the development of housing across Kitsap County. Not all opportunities and challenges are present in every jurisdiction, and many do not apply to single-family housing development, the development of which remains relatively strong in Kitsap and its jurisdictions.

---

### More information:

For more information about Kitsap’s housing inventory, including recent production trends, see Appendix B: Housing Inventory.

---



Rather, these opportunities and challenges primarily relate to the development that is not occurring in the county: higher-density multifamily housing, alternative housing types (such as accessory dwelling units, “missing-middle housing” or townhomes), and rent-restricted affordable housing options.

It is important to note that local context matters greatly as local governments contemplate both the relevance and implementation of these goals. They will need to review zoning, Growth Management Act law, relevant case law, and other applicable regulations as necessary to determine which opportunities and recommendations (in Section II) are implementable at the local level.

**Exhibit 2. Opportunities and Strengths for Residential Development in Kitsap County**

Goal	Opportunity
Stay in Affordable Housing	Good partnerships exist between community agencies helping vulnerable residents at risk of housing instability
	Existing programs like weatherization and minor home repair and housing rehabilitation help residents stay in their homes
	Housing Resources Bainbridge’s Community Land Trust opens up home ownership opportunities for low-income households
Encourage the development of more affordable housing	Good partnerships exist between community agencies helping vulnerable residents at risk of housing instability
	Kitsap County has sufficient land available for housing development within its existing urban growth boundaries
	Kitsap County has relatively lower land costs compared to elsewhere in the region, helping to improve affordable housing development feasibility
	Key opportunity sites exist along major corridors and in growing communities
	Opportunity zones present investment opportunities that can aid development feasibility
	Bremerton’s infill toolkit is seen as a best practice and helpful guide for high density development
Grow housing supply and options	Spillover demand from economic growth in Seattle and the underproduction of housing in Kitsap causes rent growth and low vacancy which helps development feasibility of market rate multifamily housing
	Kitsap County has sufficient land available for housing development within its existing urban growth boundaries
	Kitsap County has relatively lower land costs compared to elsewhere in the region, helping to improve affordable housing development feasibility
	Kitsap County and its jurisdictions have planning documents that are generally supportive of housing development
	Opportunity zones present investment opportunities that can aid development feasibility
	Bremerton’s infill toolkit is seen as a best practice and helpful guide for development
	Leadership is open to conversations about improving housing development
	The online permitting tool has been a benefit for improving permitting timelines and helping development move faster, thereby reducing costs
	Key opportunity sites exist along major corridors and in growing communities

**Exhibit 3. Challenges and Risks for Residential Development in Kitsap County**

Goal	Challenge/Risk
Stay in Affordable Housing	Spillover demand from economic growth in Seattle and the underproduction of housing in Kitsap causes rent growth, low vacancy, and high displacement risk for Kitsap residents
	High housing prices lock low-income residents out of homeownership and wealth building opportunities
	Expensive home repairs can prevent people from remaining in their homes as needs change
	Many mobile homes are sitting on valuable land and could be at risk of displacement if land prices create pressure to redevelop
	Outside of the government and healthcare sectors, there are few high-paying private sector jobs in Kitsap County, which can limit income growth and upward economic mobility for residents
	Housing near ferries is largely single family, limiting the ability for renter households (who are often lower income) to access high-paying jobs throughout the region
	Access to transit is limited and reduces access to high paying jobs throughout the region
Encourage the development of more affordable housing	Kitsap County jurisdictions lack sufficient funding to leverage for affordable housing funding applications
	Affordable housing developers are generally operating at capacity and lack training or staff to increase development capacity
	Construction costs are just as high in Kitsap County as elsewhere, making development of affordable housing difficult
	Few development opportunities exist on larger lots, which are attractive to high density development.
	Kitsap County has largely already been divided into parcels
	Many unincorporated areas lack infrastructure and the costs of mitigation make affordable housing development prohibitive
	Zoning can be a barrier to affordable housing development by disallowing higher density development
	Jurisdictions in Kitsap County do not offer many zoning incentives to encourage affordable housing
	NIMBYs can stall or delay affordable housing development
	Remaining infill lots are generally difficult and costly to develop compared to greenfield development
Grow housing supply and options	Parking shortages can drive up the cost of new housing development by requiring off-street parking stalls
	Construction costs are just as high in Kitsap County as elsewhere, making development of higher density housing difficult
	Few development opportunities exist on larger lots, which are attractive to high density development.
	Kitsap County has largely already been divided into parcels
	Many unincorporated areas lack infrastructure and the costs of mitigation make higher density housing development prohibitive
	Zoning presents a barrier to development by disallowing higher density development, disallowing secondary units in high-demand areas or along transit lines, or by requiring lots to be built to the maximum size or subdivided
	Jurisdictions in Kitsap County are not offering many zoning incentives to encourage the types of housing needed
	Remaining infill lots are generally difficult and costly to develop compared to greenfield development
	NIMBYs can stall or delay multifamily or higher density housing
	There are few good examples of alternative housing types (e.g. ADUs or “missing middle” housing) for developers new to Kitsap County
	Moratoriums on new development are not helpful for achieving housing needs
	There are many second homes and vacation homes in Kitsap County, reducing the overall supply of housing and buildable land
The presence of Naval Base Kitsap increases housing demand without providing tools, funding, or incentives for housing or parking in the area	

# Key Findings

In addition to the opportunities and challenges present in Kitsap County and its jurisdictions outlined above, the following key findings help to shape the recommendations offered in Section II and III. These findings come from data and analysis in the Housing Inventory and Needs Analysis.

**Kitsap needs 25,150 new housing units by 2036...** Kitsap County is expected to need an additional 25,147 total housing units over the next 17 years, or approximately 1,480 per year. As currently zoned, the majority of these housing units are expected to be single-family detached, similar to current development trends.

Jurisdictions across Kitsap County will need to more than triple their annual rates of net housing production in the 2010-2017 time period (515 units per year) to reach the rate of production needed to accommodate these new housing units by 2036.

**And is already behind housing production.** Jurisdictions across the county have not been building enough housing to meet the needs of its residents. Over the 2010 to 2017 time period, it only built 42 new housing units for every 100 new households formed.

Over that timeframe, fewer than 3,800 housing units have been built, and when accounting for demolition or obsolescence of units, the net new units is about 3,600.

**Job growth is incredibly strong...** Kitsap is seeing strong job growth, in line with the strong national and regional economies. In 2018, total covered employment reached almost 90,000 jobs. The County passed its pre-recession job peak of 84,400 jobs back in 2015. Since the recession, the fastest growing sectors include management jobs, manufacturing, construction and transportation/warehousing jobs, and accommodation/food service jobs. That the fastest growing sectors have moderate to high wages is a sign for continued purchasing power for future housing demand.

**And Kitsap is gaining a lot of high income households...** Due to this strong economic growth and spillover effects from the Seattle region, Kitsap County appears to be gaining households at higher income levels (earning more than \$80,000) since 2010.

**But it lacks sufficient housing for these households.** Kitsap has a deficit of rental housing appropriately priced for higher-income households. In the 2010-2017 time period, Kitsap had about 7,000 households earning more than the median family income (\$77,119 for a family of four) but only 1,800 units that are “affordably priced” for those households. This means these higher income renter household are competing for available housing stock with lower-income households, putting further pressure on the availability of housing for low-income households.

**Kitsap is also gaining low income households...** In the 2010-2017 time period, Kitsap also gained households at the lowest income levels (earning under \$20,000 per year). Trends for households earning between \$20,000 and \$80,000 were mixed.

**And has a gap in housing inventory for these households, too.** However, as of 2013-2017, Kitsap County had a shortage of almost 5,800 units of rental housing affordable to its extremely low-income renter households (those earning less than 30 percent of the median family income or about \$23,135 for a family of four). This lack of housing plus increased competition from higher-income households puts many renter households at risk of rent increases and displacement.

**Rent-restricted affordable housing is scarce and difficult to build.** Rent restricted affordable housing is scarce in Kitsap County and is concentrated in a few locations around the County. Bremerton has the most affordable housing and also has the most deeply affordable housing: about 66 percent of all units restricted below 30% MFI are located in Bremerton, likely due to the presence of the Bremerton Housing Authority (housing authorities often operate deeply affordable units) and the presence of extremely low income households needing housing.

<b>And displacement risks are high for low income mobile homeowners, too.</b>	Kitsap County has many mobile homes that are not located in mobile home communities, but are a home located on a unique, often large parcel. The average land value for these mobile homes can be pretty high in some areas, reaching up to \$240,000 on Bainbridge Island. Rising land values can create pressure to redevelop, which puts these residents at risk of displacement.
<b>Limited employment opportunities prevent earnings growth and upward economic mobility...</b>	Outside of the government and healthcare sectors, Kitsap has limited employment options with a high number of residents either entering or leaving the County for employment. A high share of Kitsap's workers do not live in the county, which is an opportunity when planning for future housing growth. In 2017, more than 46,300 people commuted out of Kitsap County for work, 23,750 people commuted into the county, and about 43,300 people stayed put (work and live in the county).
<b>And housing near ferries is largely single-family.</b>	With multiple ferry routes to Seattle and other Puget Sound cities, households living near a ferry terminal gain immense access to employment, healthcare, higher education, recreation, and amenities in other areas of the Puget Sound. Approximately 1,550 households on Bainbridge live within one mile of a ferry terminal, about 2,110 households live near a ferry in Bremerton, and so do about 1,180 households in Kingston and Southworth combined. In Bremerton, this figure includes 407 households in multi-family housing.
<b>This locks lower-income households out from access to employment opportunities.</b>	Because of the prevalence of single-family housing near ferries, and because homeownership is out of reach for most low-income, minority, or marginalized households, these communities are also locked out of important access to jobs, opportunity, amenities, and services in the region.
<b>Economic development is important to grow the local economy, and it should include housing considerations.</b>	For low-income households that cannot travel outside the region for higher-paying jobs, economic development within the County is critically important. However, these efforts should include considerations relating to housing provision, especially when a large number of new jobs are created. Job creation absent housing creation will not solve the economic insecurity that many Kitsap households face, and can exacerbate issues around traffic congestion, emissions, and cost burdening.
<b>Kitsap County is aging...</b>	In like with national trends, Kitsap County is aging and seeing older households account for a larger share of the total population. This is most pronounced on Bainbridge Island, in Port Orchard, and in Kingston. Bainbridge saw a seven percentage point increase in the number of residents over age 44 between the year 2000 and the years 2013-2017, while Port Orchard saw a 10 percentage point increase over that time. In Kingston, the share of residents over age 65 grew by 11 percentage points, while the share of residents under age 20 declined in the same timeframe.
<b>And Kitsap County is diversifying.</b>	The Hispanic or Latinx population almost doubled from four percent of Kitsap County's total population in 2000, to seven percent of the population in the 2013-2017 period. Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo are more ethnically diverse than the Kitsap County average, with the Hispanic/Latinx population making up nine percent, ten percent, and 12 percent of residents, respectively. Bainbridge Island has the lowest share of Hispanic/Latinx residents, although the proportion doubled across the 2000 to 2013-2017 period. Port Orchard's Hispanic/Latinx population also doubled over the analysis period.
<b>Both of these trends will shift the types of housing needed and demanded in the future.</b>	Due to Kitsap's increasing diversity, the future housing stock consisting of primarily single-family homes could be mismatched with the housing needs of non-white households (for example, larger households who have intergenerational household members, extended family members, or more children). This coupled with Kitsap's growing baby-boomer population looking to "age in place," could mean that competition for housing may continue to put upward pressure on housing prices.

**Jurisdictions in Kitsap County need to make changes to meet housing needs...**

Kitsap County jurisdictions will need to almost triple their annual housing production to accommodate the expected 25,150 new units in the next 17 years. Continued spillover demand from the Seattle region and strong local economic growth will likely increase the number of high-income and low-income residents seeking housing in the County.

**Or continued rising prices, rents, and displacement risk are likely to worsen.**

These trends, coupled with the gap in housing affordable to both of these income brackets, and compounded by structural difficulties in producing rent-restricted housing in Kitsap, mean that jurisdictions will need to implement meaningful changes where possible to catch up and meet production needs. Rising prices, rents, displacement, and households falling into homelessness are likely to continue if jurisdictions cannot increase housing production at all levels.

## Housing Development is Multi-faceted and Dynamic

Housing development is an incredibly complex and lengthy process. The private sector produces the majority of all new housing development, and this market is governed by economic fundamentals of supply and demand, which is influenced by government regulation. However, many regulations are set at the state level (such as Growth Management Act requirements or environmental review processes). These factors limit local governments' ability to influence housing development.

---

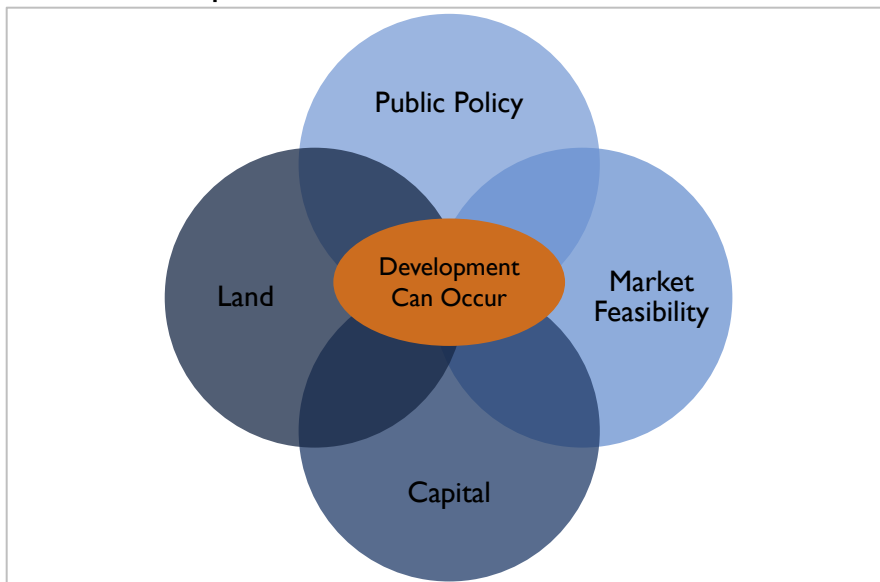
### More information:

For more information about Kitsap's housing market trends, and factors influencing future demand, see Appendix C: Housing Needs Analysis.

---

Private sector development occurs at the intersection of land availability, public policies, market feasibility, and capital funding. In a similar way, publicly supported rent/income controlled housing is subject to the same factors. Housing development relies on inputs set by numerous interrelated markets and players – from the cost of land to the cost of labor and materials to the price of rents – each input to development is its own market with supply and demand factors constantly in flux.

**Exhibit 4. Development Fundamentals**



Source: ECONorthwest.

- On a **parcel of land**, for-profit (which are the majority) landowners and property developers will evaluate a site for the economically highest and best use allowed, be that office, residential, commercial, or vacant land, depending on the parcel's unique characteristics.
- **Public policies**, like land use restrictions or zoning, dictate what types of development can occur and where, usually for aesthetic, health, safety, or economic reasons. A single policy can have many different impacts; adding new policies and removing existing regulations is a complex process with a lot of influence across many sectors.
- **Market feasibility** is a robust process that assesses the demand for development, comparing the expected revenues against the investment costs (e.g. labor and materials), for the desired types of development. If a development project is not feasible, it will not get built.
- **Capital** is necessary to pay for the costs of development and influences market feasibility due to the expected return on investment. Capital seeking return on investment can flow to other sectors – stocks, bonds, etc. – when development cannot meet return requirements.

Development occurs when all these factors align: the land is available and properly zoned, the regulations allow the development, the market says it is feasible, and the capital can be deployed for an investment return. Influencing where development occurs and what is built is challenging, takes time, and requires input from numerous players (government, the general public, impacted neighbors, and the development community).

## Recommended Actions to Address the Key Issues

The 10 high-priority recommendations advanced in the next section can help Kitsap County and its jurisdictions implement changes where possible – to funding structures, zoning patterns, or incentive programs – to increase housing production to meet future housing needs. While we cannot determine that the County will meet its 25,000 housing unit need if all or some of these recommendations are taken, we can point to the trends that will continue if housing production does not increase and housing demand continues: rising prices, rents, and displacement, culminating in more cost burdening, more housing instability, and more households falling into homelessness.

Implementing these changes will require involvement from many different partners – including for profit housing providers, non-profit developers, the different jurisdictions, and the community at large. Importantly, further review of zoning, Growth Management Act case law, and other applicable regulations will be necessary to determine which recommendations can be implementable at the local level. However, no single strategy will solve housing affordability challenges for Kitsap's residents. The recommendations below are for the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County to consider as a starting point. They are not exhaustive of the possible improvements, and can be mixed together or selected individually as the City, the County, and the general public see fit.

## II. Recommended Actions

---

The key findings and discussions of housing opportunities and barriers generated a long list of potential recommendations for the jurisdictions in Kitsap County to consider. This section steps through 10 high priority recommendations that, if implemented, could have meaningful impacts on housing supply and affordability, and another 33 recommendations that are lower priority but should be included as part of the City's and County's toolbox when considering affordable housing and development solutions.

### Many Actions will Be Needed to Meet Housing Needs

No single change will fix the affordable housing crisis in the region, and many strategies can be deployed at different levels (e.g., affecting a property, a neighborhood, or working across the market) and in different sectors (e.g., for-profit housing, affordable housing, multifamily, or single family).

These 10 high-priority recommendations and 33 additional recommended tools and strategies could be implemented in any combination to make a meaningful impact on the development of more housing and less expensive housing across the County.

We cannot determine that the County will meet its 25,000 new housing unit need if all or some of these recommendations are taken. But if meaningful action is not taken to increase the rate of housing production, and the County continues to see population growth and housing demand, prices will continue to rise, displacement pressures will continue to increase, and vulnerable households will continue to fall into homelessness.

### Meaningful Action will Include Many Players

Many factors affecting housing production are out of the control of public agencies – such as rent and home prices, costs of labor and materials, and population growth. Many partners and housing providers will ultimately be involved in spurring new housing development. While the public sector can play a lead role in setting the stage for change, implementing these recommended actions will require ongoing coordination with many departments, jurisdictions, developers, and the general public.

While these recommendations have been created to help the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County advance housing solutions, there is no one-size-fits all approach. Rather, this list is a starting point for considering different tools that can be mixed together or selected individually depending on circumstances. These recommendations are not exhaustive of the possible improvements that might be identified and should be considered a menu of preliminary ideas to be considered.

It is also important to note that further review of zoning, Growth Management Act case law, and other applicable regulations are necessary to determine which recommendations can be implementable at the local level.

## Actions Toward Three Goals

These 10 high-priority recommendations are grouped by the high-level goals they can help to achieve. These goals summarize the development and housing challenges identified in prior tasks and the paths to creating more affordable housing options for Kitsap County residents.

- A. **Help people stay in affordable housing**, such as preserving existing regulated housing, preserving unregulated housing, reducing costs for tenants, and enhancing tenant protections. This includes workforce housing and low-income homeownership opportunities.
- B. **Encourage development of more affordable housing** by expanding partnerships, local development capacity, boosting funding, and reducing development costs.
- C. **Expand housing options and grow housing supply to address existing shortages and future growth** by reducing costs, supporting zoning changes to increase residential capacity, walkability, and lower price point development, and allowing more housing choices for new construction to meet the varying needs of Kitsap residents.

**Exhibit 5. Primary Recommendations Assessed**

Recommendation	Goal Achieved		
	Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing	Preserve Affordability	Increase Housing Options & Supply
1. Create a Preservation & Anti-Discrimination Strategy		✓	
2. Update Comprehensive Land Strategy	✓	✓	✓
3. Create a Revolving Loan Fund	✓	✓	
4. Create a Real Estate Investment Fund	✓	✓	
5. Establish Additional Affordable Housing Funding Sources	✓	✓	
6. Pool Existing Resources	✓	✓	
7. Expand Community Land Trust	✓	✓	
8. Encourage “Missing Middle” Housing	✓		✓
9. Review and Revise Land Use Barriers	✓		✓
10. Review Up-Zoning Urban Land For Multifamily Housing	✓		✓

## 10 High-Priority Action Sheets

The 10 high-priority recommendations are assessed via “action sheets” that allow for a quick snapshot of each recommendation, and allow the City and County to compare specific



recommendations with one another. These actions sheets can be monitored, updated, and edited as recommendations are addressed or as market conditions change. Each action sheet provides a description of the recommendation and evaluates the following considerations:

- **The primary goal** the recommendation is helping to achieve (A, B, or C above),
- **The development barrier** each recommendation helps to overcome,
- The **sector** most likely to lead the action,
- The **potential scale** (works at market level, neighborhood level, or property by property),
- The potential **impact on housing affordability** (high, medium, or low),
- **Potential partners** to work with,
- Applicable **locations or sites**,
- **Critical considerations** about sources of funding, timing, needed analysis, political will, neighborhood opposition, and immediate steps to move forward, and
- Relevant **resources or links** from other communities working on the same issue.

# 1 Create a Preservation & Anti-Displacement Strategy

<b>Primary Goal</b>		<b>Sector</b>
Preserve Affordability		Public
<b>Housing Barriers Overcome</b>		
Preserves aging or expiring restricted units, prevents displacement.		
<b>Description</b>		
<p>A county-wide, comprehensive preservation and anti-displacement strategy would work on expanding housing affordability in numerous ways. This could include any of the following facets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring regulated affordable housing properties that are nearing their affordability expiration dates, and working with the property owner to recapitalize and rehabilitate the property with new funding. Create a database and mapping system to monitor and plan for upcoming expirations.</li> <li>▪ Setting up a process to monitor unregulated affordable rental properties and mobile home parks that might be at risk of being sold to private investors and seeing rents/leases increase. Establish criteria to flag properties at risk, such as: low-rents, deferred maintenance, under 20 units, non-institutional owners (aka., “mom and pop” owners), located in amenity rich areas, near recent redevelopments, or on high cost land.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This could be done in conjunction with Action 3; the use of low-interest loans from a revolving loan fund could purchase these properties in partnership with a local affordable housing provider, to maintain affordability and habitability for years.</li> <li>○ This strategy could also establish procedures or guidelines to help the residents at these properties to establish a co-operative ownership structure, thereby preventing future displacement. This can be a highly effective model for preventing mobile home parks from being purchased and redeveloped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Evaluate communities and neighborhoods across the county that may be especially vulnerable to displacement as Kitsap’s housing market continues to rise. Many of the tenants living in unregulated affordable properties will be at risk if their building is purchased and rents rise. Many risk and screening tools exist that can be applied to communities. Special attention should be paid to historically marginalized communities like communities of color, immigrants, or non-English speaking communities.</li> <li>▪ Establish, update, or strengthen tenant protections and resources, such as policies relating to just-cause evictions, low-barrier application screening, fair-housing and anti-discrimination policies, and anti-price gouging when military personnel arrive with Basic Housing Allowances. Ensure that all new housing resources for households experiencing a housing crisis are coordinated with the countywide one-stop housing resource center, the Housing Solutions Center.</li> </ul>		
<b>Scalability</b>	A preservation strategy could be scaled at the market level.	<b>Critical Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a Medium-term opportunity since funding and an operator may need to be identified, and a plan needs to be put in place. However, discussions could start immediately with the following next steps:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop a community engagement plan to meet with and understand the housing challenges of communities at risk of displacement,</li> <li>○ Seek out national or state funding sources to staff this effort and create a plan, and</li> <li>○ Identify the departments to house, manage, and monitor a database or map of properties at risk.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Multi-Family Tax Exemption could help preserve unregulated affordable properties in targeted areas such as the City of Bremerton. This tool gives property owners property tax exemptions typically for 8-10 years in exchange for rent restrictions. Under current regulations, this tool is available in Kitsap cities, not the County.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	High – potential to maintain rent restricted affordability for low-income households and create the opportunity to preserve affordability in at risk properties.	
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	Local affordable housing providers, investment companies, mission-based lenders, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), philanthropic organizations, or foundations.	

<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neither a preservation strategy nor an anti-discrimination strategy will likely face political or neighborhood opposition.</li> <li>▪ A process to monitor private market rentals may face headwinds from a landlord association. Creating these strategies will require significant public engagement and outreach to truly understand the housing and affordability challenges of the communities most at risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oregon Housing Preservation Program: <a href="http://www.PreserveOregonHousing.org">www.PreserveOregonHousing.org</a></li> <li>▪ Urban Displacement Project’s displacement risk factor: <a href="http://www.UrbanDisplacement.org">www.UrbanDisplacement.org</a></li> <li>▪ The Tenants Union of Washington State: <a href="http://www.TenantsUnion.org">www.TenantsUnion.org</a></li> <li>▪ CASA of Oregon Manufactured Homeowner Assistance: <a href="http://casaoforegon.org/for-individual/manufactured-housing-cooperative-development/">casaoforegon.org/for-individual/manufactured-housing-cooperative-development/</a></li> <li>▪ Oregon Housing &amp; Community Services Manufactured Communities Resource Center: <a href="http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/manufactured-dwelling-park-services-oregon.aspx">www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/manufactured-dwelling-park-services-oregon.aspx</a></li> <li>▪ Tenant information at Housing Resources Bainbridge: <a href="http://www.housingresourcesbi.org/programs/tenant-resources/">www.housingresourcesbi.org/programs/tenant-resources/</a></li> <li>▪ Example jurisdictions using MFTE: Kirkland, Bellingham, Tacoma, Spokane, Yakima, and Moses Lake (limited to cities with 15,000 persons or more)</li> </ul>	

## 2 Review and Update the Comprehensive Land Strategy

Primary Goal		Sector
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Preserve Affordability; Increase Housing Supply		Public
Housing Barriers Overcome		
Prohibitive costs of land, lack of infrastructure on suitable land, small parcel sizes needing reaggregation.		
Description		
<p>Review and update Countywide Planning Policies and Comprehensive Plans to include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A surplus public land database and strategy, like Sound Transit’s 80-80-80 policy. This policy requires 80% of “surplus land” not used for the light-rail expansion (often temporarily used for construction staging) be used for affordable housing developers, who must reserve 80% of their units for households making less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).</li> <li>▪ A land banking or land acquisition strategy that sets criteria for purchasing land before it appreciates in value, holding it either a short or long period of time, and conveying that land to developers building affordable housing. This strategy can take several forms, from nonprofit entities to city-led programs to cities donating, selling, or leasing publicly-owned land for the development of affordable housing. Criteria on site characteristics, timeline, price per acre, and other considerations should be determined.</li> <li>▪ A funding and process mechanism for overcoming development barriers in priority areas. Many developers stressed that areas suitable for residential development lack necessary infrastructure, and the cost of installing it makes the deal prohibitive. The jurisdictions participating in this land strategy could source and commit funding to pay a share of these infrastructure costs, in exchange for affordability covenants or priority development types (e.g., larger apartments, live-work studios, or small-scale community centers). Criteria – such as eligible developers, priority locations/development types, and requirements in exchange for funds – would need to be established <i>with developers</i> to ensure they would work in a deal structure.</li> <li>▪ A process should be created to help developers overcome the site development barriers such as challenges with small parcels needing to be aggregated to make deals work (e.g. Downtown Kingston area has these issues). This was another development barrier discussed by developers in this research and in prior outreach. The land strategy could include commitments from the jurisdictions to streamline, prioritize, or work with developers facing this barrier to ensure that residential housing can get built.</li> <li>▪ A policy or plan to work with landowners who may have excess land that could be purchased for affordable housing development (e.g. Church parking lots). These deals could provide owners with needed funds and secure well-located land for development.</li> </ul>		
Scalability	Land strategies can be scaled across the market to seize opportunities as they arise.	Critical Considerations
Potential Affordability Impact	High – reducing land costs can greatly aid feasibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Near term opportunity: acquiring the land sooner will increase positive impact.</li> <li>▪ This strategy will need funding.</li> <li>▪ This strategy would need buy-in and commitment from many participating jurisdictions in the County. However, discussions and negotiations could begin immediately.</li> <li>▪ Immediate next steps could include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Getting this idea on the next KRCC agenda to gauge interest</li> <li>○ Meeting with affected county and jurisdictional departments to discuss this plan</li> <li>○ Identify barriers and departmental hurdles, and what it would take to overcome them</li> <li>○ Seek out national or state funding sources</li> <li>○ Map out planned capital improvement projects and align with potential residential developments in the pipeline</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Potential Partnerships	Housing Kitsap, Bremerton Housing Authority, developers (for profit and nonprofit), land trusts, and philanthropic foundations.	
Applicable Locations	Countywide.	

<p><b>Relevant Resources</b></p>	<p>Sound Transit’s ETOD policy: <a href="http://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/news-events/news-releases/board-adopts-policy-promoting-equitable-development-near">www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/news-events/news-releases/board-adopts-policy-promoting-equitable-development-near</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordinate with local developers to understand where the highest priority areas are given rents and development interest.</li> <li>▪ Analysis needs: funding amounts and sources, leverage opportunities, target geographies and development types, criteria in exchange for funding, decisions on land discounts, and when selling (at market rates) would be more beneficial.</li> <li>▪ Siting affordable housing may face some neighborhood opposition.</li> </ul>
----------------------------------	--	---

### 3 Create a Revolving Loan Fund

<b>Primary Goal</b>		<b>Sector</b>
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Preserve Affordability		Public/Non-profit/Private Partnerships
<b>Housing Barriers Overcome</b>		
Reduces cost of capital for affordable housing development, deploys capital at scale and quickly in a fast market.		
<b>Description</b>		
<p>An affordable housing revolving loan fund is a pool of money that offers low-interest loans to eligible recipients for the development of affordable housing. Revolving loan funds can aid the feasibility of affordable housing development by offering below-market interest rates and generous loan terms compared to market loans, and can be used to fill funding gaps in a development deal (a major hurdle for creating new affordable housing).</p> <p>A revolving loan fund is seeded with capital from numerous investors: public funders, philanthropic funders, banks, financial institutions, or other investors. These investors are often called impact investors because they are willing to have lower rates of return on investment (compared to other investment funds), for a positive social impact (e.g. affordable housing).</p> <p>The below-market rates, loan types, and loan terms offered for affordable housing development will depend on the capital sources and the fund investors' return requirements. These lower rates of return are passed on to developers as below-market interest rate loans, which reduce the cost of capital and help improve project feasibility, thereby increasing the supply of affordable housing units.</p> <p>Revolving loan funds are generally tailored to meet the local affordable housing development barriers and bottlenecks. Loans have specific purposes, such as acquisition for site control, predevelopment financing when a project is in design and concept, bridge financing before funding is awarded, or construction financing. They are repaid when the property secures its permanent loan at the end of construction. Funds can also be used for preservation deals, to preserve restrictions, or keep add rent restrictions to an unregulated property (see discussion in Action 1).</p> <p>Funds are generally short term (1-2 years for predevelopment, 3-5 years for construction), and they revolve: when loans are repaid, new loans can be issued. Investors commit capital according to the fund agreement, and are repaid after a specified period of time.</p>		
<b>Scalability</b>	A revolving loan fund could be scaled at the market level, but acts property-by-property.	<b>Critical Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a medium term opportunity since a lot of groundwork needs to be done to understand interest and feasibility of the fund, as well as the major development barriers it would overcome.</li> <li>▪ However, negotiations and discussions could start immediately. Immediate steps include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committing and training staff on how to stand up a fund and guide the capital campaign,</li> <li>○ Gauge early interest with likely participants,</li> <li>○ Seek out national or state funding sources to pair with local funds understanding leverage points, and</li> <li>○ Meet with local affordable housing developers to understand the loans most likely to unlock development potential in Kitsap.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	High – revolving loan fund can greatly increase the supply of affordable housing units.	
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	Socially Responsible Investors (SRIs), Credit Unions, Banks, Foundations, large affordable housing nonprofits, or other philanthropic organizations focused on affordable housing or community development. This could be an effort across the entire Olympic Peninsula. Craft3 CDFI could be an investor.	

<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ After doing the groundwork, a formal plan will need to be put in place to understand how development needs can be met with investment needs. Negotiations and additional analysis about capital needs and investment terms will follow.</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seattle REDI Fund: <a href="http://www.EnterpriseCommunity.org/financing-and-development/community-loan-fund/redi-fund">www.EnterpriseCommunity.org/financing-and-development/community-loan-fund/redi-fund</a></li> <li>▪ Oregon Network for Affordable Housing Preservation Fund: <a href="http://Noah-Housing.org">Noah-Housing.org</a></li> <li>▪ Metro Vancouver TOAH Fund: <a href="http://www.MetroVancouver.org/services/regional-planning/housing-affordability/transit-oriented/Pages/default.aspx">www.MetroVancouver.org/services/regional-planning/housing-affordability/transit-oriented/Pages/default.aspx</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A capital campaign would be necessary to find seed funding from banks, investment companies, philanthropies, national foundations, and government agencies.</li> <li>▪ This loan fund will not likely face political or neighborhood opposition.</li> </ul>

## 4 Create a Real Estate Investment Trust

<b>Primary Goal</b>		<b>Sector</b>
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Preserve Affordability		Private and Non-profit
<b>Housing Barriers Overcome</b>		
Preserves aging or expiring restricted units, prevents displacement, deploys capital at scale and quickly in a fast market.		
<b>Description</b>		
<p>Similar to a Revolving Loan Fund (see Action 3), a real estate investment trust (REIT) is a financing vehicle that generates returns by investing in workforce or moderately affordable housing. REITs are stand-alone companies or investment entities that own, and in most case operate, income-producing real estate. REITs generate stable, moderately-low risk real estate-investments for private equity, much like private investors invest in mutual funds. They are used broadly throughout most major development markets.</p> <p>A REIT would bring investors into a fund that purchases and rehabilitates unrestricted affordable housing, operates it with moderate affordability restrictions (via deed restrictions), and provides a competitive but less-than-market-rate return to investors in the form of a quarterly cash flow. Investors would need to be either mission-oriented or willing to sacrifice some financial return in exchange for lower risk. Funds come from public sector partners, national philanthropic partners, local banks or investment firms, and CDFIs.</p> <p>A REIT is a market-based investment tool with a dual focus on generating competitive returns and preserving moderately affordable housing. Because it needs to generate returns for investors, it must invest in income-producing properties, so it cannot invest in deeply affordable housing (e.g. aimed at households earning less than 50% AMI).</p> <p>As a non-governmental entity, REITs can act quickly in a tight housing market and can be a partner with local jurisdictions focused on preserving unregulated affordable housing. It can be a key partner in a preservation strategy (see Action 1).</p>		
<b>Scalability</b>	A REIT could be scaled at the market level, but acts property-by-property.	<b>Critical Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a medium-term opportunity since the city/county would likely play a supportive role and will need to determine a funding source for this type of program.</li> <li>▪ Next steps include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussions with major real estate investors across the Puget sound to gauge interest and feasibility in Kitsap County,</li> <li>○ Discussions of what role the City and County can play to help get a REIT formed,</li> <li>○ Analyze the amount of capital necessary for the REIT to achieve scale.</li> <li>○ Analyze the market to understand how many properties (and what size) could be investments.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Aspects of this may face some political opposition.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	Medium – to be effective, the REIT must be mission-based and willing to receive lower than market returns	
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	Socially Responsible Investors (SRIs), Credit Unions, Banks, Foundations, large affordable housing nonprofits, or other philanthropic organizations focused on affordable housing or community development.	
<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide	
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Association of REITs: <a href="http://www.reit.com/news/reit-magazine/may-june-2019/social-purpose-reits-tackle-affordable-housing-challenges">www.reit.com/news/reit-magazine/may-june-2019/social-purpose-reits-tackle-affordable-housing-challenges</a></li> <li>▪ Chan, Xiang Ying Estelle. 2016. “Real Estate Investment Trusts as an alternative source of capital for housing development.” <a href="https://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/107862">hdl.handle.net/1721.1/107862</a></li> <li>▪ Clinton Foundation: <a href="http://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/commitments/social-purpose-reit-preserve-affordable-housing">www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/commitments/social-purpose-reit-preserve-affordable-housing</a></li> <li>▪ The Meyer Memorial Trust (<a href="http://www.mmt.org">www.mmt.org</a>) is negotiating with Gerding Edlen (<a href="http://www.GerdingEdlen.com">www.GerdingEdlen.com</a>) development company to develop a REIT focused on workforce housing in the Portland region.</li> </ul>	



## 5 Establish Additional Regional Affordable Housing Funding Sources

Primary Goal		Sector
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Preserve Affordability		Public
Housing Barriers Overcome		
Lack of funding for affordable housing developments, reduces cost of development for affordable housing.		
Description		
<p>Kitsap County and its jurisdictions could implement various different local options to increase funding for affordable housing. In addition, the Washington State legislature is very focused on housing affordability and may add more options in the near term. So long as voters approve the uses, these taxing measures can be designed for a wide array of uses. According to the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), the following local taxing measures for affordable housing could be considered. A sales tax redirect for affordable housing, allowed under HB1406, is already underway in Kitsap County.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A property tax levy (RCW 84.52.105) – allows jurisdictions to place an additional tax up to \$0.50 per thousand dollars assessed for up to ten years. Funds must go toward financing affordable housing for households earning below 50% MFI.</li> <li>2) A sales tax levy (RCW 82.14.530) – allows jurisdictions to place a sales tax up to 0.1%. At least 60% of funds must go toward constructing affordable housing, mental/behavioral health-related facilities, or funding the operations and maintenance costs of affordable housing and facilities where housing-related programs are provided. At least 40% of funds must go toward mental / behavioral health treatment programs and services or housing-related services.</li> <li>3) A real estate excise tax (REET) (RCW 82.46.035) – allows a portion of city REET funds to be used for affordable housing projects and the planning, acquisition, rehabilitation, repair, replacement, construction, or improvement of facilities for people experiencing homelessness. These projects must be listed in city's the capital facilities plan.</li> </ol>		
Scalability	A housing levy could be scaled at the market level, but acts property-by-property.	Critical Considerations
Potential Affordability Impact	High – could meaningfully increase funding available for affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Several of these taxing options are near-term, due to recent legislation. New taxes would be medium-term opportunities since they require voter approval.</li> <li>▪ Immediate next steps could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide information to community groups and supporters</li> <li>○ Early analysis to understand the target revenue, and potential uses of the revenue.</li> <li>○ Early analysis and or polling to understand types of taxes, rates, and the general appetite for these measures with the public.</li> <li>○ Early analysis and or polling to see if certain programs, housing types, or locations are more or less favorable with voters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ This could face political or voter-driven opposition.</li> </ul>
Potential Partnerships	Nearby cities (could be paired with a regional bond to cover both capital and support costs) or Kitsap County (if the County is interested in issuing a levy). Housing Authorities and affordable housing service providers would be implementation partners.	
Applicable Locations	Countywide	
Relevant Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seattle Housing Levy: <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/housing/levy">www.seattle.gov/housing/levy</a></li> <li>▪ MRSC tax information: <a href="http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Planning/Specific-Planning-Subjects-Plan-Elements/Affordable-Housing-Ordinances-Flexible-Provisions.aspx">mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Planning/Specific-Planning-Subjects-Plan-Elements/Affordable-Housing-Ordinances-Flexible-Provisions.aspx</a></li> <li>▪ MRSC REET information: <a href="http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Finance/Revenues/Real-Estate-Excise-Tax.aspx">mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Finance/Revenues/Real-Estate-Excise-Tax.aspx</a></li> </ul>	

## 6 Continue to Pool Together County and Cities Affordable Housing Resources

Primary Goal		Sector
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Preserve Affordability		Public
Housing Barriers Overcome		
Lack of funding for affordable housing developments, Kitsap's uncompetitive experience with state or federal funding applications.		
Description		
<p>Departments that fund the development of affordable housing and homeless services could continue to pool affordable housing funds into larger loans or grants and deploy them less frequently, with the goal of increasing leveraging opportunities for state and federal sources and providing increased stability and predictability for developers. New funds that come online in the next few years (federal or state), so future affordable funding that is raised should be pooled to maximize the impact and leverage additional non-local dollars.</p> <p>The uses of these funds could vary from the development of rent-restricted affordable housing, to preservation deals (both restricted and unrestricted – see Action 1 for a description of unrestricted preservation), to offering loans or grants to funding services at existing developments, to building new homeless shelters or resource centers. Most commonly used for rent-regulated properties, this funding could be extended to unregulated properties in exchange for affordability restrictions. Opening up public funding to private, for-profit landlords brings many new questions to the model.</p> <p>Depending on legislated allowable uses, these funds could be used in the form of low-interest loans, deferred payment, interest-only loans, or grants to help bridge funds for acquisition-rehab projects, to help cover the cost of capital repairs, or to cover costs associated with a project's recapitalization (work done at the end of affordability periods to renew contracts and re-start affordability restrictions).</p>		
Scalability	Resources could be scaled at the market level, but would act property-by-property.	Critical Considerations
Potential Affordability Impact	High – this would meaningfully impact affordability at regulated properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a medium-term opportunity since funding and the lead entities need to be identified, and a plan needs to be put in place.</li> <li>▪ Beginning steps could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Internal department discussions to understand how much funding could be pooled,</li> <li>○ Research into past funding applications as well as discussions developers to understand how much funding would make developments more competitive,</li> <li>○ Discussions with state agencies and funders to understand how to make Kitsap applications more competitive,</li> <li>○ Research and analysis into whether funders would allow this pooling, and if appeals could be made,</li> <li>○ Discussions of which departments would manage and deploy the funding, as well as how to set up criteria and guidelines to ensure each department/jurisdiction's goals are adequately being addressed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ This will not likely face political or neighborhood opposition, but it could be difficult to negotiate with internal departments that want to hold onto scarce resources.</li> </ul>
Potential Partnerships	Local development community, especially affordable housing developers. Consider partnering with large local employers to gauge their willingness to contribute.	
Applicable Locations	Countywide.	
Relevant Resources	N/A	

## 7 Expand Community Land Trust Countywide

<b>Primary Goal</b>		<b>Sector</b>
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Preserve Affordability		Non-profits
<b>Housing Barriers Overcome</b>		
Few homeownership opportunities for low-income households, rising home prices locking households out of homeownership and wealth-generating opportunities.		
<b>Description</b>		
This effort would work with the community land trust (CLT) operating on Bainbridge Island (through Housing Resources Bainbridge) to expand the CLT county-wide.		
<p>A model, similar to land banking, where a community organization owns land and provides long-term ground leases to low-income households to purchase the homes on the land, agreeing to purchase prices, resale prices, equity capture, and other terms. This model allows low-income households to become homeowners and capture some equity as the home appreciates, but ensures that the home remains affordable for future homebuyers. CLTs may also lease land to affordable housing developers for the development of rental housing or to develop and manage mixed-income or workforce rental housing. This effort would expand marketing and awareness of existing low-income homebuyer programs as the CLT is established.</p>		
<b>Scalability</b>	CLTs can be scaled at the market level, but would act property-by-property.	<b>Critical Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a near-term opportunity since a CLT already exists to help achieve efficiencies. Groundwork has been done.</li> <li>▪ Next steps are to identify funding, identify lead partner, perform key analysis, and develop a plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analysis needs: how many low-income households could be served, what purchase price would be affordable to those households, how much funding could be raised, and how the home equity gain would be split.</li> <li>○ The plan will need to consider criteria for purchasing a home to be included in the CLT, such as price, condition, size, location, and proximity to transit or other amenities.</li> <li>○ Create a community engagement plan to understand incomes needed and appropriate home equity sharing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ A CLT will not likely face as much political or neighborhood opposition as other types of affordable housing developments.</li> <li>▪ Funding could come from HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program which focuses on stabilizing communities that have struggled with high rates of foreclosure and abandonment.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	High – a CLT has the potential to greatly improve affordability for the households that participate.	
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	Housing Resources Bainbridge and other local nonprofits offering homeownership opportunities.	
<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide.	
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Community Land Trust Network: <a href="http://GroundedSolutions.org">GroundedSolutions.org</a></li> <li>▪ Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition: <a href="http://www.nwcltc.org">www.nwcltc.org</a></li> <li>▪ Washington Association of Land Trusts: <a href="http://WALandTrusts.org">WALandTrusts.org</a></li> </ul>	

## 8 Encourage “Missing Middle” Housing

<b>Primary Goal</b>		<b>Sector</b>
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Increase Housing Supply		Public
<b>Housing Barriers Overcome</b>		
Overcome zoning barriers (illegality) of diverse and dense housing types, increase development feasibility via reduced costs.		
<b>Description</b>		
<p>Encouraging certain types of moderately-dense housing, such as cottage clusters, internal division of larger homes, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units, can help to increase housing supply and choice in appropriate neighborhoods. In theory, these units can be more affordable than other units because they are smaller. This would not guarantee affordability, but would expand opportunities for unregulated housing types that may be lower cost than single family detached housing.</p> <p>Planning for this type of housing often starts with a review of zoning codes and development standards, and adjusting them to legalize this type of housing where appropriate. In many cities, these types of moderately-dense housing are illegal in urban areas zoned for single-family dwellings.</p> <p>Beyond legalizing this type of housing, jurisdictions may also need to remove barriers that effectively prevent them from being developed (even if legal) in appropriate areas. These changes could include any the following concepts, implemented in combination or separately. This is not an exhaustive list, but is meant as a starting point for incremental changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lower impact fee and utility hookup charges for internal conversions if no net-new square footage is added to a property.</li> <li>▪ Allowing property owners to finance impact fees and utility hookup charges, thereby spreading the upfront costs over time.</li> <li>▪ Reduce or waive off-street parking requirements for “missing middle” housing, particularly for internal conversions if no net-new square footage is added to a property.</li> <li>▪ Having pre-approved designs for ADUs or “missing middle” housing types that homeowners can choose from thereby reducing the complexity, time, and cost for development. Consider by-right development standards for ADUs in areas that are already medium density, walkable, and desirable communities.</li> </ul> <p>Beyond removing barriers, jurisdictions can actively encourage this type of housing development via zoning and financial incentives. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Density bonuses for new construction of a “missing middle” property type.</li> <li>▪ Streamlined or prioritized permit and design review for “missing middle” properties in high-opportunity areas.</li> </ul>		
<b>Scalability</b>	These changes can be scaled and implemented at the neighborhood level.	<b>Critical Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a medium term opportunity since it would require zoning updates and approval.</li> <li>▪ Identify the zones seeing change, the types of units allowed, the size, scale, and development standards of those units.</li> <li>▪ HB1923 sets out example zoning changes, parameters, goals, and also protection from legal appeals for communities that change zoning designation in favor of higher density housing.</li> <li>▪ A public engagement plan to reduce fears about neighborhood change, upzoning, and density would be helpful to reduce political or neighborhood opposition. This should include conversations on how added density can be designed to blend into communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	Medium – legalizing middle housing can increase the supply of housing but does not guarantee affordability.	
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	N/A	
<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide.	
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Portland Residential Infill Project: <a href="http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/67730">www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/67730</a></li> <li>▪ Beaverton Housing Options Project: <a href="http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/2197/Housing-Options-Project">www.beavertonoregon.gov/2197/Housing-Options-Project</a></li> </ul>	

- Seattle Neighborhoods For All: [www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattlePlanningCommission/SPCNneighborhoodsForAll-ExecSummary.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattlePlanningCommission/SPCNneighborhoodsForAll-ExecSummary.pdf)
  - Seattle ADU By-Right Development: [www.sightline.org/2019/07/01/seattle-approves-best-backyard-cottages-rules-united-states/](http://www.sightline.org/2019/07/01/seattle-approves-best-backyard-cottages-rules-united-states/)
  - Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Density Catalog [www.hcccpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Density-Catalog-CD.pdf](http://www.hcccpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Density-Catalog-CD.pdf)
  - Missing Middle Housing: [missingmiddlehousing.com/](http://missingmiddlehousing.com/)
- Analysis needs include: development costs, the number of units likely to be developed, the likely potential rents, and the locations where rents make development feasible.

# 9 Review and Revise Land Use and Development Regulations

<b>Primary Goal</b>		<b>Sector</b>
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Increase Housing Supply		Public
<b>Housing Barriers Overcome</b>		
Overcome zoning barriers (illegality) of diverse and dense housing types, increase development feasibility via reduced costs, increase density and walkability.		
<b>Description</b>		
<p>The jurisdictions in Kitsap County should routinely systemically review or audit their major land use and development considerations to see if they present barriers to new residential development or to affordability (by driving up costs). Jurisdictions should work with the development community regularly to understand where and how barriers to development exist. Jurisdictions should work to reduce these barriers and implement cost reduction strategies to maximize the private sector's ability to create housing that is affordable and create a more favorable environment to build housing for all incomes. Priority should be given to barriers preventing regulated affordable development.</p> <p>Factors that should be reviewed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requirements for new multi-family housing along transit lines, near employment centers, or by ferries,</li> <li>▪ Zoning requirements (height, setbacks, density, parking) that add costs, time, or complexity to development,</li> <li>▪ Planning or permitting timelines (which add costs),</li> <li>▪ Density bonus programs such as inclusionary zoning or vertical housing bonuses in appropriate areas (which will require careful study and calibration),</li> <li>▪ The uptake and potential improvements or expansion to the MFTE program, and / or</li> <li>▪ Zoning, permitting, or funding preferences for rent-restricted affordable housing developments.</li> </ul> <p>Jurisdictions in Kitsap County should follow the City of Bremerton's lead in establishing Infill Development Toolkits, and take every effort to reduce review and processing times for housing development. This would allow regulated affordable housing projects to move from design to building permit quicker, thereby reducing carrying and financing costs and delivering affordable units sooner. These steps could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Formally adopting shortened review timelines for affordable housing applications</li> <li>▪ Limiting public comment and appeals for affordable housing projects,</li> <li>▪ Scheduling pre-application conferences, hearings, meetings with staff, and / or</li> <li>▪ Appointing staff or an ombudsman to serve as a liaison for affordable housing projects during the development review process. This would allow regulated affordable housing projects to get more quickly from design to building permit, reducing carrying / financing costs and delivering affordable units sooner.</li> </ul>		
<b>Scalability</b>	Impact would be at the market level.	<b>Critical Considerations</b>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	Medium – land use changes would promote but not guarantee affordability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a medium-term opportunity since it will require multiple stages including review, proposed changes, and / or voting.</li> <li>▪ Immediate steps include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify example projects to be evaluated for the permitting steps,</li> <li>○ Analyze costs, timeline, and challenges required to develop affordable housing.</li> <li>○ Work with development community to identify steps in the process where surprises and unnecessary barriers occur.</li> <li>○ Identify departments and staff who would lead this effort, or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	Local development community, especially affordable housing developers.	
<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide.	

<p><b>Relevant Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oregon City Code Audit: <a href="http://www.orcity.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/11252/codeaudit_publicdraft171017.pdf">www.orcity.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/11252/codeaudit_publicdraft171017.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Smart Growth America Code and Zoning Audit: <a href="http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/app/legacy/documents/zoningaudit.pdf">www.smartgrowthamerica.org/app/legacy/documents/zoningaudit.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meet with affected jurisdictions and outline concerns and procedural barriers as well as how those could be overcome.</li> <li>▪ Consider a public education campaign or plan to demonstrate how much delays in planning costs developers and thus translates into higher prices/rents.</li> <li>▪ HB1923 sets out example zoning changes, parameters, goals, and also protection from legal appeals for communities that change zoning designation in favor of higher density housing.</li> <li>▪ This could face political or neighborhood opposition, depending on findings (e.g., change to zoning, affordable housing site preferences, etc.).</li> <li>▪ The plan could consider a cost-benefit analysis of additional staff.</li> </ul>
----------------------------------	--	---

# 10 Review Up-Zoning Urban Land For Transit-Oriented Development

Primary Goal	Sector
Create More Affordable & Workforce Housing; Increase Housing Supply	Public

**Housing Barriers Overcome**  
Overcome zoning barriers (illegality) of diverse and dense housing types, increase development feasibility via reduced costs, increase density and walkability.

**Description**

Up-zoning appropriate areas to allow multifamily and transit-oriented development could be a meaningful approach for Kitsap’s jurisdictions to increase housing production and meet their future housing needs.

Up-zoning appropriate areas near transit should be reviewed during the next round of comprehensive plan updates. As the region continues to grow, it will need to accommodate new residents and will need significant new housing. Allowing more housing near transit can help meet these goals while simultaneously easing many other issues like cost burdening, traffic congestion, and emissions. Jurisdictions should also work to ensure that infrastructure investments are made to accommodate more and denser housing types. Understandably, the ability to up-zone land near the transit hubs will vary according to each jurisdiction, neighborhood density, and transit type. This type of up-zoning will look different across the county.

Because land prices are higher near transit hubs (including ferries), up-zoning these areas will not create new multifamily units affordable to Kitsap’s lowest-income households (those earning under 30% MFI). However, increasing the overall supply of housing can help to relieve the price pressure on the market stemming from growing demand. With the right combination of development incentives, tax exemptions, and financial support it could be possible to provide workforce housing (affordable to middle-income earners) or a few units of regulated affordable housing. Providing many units of regulated affordable housing would require meaningful development incentives and or government rental subsidies.

**Land Near Ferries**

Recognizing that Kitsap’s ferries offer unparalleled access to economic, educational, and job opportunities throughout Puget Sound, jurisdictions should consider up-zoning the land within one mile of ferry terminals (walking distance) to encourage multifamily housing and regulated affordable housing. Doing so could greatly expand access to opportunity by allowing more people (in denser housing) to live near ferries, and could boost economic opportunities for lower-income households.

Currently, the vast majority of housing within one mile of ferry terminals is single-family, which is the opposite of transit-oriented development (TOD) planning, and especially *equitable* transit-oriented development (eTOD) planning. Because renters are most often lower income than homeowners, current zoning results in higher barriers to economic, education, and job opportunities throughout Puget Sound.

**Land Near Transit Hubs**

In addition, land near transit hubs, park-and-rides, and high-occupancy buses should also be reviewed for up-zoning potential. Developing more housing near these areas can allow Kitsap residents to access jobs throughout the county without the burden of paying for gas and parking, or spending hours in the car.

<b>Scalability</b>	Changes should be scaled and tailored to each neighborhood.	<b>Critical Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is a medium term opportunity since it would require zoning updates and approval.</li> <li>▪ Groundwork associated with examining the current zoning and where there are opportunities for up-zoning should be done before the next comprehensive plan update.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Affordability Impact</b>	Low – up-zoning has the potential to greatly increase density and supply, with small effects on affordability. Doing so near transit increases walkability.	



<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	Jurisdictions with ferry service, Kitsap Transit, state and federal transit agencies, local development community, affordable housing developers, and nearby residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussions would be needed around the neighborhoods seeing change, the new size and scale development, parking, setback and other design standards, and potential transit ridership.</li> <li>▪ Analysis needs include: the cost of infrastructure, population forecasts for cities with ferry terminals, the number of units needed and the potential rents, and the environmental benefits associated with TOD.</li> <li>▪ This will likely face neighborhood opposition and will thus require a robust community outreach plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Applicable Locations</b>	Countywide, focus on Kingston, and Southworth.	
<b>Relevant Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Puget Sound Regional Council TOD Guidelines: <a href="http://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/transit_oriented_development.pdf">www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/transit_oriented_development.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Puget Sound Regional Council Growing Transit Communities Strategy: <a href="http://www.psrc.org/growing-transit-communities">www.psrc.org/growing-transit-communities</a></li> <li>▪ Poverty &amp; Race Research Action Council eTOD: <a href="http://prrac.org/pdf/EquitableTOD.pdf">prrac.org/pdf/EquitableTOD.pdf</a></li> </ul>	

## Additional Recommendations

An additional 33 recommendations are listed below that did not rise to the same priority level as the 10 recommendations listed above. However, these strategies can be included as part of the City’s and County’s toolbox when working toward affordable housing solutions. Each recommendation would need to be implemented in an area, neighborhood, or urban place that is appropriate for the action being suggested.

These recommendations are grouped toward the three goals (help people stay in affordable housing, encourage development of more affordable housing, and expand housing options and grow housing supply to address existing shortages and future growth) and are arranged according to the ease of implementation:

1. **Expand or Enhance Current Programs.** These actions are listed first as they expand or enhance programs and efforts that are already being done to encourage housing supply and affordability. Aside from finding more funding (when needed), the implementation of these actions might
2. **New, Straightforward Recommendations.** These actions are listed second, given that the City and County could reasonable achieve them without major staff, funding, or political obstacles to overcome. However, they will take more planning and effort than the actions listed in Group 1.
3. **New, Complex Recommendations.** These are actions that would require substantially more effort, staff, or funding, or that would require overcoming major obstacles from political will or neighborhood opposition.

1) Expand or Enhance Current Programs	
<b>A) Help People Stay in Affordable Housing</b>	
1	Expand marketing and awareness of existing assistance programs and services.
2	Expand rehabilitation, repair, and weatherization programs for existing, unsubsidized affordable housing in exchange for affordability restrictions.
3	Work with public and private sector partners to expand utility assistance programs offered via Kitsap Community Resources’ Utility Assistance program.
4	Consider rate relief, utility tax relief, and property tax relief programs for income-eligible residents.
5	Work with developers building multi-family housing in transit-rich areas to provide transit passes in conjunction with the reduced fare Kitsap Transit ORCA card.
6	Expand resources to improve the livability of existing owner-occupied homes and mobile homes through Housing Kitsap’s Home Rehabilitation Program.
<b>B) Encourage Development of More Affordable Housing</b>	
7	Advocate for changes or expansion to state legislation that would bring more affordable housing units or funding to Kitsap County.
8	Expand Bremerton’s Abandoned Property registration which details vacant homes, ownership, and contact information of the responsible party, and requires that properties be properly maintained by the owners, lenders or other responsible persons.
9	Establish relationships with nonprofit and affordable housing developers around the region who are not yet building in Kitsap County.
10	Formalize and enhance existing relationships with affordable housing providers. Increase communication and data sharing to unlock potential solutions.

- 11 Work with affordable housing partners and developers to explore innovative, low-cost opportunities to serve persons exiting homelessness.
  - 12 Identify sources and expand assistance for predevelopment, gap financing, or operating subsidies for affordable housing.
  - 13 Identify and expand funding for services for permanent supportive housing.
- C) Expand Housing Options and Grow Housing Supply to Address Existing Shortages and Future Growth**
- 14 Coordinate future planning within UGAs for annexation into the City of Bremerton.

## 2) New Straightforward Actions

- A) Help People Stay in Affordable Housing**
- 15 Consider requiring energy efficiency in the design and construction of regulated affordable properties to reduce energy and utility costs for residents by including these elements as design criteria in county-funded grants or loans.
  - 16 Consider working with developers to subsidize transit passes for income-eligible populations, in exchange for reduced parking at a new development that is located in an area well-served by transit.
  - 17 Explore the feasibility of creating a rental licensing and inspection program to monitor habitability standards, track inventories, and monitor potential multi-family property sales for preservation opportunities. Program should maintain tenant confidentiality of complaints to avoid retaliation.
  - 18 Consider establishing good landlord incentives, such as landlord training programs, crime reduction programs, and financial incentives (e.g. exemptions from fees). Consider use in conjunction with rental registration or inspection programs.

**B) Encourage Development of More Affordable Housing**

- 19 Consider a risk mitigation pool offering landlords damage insurance in exchange for renting to low-income households.
- 20 Work with developers to understand opportunities to include affordable housing units in developments occurring in Opportunity Zones or Enterprise Zones. Advocate for or implement changes to these programs to enhance their effectiveness.
- 21 Consider Community Revitalization Financing to create tax increment areas and reinvest in neighborhoods with increased private investment and market pressure. Dedicate areas that have planned or existing high-capacity transit.
- 22 Explore innovative development models and build relationships with developers who create low- to moderate-income housing without highly competitive federal subsidies.

**C) Expand Housing Options and Grow Housing Supply to Address Existing Shortages and Future Growth**

- 23 Explore SEPA categorical exemptions and flexible exemptions for small and medium scale multi-family housing that can help a jurisdiction accommodate its needs. "Flexible thresholds" must be designated through ordinance or resolution by the city or county.
- 24 Advocate for amendments to state condominium statutes to rekindle interest in condominium development.
- 25 Establish incentives for the development or conversion of cooperative housing models.
- 26 Consider an adaptive reuse ordinance encouraging smaller scale multifamily housing, workforce housing, or live-work housing in vacant retail storefronts.
- 27 Consider code or zoning changes that allow for low-cost development opportunities to serve persons exiting homelessness.
- 28 Establish Vertical Housing Development Zones/Overlays in areas along transit or near ferries to encourage higher density or mixed-use housing.

## 3) New Complex Actions

**B) Encourage Development of More Affordable Housing**

- 29 Consider a pilot program offering incentives in the development of ADUs (grants, fee waivers, etc.) in exchange for renting to homeless or low-income households.
- 30 Create partnerships with large private employers, financial institutions, philanthropy, or others to fund affordable housing.
- 31 Evaluate a tax on vacant homes, or vacation rentals to fund affordable housing.

**C) Expand Housing Options and Grow Housing Supply to Address Existing Shortages and Future Growth**

- 32 Advocate to the Federal Government for more military housing development or parking in urban areas near military bases.
- 33 Consider establishing a design or development competition for specific parcel that needs a creative solution for smaller scale multifamily, and pair it with development incentives, publicity, or funding.

# III. Implementation

The recommendations profiled in the action sheets in Part II offer some implementation steps and critical considerations needed to move forward. Recommendations were considered near-term if substantial progress can be made in one year, and were prioritized as medium-term if substantial progress would take 2-3 years.

Because these recommendations are aimed at larger scale improvements in housing supply, affordable development, and overall affordability (as shown in Exhibit 7 on the following pages), the majority of them are medium term actions. Larger changes such as these require more participation, ongoing community engagement, and thus take longer to achieve.

**Exhibit 6. Near and Medium Term Recommendations and Immediate Steps**

Recommendation	Public	Non-Profit	Private	Immediate Steps
1. Create a Preservation & Anti-Discrimination Strategy	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a community engagement plan</li> <li>▪ Seek out funding</li> <li>▪ Identify departments to manage, monitor preservation database</li> </ul>
2. Update Comprehensive Land Strategy	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss at KRCC with affected/participating jurisdictions and departments</li> <li>▪ Identify barriers to participation and how to overcome them</li> <li>▪ Seek out funding</li> <li>▪ Match infrastructure needs to planned capital improvement projects</li> </ul>
3. Create a Revolving Loan Fund	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Committing and training staff on how to stand up a fund and guide the capital campaign</li> <li>▪ Gauge early interest with banks, CDFIs, foundations, or other likely participants</li> <li>▪ Seek funding</li> <li>▪ Meet with developers to understand what loan products can unlock development</li> </ul>
4. Create a Real Estate Investment Fund		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Start discussions with real estate investors to gauge interest and feasibility</li> <li>▪ Discuss roles City and County can play</li> <li>▪ Analyze needed capital to achieve scale</li> <li>▪ Understand how many properties (and what size) could be investments</li> </ul>
5. Establish Additional Affordable Housing Funding Sources	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish coalition of supporters</li> <li>▪ Create staffing and funding plan to lead a campaign</li> <li>▪ Early analysis to understand needed revenue and potential uses</li> <li>▪ Early polling to understand appetite for taxes, rates and certain uses with the public.</li> </ul>

Recommendation	Public	Non-Profit	Private	Immediate Steps
6. Pool Existing Resources	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Internal discussions to understand how much funding could be pooled</li> <li>▪ Research into why past applications were uncompetitive, including discussions developers and state agencies / funders</li> <li>▪ Research and analysis into whether funders would allow this pooling, and if appeals could be made,</li> <li>▪ Discuss which departments would manage and deploy the funding, how to ensure different goals are met</li> </ul>
7. Expand Community Land Trust		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify funding sources and needs</li> <li>▪ Identify lead partnership and ways to scale</li> <li>▪ Create a community engagement plan</li> <li>▪ Establish criteria for participation, property acquisition</li> </ul>
8. Encourage “Missing Middle” Housing	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a community engagement plan</li> <li>▪ Identify the zones seeing change, the types of units allowed, the size, scale, and development standards of those units</li> </ul>
9. Review and Revise Land Use Barriers	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify example projects to be evaluated for the permitting steps and places where surprises and unnecessary barriers occur</li> <li>▪ Analyze costs, timeline, and challenges required to develop affordable housing</li> <li>▪ Identify departments and staff who would lead this effort, or</li> <li>▪ Get on the agenda and pursue this as a collaborative process via KRCC meetings.</li> <li>▪ Meet with affected jurisdictions and outline concerns and procedural barriers as well as how those could be overcome</li> </ul>
10. Review Up-Zoning Urban Land For Multifamily Housing	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a community engagement plan</li> <li>▪ Identify neighborhoods to see change, new size and scale of development, parking, setback and other design standards,</li> <li>▪ Analyze potential transit ridership increases</li> <li>▪ Analyze infrastructure costs, population forecasts for cities with ferry terminals, the number of units needed and the potential rents, and the environmental benefits associated with TOD.</li> </ul>

Exhibit 7 summarizes the potential scale and potential impact to affordability that each of the 10 priority recommendations could achieve. The table below is a legend for Exhibit 7: the shading of green, yellow, and orange to indicate the greatest impact and achievability.

	Potential Scale		Potential Impact on Affordability
Market	Impacts the greatest number of households	High	Greatly reduces costs or improves/extends affordability
Neighborhood	Impacts fewer households, but still has good scale across a community	Medium	Has a moderate effect on affordability
Property	Impacts only those households living in the property affected.	Low	Has a very low effect on affordability (impact is due to effects of market supply on overall prices)

**Exhibit 7. Potential Scale and Impact on Affordability**

Recommendation	Potential Scale	Potential Impact on Affordability
1. Create a Preservation & Anti-Discrimination Strategy	Market	High
2. Update Comprehensive Land Strategy	Market	High
3. Create a Revolving Loan Fund	Property	High
4. Create a Real Estate Investment Fund	Property	Medium
5. Establish Additional Affordable Housing Funding Sources	Property	High
6. Pool Existing Resources	Property	High
7. Expand Community Land Trust	Property	High
8. Encourage “Missing Middle” Housing	Neighborhood	Medium
9. Review and Revise Land Use Barriers	Market	Medium
10. Review Up-Zoning Urban Land For Multifamily Housing	Neighborhood	Low

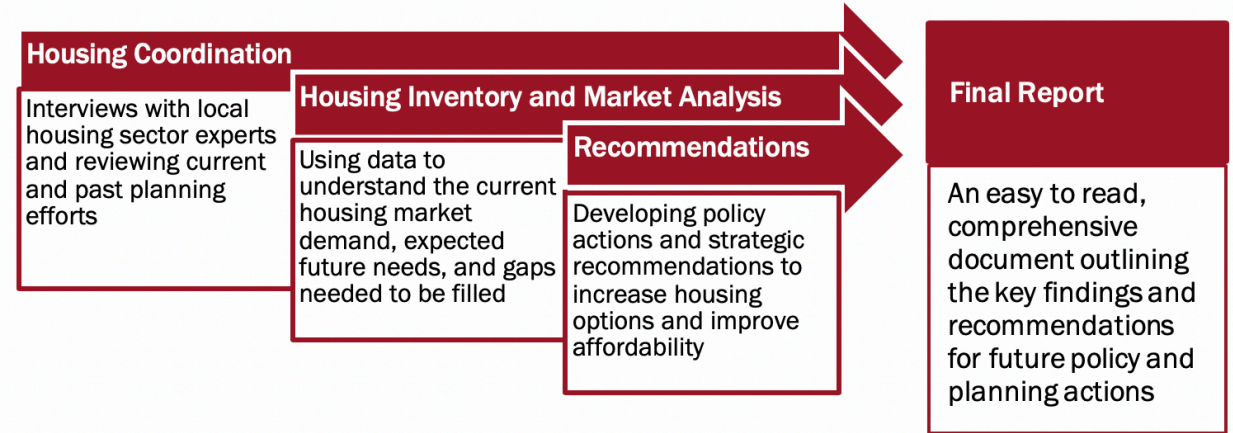
The City of Bremerton and Kitsap County can further prioritize those recommendations that have high impacts on affordability and work at the market level thereby impacting many households.

# IV. Methods & Data Summary

## Methods

To prepare this recommendations report and the technical appendices that support the strategies, ECONorthwest took the following approach:

- July-September 2019: interviews and survey of housing information in key planning documents (Appendix A: Housing Landscape)
- September-December 2019: Created the housing inventory and performed the housing needs analysis (Appendix B: Housing Inventory, and Appendix C: Housing Needs Analysis).
- November-December 2019: Created recommendations based on the key findings from the prior steps
- December 2019-January 2020: Created recommendations report



## Data Summary

This analysis uses data from multiple sources, focusing on those that are well-recognized and reliable. One of the key sources for housing and household data is the U.S. Census. This memorandum primarily uses data from two Census sources:

- The **Decennial Census**, which is completed every ten years and is a survey of all households in the U.S. The Decennial Census is considered the best available data for information such as demographics (e.g., number of people, age distribution, or ethnic or racial composition), household characteristics (e.g., household size and composition), and housing occupancy characteristics. As of 2010, the Decennial Census does not collect more detailed household information, such as income, housing costs, housing characteristics, and other important household information. Decennial Census data is available for 2000 and 2010.

- The **American Community Survey (ACS)**, which is completed every year and is a *sample* of households in the U.S. From 2013 to 2017, the ACS sampled an average of 3.5 million households per year, or about 2.9% of the households in the nation. The ACS collects detailed information about households, including demographics (e.g., number of people, age distribution, ethnic or racial composition, country of origin, language spoken at home, and educational attainment), household characteristics (e.g., household size and composition), housing characteristics (e.g., type of housing unit, year unit built, or number of bedrooms), housing costs (e.g., rent, mortgage, utility, and insurance), housing value, income, and other characteristics.
- **Kitsap County Assessor**, which provides descriptive data on the housing stock in the County as well as recent sales data.
- **Kitsap Economic Development Alliance**, which provides data and insights on Kitsap County’s workforce, such as the County’s largest employers.
- **Permits**, provide the active building permits within the last 5 years for each jurisdiction in Kitsap County including: Kitsap County Department of Community Development; Bainbridge Island Building Department; Bremerton Department of Community Development; Poulsbo Building Department; Port Orchard Department of Community Development.
- **Housing Kitsap and the Bremerton Housing Authority**, which provides data on the housing stock and rental prices for publicly subsidized housing in the County.
- **Washington State Housing Finance Commission**, which is the state agency responsible for funding and monitoring Washington’s regulated affordable housing stock. The Commission provided data through a public information request, detailing past and current regulated affordable housing properties that had received low-income housing tax credit financing from the Commission.
- The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) **Origin Destination Employment Statistics (LODES)**, which we access via the Census’s mapping tool, OnTheMap, is a dataset that shows where workers are employed and where those workers also live.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)**, which provides employment and average annual pay estimates of covered jobs, and their **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**, which provides monthly unemployment and labor force statistics for states, metropolitan areas, counties, and cities 25,000 persons or larger.
- The **Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM)**, which provides research and data related to Washington state’s demographics, economy, labor force, population projections, and more.
- **Zillow**, which provides economic data such as median home sale prices, monthly home sales, rent indices, and many other statistics for the U.S., metropolitan areas, as well as populous counties and cities.



- **CoStar**, which provides data on multi-family units development over years.
- **PSRC**, which provided data for 1) Affordable Housing Units managed in the Puget Sound Metro and 2) completed building permits up to 2017.

This memorandum uses data from the 2013-2017 ACS for Kitsap County. Where information is available and relevant, we report information from the 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census. Among other data points, this memorandum includes population, income, and housing price data from the Washington Office of Financial Management, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Zillow.

It is worth commenting on the methods used for the American Community Survey.<sup>5</sup> The American Community Survey (ACS) is a national survey that uses continuous measurement methods. It uses a sample of about 3.54 million households to produce annually updated estimates for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample. It is also important to keep in mind that all ACS data are estimates that are subject to sample variability. This variability is referred to as “sampling error” and is expressed as a band or “margin of error” (MOE) around the estimate.

This memorandum uses Census and ACS data because, despite the inherent methodological limits, they represent the most thorough and accurate data available to assess housing needs. We consider these limitations in making interpretations of the data and have strived not to draw conclusions beyond the quality of the data.

The foundation of the housing needs analysis is the population forecast for Kitsap from the OFM forecasting and research. Vacancy rate and household size come from the American Community Survey (ACS).

## Assumptions/Caveats

- **HUD Median Family Income & adjusting for household size.** In several exhibits we look at the share of housing units affordable to different MFI levels that are occupied by renter households in those MFI levels. A limit to this method is that we are not able to adjust the data to account for household size. The HUD MFI is designated for a family of four. Clearly, not all households in Kitsap County are families of four, and not all units are appropriately sized for a family of four. In addition, HUD income limits are adjusted for household size, and the rents that would be affordable would thus vary by household size. In these ways, this matching exercise is rough and theoretical.
- **U.S. Census Bureau ACS Public Use MicroSample (PUMS).** PUMS are microdata, or person-level responses to the ACS questionnaire. Each record (or row) describes one person’s responses to the questionnaire and these are numerically codified for statistical analysis. Every individual is assigned a statistical weight, which indicates how many

---

<sup>5</sup> A thorough description of the ACS can be found in the Census Bureau’s publication “What Local Governments Need to Know.” <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2009/acs/state-and-local.html>

persons in the population are represented by the sampled response. We make use of these weights to create accurate estimates of populations and their characteristics in Kitsap County.

- **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).** It's important to note that QCEW data are limited to workers that are covered by State Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws and the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE). This means that QCEW data do not account for every job worked. Important employment exclusions include proprietors, self-employed workers, the majority of agricultural workers on small farms, railroad employees, unpaid family workers, some domestic workers, and some state and local government workers.
- The Census Bureau's **OnTheMap** tool uses data from several sources, including Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and the QCEW. It's important to note that OnTheMap is a synthetic dataset, meaning statistical noise is injected into the original dataset to protect employer confidentiality. This is worth noting because it explains, in part, why employment numbers provided in the OnTheMap tool do not line up exactly with QCEW employment estimates.

## V. Appendices

---

The following technical appendices provide critical supporting information, data, and analysis and accompany this analysis. The technical appendices can be found online at [www.KitsapGov.com](http://www.KitsapGov.com) or at [www.BremertonWa.gov](http://www.BremertonWa.gov).

- A. **Housing Landscape Overview** describes the housing landscape, partnerships, and planning environment in Kitsap County and its jurisdictions. The purpose of this appendix is to set a contextual foundation to better understand the remaining appendices and final report. This appendix relies on interviews with local housing providers, key public sector staff, and the planning documents that govern housing and development in the region. This assessment primarily focuses on the opportunities and barriers for development that is not occurring in the County. As the development market for single-family homes is strong in Kitsap County, this type of housing was not the focus of our research.
- B. **Housing Inventory** evaluates the current housing inventory, offering a detailed look at the housing in Kitsap County and its jurisdictions, segmented by type, location, price, tenure, and size, among other characteristics. This inventory evaluates the following aspects of housing in Kitsap County:
  - i) Physical Characteristics of Housing
  - ii) Housing Tenure Characteristics
  - iii) Housing Costs
  - iv) Housing Affordability
  - v) Access to Transit and Employment Centers
  - vi) Recent Supply Trends
- C. **Housing Needs Analysis** provides a needs assessment for housing in Kitsap County and its major jurisdictions by examining the drivers of housing supply, drivers of housing demand, gaps in housing supply, and the future needs for housing of all types and price points across the county over the next 17 years.



September 2022

## Kitsap County's response and strategies to homelessness and the housing crisis

Kitsap County's ongoing efforts to address a growing homeless and housing crisis, including challenging issues with unauthorized encampments on public property, focuses on a comprehensive response. County Commissioners and staff have developed a strategy leveraging community partnerships; the investment of local, state and federal funds; data gathering and reporting; and coordination of mental health, substance-abuse and employment services. The goal is to support a housing crisis response system that makes homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

### **Homeless encampment clean-up and prevention**

**Encampment Response Policy** – In December 2021, County Commissioners approved a new Encampment Response Policy, outlining specific steps and coordination to govern the County's approach to addressing encampments. It specifically directs County departments, other public agencies, and community non-profit social service providers how to coordinate efforts in responding to encampments while adhering to current legal requirements.

**HEART Coordinator** – In April of 2022 the County hired a Homeless Encampment Action & Response Team (HEART) Coordinator, a new full-time position dedicated specifically to encampment response and responsible for implementing the response policy, coordinating groups and resources, and directing clean-up efforts.

**Encampment outreach team** – The County is contracting with the Housing Solutions Center through Kitsap Community Resources for an additional two-person encampment outreach team to work closely with the HEART Coordinator, providing consistent and timely outreach to people living in encampments and other outdoor locations. The outreach team will focus on connecting people with shelter referrals, housing programs, and other resources.

**Increased shelter beds** – Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the County has continually supported an additional 150 emergency shelter beds, operated by the Kitsap Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army. This increased shelter bed capacity has provided more than 750 individuals with shelter during the pandemic. Funding to keep beds operational will continue through the end of 2023 to provide accommodations as people are moved out of encampments and off the streets.

**Hotel voucher program** – The County is contracting with Kitsap Community Resources for a new hotel voucher program to expand the number of alternatives to immediately house people currently living outdoors who can't be accommodated with the limited shelter beds available. The program will include intensive case management and support services to assist people in moving from these brief hotel stays to permanent housing. The County also designated an additional \$2 million for rental and deposit assistance towards this effort.

**Mile Hill temporary housing program** – After purchasing a large building on Mile Hill Drive in South Kitsap, the County is working on renovations and expects to open the facility by 2023. The new shelter

will provide 75 beds for 24/7 temporary housing with supportive services on-site for people staying in the housing program. Kitsap Rescue Mission will operate the site through a contract with the County. Services offered are anticipated to include meals, laundry, showers, mental health appointments, substance abuse treatment referrals, medical appointments, employment assistance, and connections with benefits.

**Permanent supportive housing** – Recognizing that many people who are currently living in encampments need long-term housing assistance and permanent supportive services, the County (and many other funders and social service partners) is supporting Pendleton Place, a new 72-unit housing complex targeted to people with severe and persistent mental health and substance-use disorders that might otherwise be experiencing homelessness.

**Job placement and development** – Job development, training and placement through Olympic Workforce Development One Stop centers.

**Veterans Park restoration** – March 5-7. Partnering with the non-profit group Northwest Hospitality, 36 volunteers collected 35,000 pounds of trash and debris. The County hired a clean-up and hauling company, Layland Construction, to supplement the volunteer work and haul away the waste. Layland Construction is experienced in cleaning up homeless encampments and has worked with Pierce County, the state Department of Transportation, and BNSF Railway on similar efforts. The company brought in a 10-person crew to complete the park restoration.

An integrated effort with Kitsap County Parks, the Public Works Solid Waste Division and the Department of Human Services to restore the 48-acre Kitsap County Veterans Memorial Park took place in March and April 2022. A Notice to Vacate posting was posted in March with a deadline of April 29, 2022 following the guidance in the Encampment Response Policy. People living in the park were offered alternatives such as shelters, hotel rooms, inpatient treatment, and transportation. The last person moved out of the park on April 30 and the HEART Coordinator continues to make weekly stops at the park to check for people that have moved back in and to let them know there is no camping allowed and to offer alternatives and services.

In total, 300 Northwest Hospitality volunteers have contributed close to 1,000 hours and cleared out over 56,000 pounds of trash at the park and a smaller team of 23 volunteers has put in 130 hours, gathering over 27,000 pounds of trash during weekly maintenance events that began in November 2021.

### **Responding to Kitsap's housing crisis**

- **Homelessness in Kitsap County** – A Point-In-Time Count of people living homeless during a 24-hour period in February 2022 identified 563 people living without homes and local school districts reported 414 homeless children during the 2020-2021 school year. The County recognizes that in recent years the numbers of those living without homes has climbed due to multiple factors including the increased cost of housing, stagnant wages, a lack of affordable and available housing, and barriers that make it difficult for those who are displaced from housing to find new places to live.

The average rent has increased 40 percent in the last five years while at the same time, vacancy rates have dropped. The most common cause of homelessness was identified as eviction, health issues, and loss of job or the inability to work.

- **Preventing homelessness** – Kitsap County’s housing crisis response is coordinated to increase housing stability by providing eviction prevention through rental and utility assistance, creating more temporary housing and lowering barriers for people to move into permanent, affordable, supportive housing.

Helping people stay in their homes is a vital part of Kitsap County’s strategy. During the pandemic, the [Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance Program](#) distributed \$24.4 million to help keep people in their homes and an additional \$30 million is allocated through September 2023. From September 2020 through July 2022, nearly 3,328 households were served with an average distribution of \$7,352 in rental assistance and utilities assistance per household.

- **Increasing affordable housing inventory** – With the new affordable housing 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent sales tax Commissioners approved in January, the County can provide significant funding for the construction and acquisition of housing to support families and individuals whose income is below 60 percent of the area median income. This can also be used to leverage additional funding from state and federal governments. Collection of the tax begins April 1, 2022.

To learn more about housing and homelessness and Kitsap County’s programs and partners or to find out how you can help those living homeless, visit the Housing and Homelessness Division website [here](#). Read the 2020 Housing and Homelessness Division Report [here](#).

To volunteer with Northwest Hospitality work parties and their other homeless support efforts, visit [nwhospitality.org](http://nwhospitality.org).

**Published for**  
**August 23**  
**Council Study Session**  
**A5 – Public Comments**

**From:** Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 7:09 PM  
**To:** Glen Henrickson [lewischapel.1909@gmail.com](mailto:lewischapel.1909@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Gunnar Fridriksson [Gunnar.Fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Gunnar.Fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us); City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Steven Forbragd [Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Rodney Rauback [Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Aaron Elton [Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mike Davis [Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Tom Wolfe [Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Public Works & Utilities Customer Response [bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Hillary Hamilton [Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Thomas Knuckey [Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Ned Lever [Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Dave Carter [Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Brett Jette [Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mychael Raya [Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Jennifer Hayes [Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** RE: Klitsap Way culvert campers

Good evening Chris,

I just wanted to take a moment to let you know that I am tracking your email correspondence with Public Works and to provide some insight into your last question about homelessness. The city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9th Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. The actions you do see taken by police and public works are those permitted by law. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Glen Henrickson <[lewischapel.1909@gmail.com](mailto:lewischapel.1909@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:23 PM  
**To:** Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Gunnar Fridriksson <[Gunnar.Fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Gunnar.Fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Klitsap Way culvert campers

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Customer Response Associate,

Today I had the opportunity to walk around the area of Forest Lawn Cemetery that rests next to the Kitsap Way culvert. There was no activity; however, I took notice of the massive amount of trash that has accumulated. The photo I took of this is attached.



Definitely an interesting time in our area of the city and I do not envy the position the City of Bremerton finds itself in. I've worked 23 years in our family business, 22 years of which, as its president. It is unfortunate to see a city that has worked so hard to rejuvenate, to draw people to live and/or visit, be dragged down.

I did not agree with the forced installation of this culvert, and feel it is sad our city had to raise money to pay for a project to service a seasonal run-off stream. But now we are here. When Gunnar first reached out to me about the culvert work, and I had a chance to see the size and scope of work, I immediately knew there would be an issue with homeless dwellers. Time to choose.....homeless or environment?

It is my hope that the trash will be removed to the dump immediately. Real or fake cameras need to be installed and signage posted that the Bremerton Police will be actively monitoring the area. I know Gunnar mentioned posting signage, but I did not see this on my side of Kitsap Way. Please note, that I will always welcome our Bremerton Police to park at Forest Lawn Cemetery or Lewis Funeral Chapel to assist them with enforcement.

The current situation at the Kitsap culvert now begs the question, what can the city do to move homeless out of the city? I went banking at the Kitsap Bank on 6th and Warren this week and there is now a row of tents on the side street running behind the bank and in a residential area. Not a good look!

As always, thank you for your prompt attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Glen C. "Chris" Henrickson  
President  
Lewis Funeral Chapel & Forest Lawn Cemetery  
The Stone Chapel Poulsbo Mortuary &  
Cherry Grove Memorial Park

---

On Wed, Aug 2, 2023 at 7:30 AM Gunnar Fridriksson <[Gunnar.Fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Gunnar.Fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Morning Chris-

We have had your neighbor across the street contact us about some campers that are using the culvert. Just to let you know, we are signing the area for no trespassing and having our police department enforce. Camping here is a safety concern as well as an environmental one. We will also be signing the east side of Kitsap Way from the culvert up to the Baymont for 8-hour parking.

If you are seeing issues on your side of the culvert with campers or vehicles in City ROW – would you please let us know. You can email our customer response staff at [bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us). They will contact BPD and/or Impark depending on what you are seeing.

Thanks, g.

**Gunnar  
Fridriksson**  
Managing Engineer



345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Bremerton WA 98337-1891

📞 360-473-5758

✉ [gunnar.fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:gunnar.fridriksson@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

🌐 [www.bremertonwa.gov](http://www.bremertonwa.gov)

**From:** [Greg Wheeler](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**To:** [<rwat1964@gmail.com>](mailto:rwat1964@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Steven Forbragd](#); [Rodney Rauback](#); [Aaron Elton](#); [Mike Davis](#); [Tom Wolfe](#); [Public Works & Utilities Customer Response](#); [Hillary Hamilton](#); [Thomas Knuckey](#); [Ned Lever](#); [Dave Carter](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Brett Jette](#); [Mychael Raya](#); [Jennifer Hayes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless camp on MLK and next to Burger King  
**Date:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:24:03 PM

---

Good evening Ricky,

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. Please continue to call 911 when individuals trespass and vandalize your property. Regarding the camping you are seeing, the city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9th Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information. One note I would like to share regarding your concern over winter months and homelessness, the Salvation Army will reopen their cold weather shelter November 1<sup>st</sup>. Take care Ricky, I hope you are able to have a peaceful evening.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** <rwat1964@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:49 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Homeless camp on MLK and next to Burger King

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler

I live on 5<sup>th</sup> street, not far from Wheaton Way. I have had several transients come onto my property and use the water faucets to take a bath/shower. They leave garbage in my yard, ignore the fact that I have children in my home, use foul language, even use the bathroom in my yard. This

is getting very bad and the police will not do anything about it. I have security camera's in my yard, a fence in the my front yard and I plan on putting one up in my backyard as soon as I have the resources to. Recently, I put locks on my outside water speakets. This only upset them, I guess, because they still urinate on the wall of my home. My outside camera's have even picked them up trying to open doors on cars parked on the street. This has gotten worse the past few months and, with fall/winter approaching, it can't get much better. I have even put up no trespassing signs but that doesn't deter them at all. MLK smells bad and is very unsafe. When the kids and I take our dog out for a walk, we avoid that area but still see a lot of people with boxes in front of buildings. Something needs to be done to protect everyone. I know this is a very sensitive subject, but the people that bought houses near this are the one's that have to take extra precautions to protect their family and property. The homeless tents just outside of the Burger King on Wheaton Way is nothing but an accident to happen. Please, can you look into this and see what else can be done? Downtown Bremerton has a lot of beauty to it that is being brought back down.

Thanks

Ricky Watkins  
1014 5<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
360-286-9438

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** Anita Quinn <[blingslinger@comcast.net](mailto:blingslinger@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 12, 2023 7:04 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Encampment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Mayor Wheeler,

This encampment has been there for a couple of weeks (at least). It is located on the east side of the Warren Ave bridge between the bridge and the Parks department. Please let me know what the plan is for this issue.

Thank you, Anita Quinn

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Anthony Soapguy <[anthonythesoapguy@gmail.com](mailto:anthonythesoapguy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless

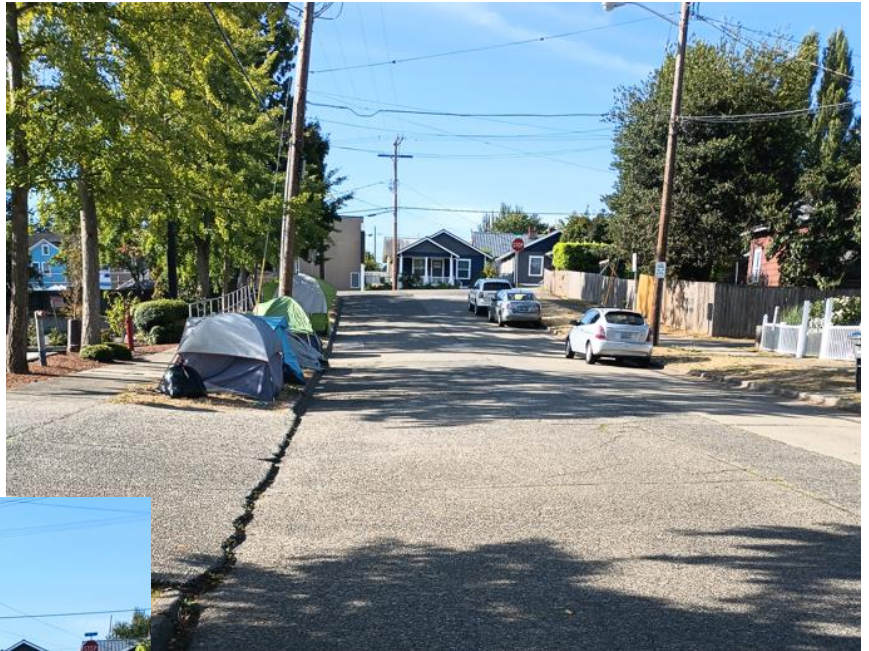
**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing you this message because seriously enough is enough. There are now 12 tents and 1 portable outhouse on Broadway between 6th Street and 8th Street. I know you probably have lots of people messaging you and I thought I would have a little grace and see if some fruit came forth. I do know one thing I was taught in every area of life "TALK IS CHEAP" you need to take action, no more excuses, no more we are working on it. If this problem is not handled soon I will be going to the newspaper and posting on Facebook and talking to bloggers and anyone else who will listen . I was hoping to raise my family here but all I want to do now is move..Do not contact me with another excuse. I want action not words.

On Wed, Jul 19, 2023, 2:29 PM Anthony Soapguy <[anthonythesoapguy@gmail.com](mailto:anthonythesoapguy@gmail.com)> wrote:  
I have been doing some research and it is perfectly legal for you to ask a homeless person to vacate a location. There are multiple options. The fact that they are in the vicinity of not one but two businesses. There are squatting laws also which the city can enforce. There is also a health risk and sanitation requirements One of those requirements is running water and electricity and there is at times feces on the sidewalks. I will not even let my nine year old sister play outside and that is simply not fair to me or her.

**From:** Anthony <homelessdisaster98337@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 12, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:**

We the citizens of Bremerton Washington have had enough it is time to take action as our mayor and clean up .



**From:** [A Clark](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request for plan to address homeless crisis  
**Date:** Monday, August 14, 2023 4:00:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I would like to see a copy of any plans the city has to address the growing homeless and drug problems in downtown Bremerton. Will you please direct me to where I can locate that on the city website or send me a copy?

Thank you,  
Amanda Clark  
425-941-1936

**From:** Robert Shaffer <robertjshaffer@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 4:38 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Rodney Rauback <Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Steven Forbragd <Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Aaron Elton <Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mike Davis <Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Tom Wolfe <Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Brett Jette <Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mychael Raya <Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; want2x4@gmail.com; A Clark <cotedazure1986@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** MLK homeless man just took a dump on my neighbor's porch

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Mayor, Council, Chief Wolfe, staff-

First of all, thank you for the work you put into the city, I know you have difficult choices to make now. I appreciate it.

I'm writing for myself and several of my neighbors. We urge you pass legislation that allows you to clear the homeless encampment on MLK. We could write you every day, but today was a new low.

I found a man in my neighbor's McKenzie Ave. yard, looking for something to steal. I told him to leave, he did, but when I left my house 30 minutes later, he was in another neighbor's yard. I called 911, and while on the phone with him, the man rounded the corner, sat on my neighbor's porch on 9th and took a shit. I apologize for my language, but we've had it. Something like this happens every day in our neighborhood.

We beg you, pass an ordinance that allows you to immediately clear the camp. You've put so much into making downtown livable. You've done a great job, and now all your- and previous council's- work is in jeopardy.

Bathrooms for these campers is NOT the answer- it just allows the camp, and the problem, to grow. Homeless "advocates" have been out there for months now, and the problem only gets worse. It seems the more they advocate, the more people live on the street. This is NOT a metric of success.

The only answer is clearing of the camp.

I talked to the man who defecated on the porch to see if he needed medical attention. He said no, he was just high. I asked him where he got his "blues" (cheap fentanyl pills)- he told me his camp on MLK. This must stop.

Here are some pictures of this man and what he left on my neighbor's porch.

Bremerton does not need to be the county's dumping ground- it's a choice we've made.

Regards,  
Robert Shaffer  
820 McKenzie Ave.





**From:** A Clark [cotedazure1986@gmail.com](mailto:cotedazure1986@gmail.com)

**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 4:58 PM

**To:** Robert Shaffer [robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)

**Cc:** Aaron Elton [Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Brett Jette [Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us); City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Jennifer Hayes [Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mike Davis [Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mychael Raya [Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Rodney Rauback [Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Steven Forbragd [Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Tom Wolfe [Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us); [want2x4@gmail.com](mailto:want2x4@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Re: MLK homeless man just took a dump on my neighbor's porch

Hello Mr. Mayor and all,

I would like to add to Robert's sentiments. I am a single mother who owns a home on McKenzie. This street is where my two year old runs and plays. There are at least three other toddlers just on our street who play here. I've had things stolen from my porch, had to call the police multiple times due to trespassing, and I regularly find drug foil in my garden. We do not walk along or cross Park. Our neighborhood feels less and less safe by the day.

We need quick action and a humane plan to remove the camp on MLK.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Clark  
809 McKenzie Ave

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Bremerton City Council/For your consideration.  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:22:26 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Housing/Homeless - There should be ZERO laws making homelessness or mental illness a crime. I am VERY much in favor of the wording that was brought up by council member Younger in regards to a designated place to camp in Bremerton. The discussion about this between the council and mayor Wheeler was great. I suggest we adopt these words and rename the ordinance the "Camping Ordinance". After all the ordinance will tell people where they CAN camp if they need to yes?  
Please don't give up on tiny homes! A roof, a locking door and an address. A place to store things. Tukwilla is doing it and so are others. I attached a picture of a tiny home complex next to I-5 by Centralia.

Financial support for ongoing services that "work NOW"- I bring this topic up with apprehension and trepidation due to the propensity of some to prosecute or harass rather than support efforts that support our homeless persons. I would like to see a resolution to provide the funds that were allocated previously for the bathrooms, to the persons providing those exact services in places now. I have personally inspected several while passing and what a wonderful thing. A place to use the bathroom and hand sanitizer. A closed/zipped door. A simple process to handle the waste. These folks are also providing on the spot nursing, wound care, counseling, friendship, direction to appropriate help and many other services. I think it would be a wonderful thing if Bremerton could be a part of supporting their efforts. I would gladly support paying for supplies and would encourage the city to consider hiring some people like these to work directly with our law enforcement and fire department personnel.

Dark Fiber and WIFI service for the entire city – DO THIS. What a great way to level the field for all of Bremerton's citizens including our students and homeless!! I for one would be HAPPY to pay for internet on a monthly basis. Those that cannot afford it should have free access from this city.

Thank you all for the hard work you are doing. I'm pretty impressed with our city government.

Neal Foley



**From:** [Daniel Maxwell](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Camp city's popping up all over town  
**Date:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 7:02:54 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I am a taxpaying home owner in West Bremerton and I am extremely concerned of the tent cities that are popping up in our city. I left Seattle several years ago to get away from this epidemic and major problem. I cannot believe it's happening here.

Is there anything being done to control the drug usage and and private properties. Do the police do anything? For example, I am speaking of the tent, city at Broadway Avenue between 6th and 8th Street.

This is despicable, and I can't believe this is happening here. I want to know is there going to be a city Council meeting or public speaking event for homeowners to share their concerns.

This is not a homeless problem. This is a drug use and mental disorder problem. I am so sick and tired of seeing these tents pop up all over town.

I would like to know who I can write to, or speak to directly, and if there is going to be an open forum to approach the council.

Thank you

**From:** City Council

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:34 AM

**To:** Carma Foley <carmafoley@hotmail.com>

**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** FW: Public Comments (Follow-Up) - Unhoused Questions (Carma L. Foley)

Hi Ms. Foley,

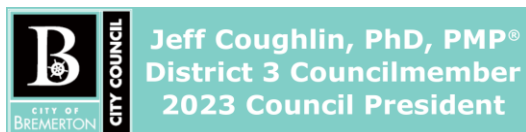
Thank you so much for writing in and for the great ideas, and for your patience in my reply. I'm honored to be in a community that is coming together to help with such a difficult issue.

The Council in the 2023 budget allocated \$10,000 for "professional services - public restrooms" with the intent for the city to contract with a portable toilet provider. This proposal was brought forward to Council by a citizen-led group. Once Council approves a budget, the money is available to spend Jan. 1 of that year, and the Mayor and their administration are responsible for execution and implementation. The Administration and Legal determined that it is not viable for the city to place a portable toilet on city property or in the right-of-way, even with self-monitoring.

On your second suggestion, I do believe this is viable and it has been mentioned previously in Council as a possibility --- either to help existing providers expand bathroom access or for a third party to place a portable toilet on their property. I've met with members of the group that originally brought forth the proposal, and they agreed to reach out to organizations like Salvation Army and PCHS to see what is feasible from their end.

I defer to the Mayor to respond on if the Administration has pursued any such partnerships to spend this money.

Thanks again for speaking up,



*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** Carma Foley [carmafoley@hotmail.com](mailto:carmafoley@hotmail.com)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 5:04 PM  
**To:** Denise Frey [Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us);  
City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments (Follow-Up) - Unhoused Questions (Carma L. Foley)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your response.

If we continue bring new ideas to the table and make sure that the unhoused are part of this process, I am hopeful.

I also feel that the mental /medical health professionals, police, firefighters/EMT's, business leaders voices should be at the forefront of the discussion.

Criminal activity should not be tolerated. This sends the wrong message to everyone in our community. We need a just system that is focused on what is good for the whole community.

Allowing criminals to not be held accountable hurts not only their victims but also the perpetrators. Teachable moments and often times their sober awakening can lead to accepting the help they desperately need.

Thank you again for your service. I know this is a complex and difficult situation.

Carma Foley

---

**From:** Denise Frey <[Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 2:25:50 PM  
**To:** Carma Foley <[carmafoley@hotmail.com](mailto:carmafoley@hotmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments (Follow-Up) - Unhoused Questions (Carma L. Foley)

Hi Carma,

Just a note to let you know how much I appreciated reading your email that included such great suggestions.

I share your perspectives and believe we could make those resources available very quickly to have immediate impact.

I'm cc'ing Jeff Coughlin, President of the City Council, and Mayor Wheeler, each of whom could be helpful in support of that endeavor.

Denise

*Denise Frey*

Council Member, District 2  
Bremerton City Council  
(360) 473-5280

[denise.frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:denise.frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)



---

**From:** Carma Foley [carmafoley@hotmail.com](mailto:carmafoley@hotmail.com)

**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 6:52 PM

**To:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Cc:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - Unhoused Questions (Carma L. Foley)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening City Council Members,

I await your response to the above forementioned email.

Carma

**From:** [Stephen Bezruchka](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [mayor@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:mayor@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Call to Action regarding Homeless in Bremerton  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 2:22:32 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council and Mayor Greg Wheeler,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the growing number of unhoused individuals in your city and the proposed laws that aim to criminalize their circumstances. Instead of focusing on punitive measures, I strongly urge you to prioritize increasing services, support, and affordable housing options for this vulnerable population.

Homelessness is a complex issue that often stems from a variety of factors such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, mental health challenges, and addiction. By creating laws that criminalize the unhoused, we not only exacerbate their struggles but also perpetuate a cycle of poverty and marginalization. It is crucial to adopt a compassionate and holistic approach that addresses the root causes of homelessness and offers viable solutions.

One essential intervention that must be prioritized is the provision of affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing options in our city is a significant contributor to the growing homelessness crisis. By investing in affordable housing initiatives, we can provide stable and secure housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, giving them an opportunity to rebuild their lives and regain their independence.

In addition to affordable housing, it is imperative to create safe spaces where individuals can reside while living in survival mode or struggling with addiction or mental health issues. These spaces should not only offer shelter but also be surrounded by a comprehensive range of services that cater to their specific needs. This could include access to healthcare, mental health counseling, addiction treatment, vocational training, and educational opportunities.

By investing in these services and affordable housing options, we can help unhoused individuals regain their sense of dignity, rebuild their lives, and ultimately reach their highest potential. It is important to remember that homelessness is not a permanent state; it is a condition that can be overcome with the right support and resources. As a caring and progressive city, we must ensure that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, has equal access to safe and affordable housing.

I understand that implementing such initiatives may require additional funding and resources. However, I firmly believe that the long-term benefits outweigh the costs. Not only will increasing services and affordable housing options for the unhoused alleviate the strain on emergency services, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system, but it will also contribute to a safer, healthier, and more inclusive community.



for all residents.

I kindly request that you reconsider the proposed laws that criminalize the unhoused and instead redirect our collective efforts towards expanding services, support, and affordable housing options. Let us work together to create an inclusive city where everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can thrive and contribute positively to society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will give thoughtful consideration to my concerns and take the necessary steps to prioritize increasing services and affordable housing for the unhoused.

Sincerely,

Stephen Bezruchka MD, MPH  
Departments of Health Systems and Population Health & of Global Health  
School of Public Health  
Box 357660  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington 98195-7660

From: Greg Wheeler

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:48 PM

To: Cheryl Gillespie

Cc: Steven Forbrag; Rodney Rauback; Aaron Elton; Mike Davis; Tom Wolfe; Joseph Sexton; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response; Hillary Hamilton; Thomas Knuckey; Ned Lever; Dave Carter; Kylie Finnell; Brett Jette; Mychael Raya; City Council; Jennifer Hayes

Subject: RE: Homelessness

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. Included in my reply are officials from the City of Bremerton Police Department for their information and follow up regarding potential criminal activity. Hopefully, you and your neighbors are calling 911 when you suspect or witness a crime being committed. Regarding the camping you are witnessing, you may not be aware, but the city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9th Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, besides officials from the City of Bremerton Police Department, I am including officials from the Public Works, and Legal Departments in my reply for their information. One last resource I would like to share, regarding what you and your neighbors can do, is contact information for the City of Bremerton (COB) Police Department Community Resource Officer, Joe Sexton, who manages the COB Block Watch (BW) program. BW's are a great way for neighborhood groups to organize, share resources, and speak with one voice, regarding concerns about safety. This communication channel is a direct link to the city and may be something you are interested in forming. Take care Cheryl, I hope you enjoy the rest of your week.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler

Mayor, City of Bremerton

(360) 473-5266

---

From: Cheryl Gillespie

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 2:28 PM

To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Subject: Homelessness

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization.

Dear Greg,

I hope summer has been good to you and you've had special times with friends and family.

Many of our friends and neighbors are up in arms over the expanding homeless camp by and surrounding 6th Street Starbucks. They went there and left due to the impact of driving through the tents on either side of the driveway. It was my favorite Starbucks, but I am rethinking that. They removed tables, etc. due to issues with bathrooms ,etc. I was receiving medical care on 5th Street and was startled by the sound of a person making loud choking noises outside the window. My practitioner said she had to call 911 the week prior as a homeless person was right under the window yelling and screaming. How is the homeless issue being addressed? I have been told that vehicles can be moved but that people can stay on public property. How sad to be a homeowner with tents outside your front door. What is being done and how may we help?

Best,

John and Cheryl Gillespie

**From:** Abby Bennett <[ybbabennett@gmail.com](mailto:ybbabennett@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 2:21 PM  
**To:** Barbara Forbes <[Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Encampment

Thank you so much for looking into this and responding so quickly as well as sending public works department to follow up.

We have been picking up trash in the area and forests around the boys and girls club/ library/ school for years as needed being we live a stones throw from there. more so for a teaching aspect for the kids of contributing to the solution but I typically steer clear of doing that near anyone for safety reasons but we and other frequently use the school play ground when available. Immensely appreciate your help.

***And that is a interesting topic of discussion, the main concern I have for it being that it's near kids/ schools/ high traffic parks/ play zones. We actually chose to try a new Montessori school this year based on encampments and wandering individuals getting closer and closer to our previous school.***

I don't believe these individuals have dogs but in the past there have been dogs running off leash, some not so friendly. it's a common parking zone we have learned over the years so that is something to consider I'm sure they enjoy the community amenities. ***Relocating a zone to somewhere where kids are not frequently visiting and playing would be greatly appreciated if there is any input left on the conversation.***

Thank for your time,  
Appreciate you.  
Abby bennett  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Barbara Forbes <[Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:30:14 AM  
**To:** [Ybbabennett@gmail.com](mailto:Ybbabennett@gmail.com) <[Ybbabennett@gmail.com](mailto:Ybbabennett@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Encampment

Good morning,

Thank you for reporting an encampment on East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Due to restrictive legislation, persons using vehicles or tents as housing are allowed to remain in public spaces or parked on public rights-of-way. An officer can ask the camper to move, but the officer can't force the removal. If campers encroach onto private properties, they can be served with a trespass notice. Essentially, they will be arrested if they return.

Since the area of the school and library are public property, we are unable to force the campers to vacate. However, officers will continue to monitor this area. As for the garbage, I will ask the Public Works Department to respond.

The City Council and Mayor discussed options last night during their meeting to address encampments in the city. One option was to locate a lot to allow overnight camping but disperse during daylight hours.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Barbara Forbes  
Bremerton Police  
(360) 473-5227

---

**From:** Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 7:43 AM  
**To:** Barbara Forbes <[Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Encampment

Hello Barbara:

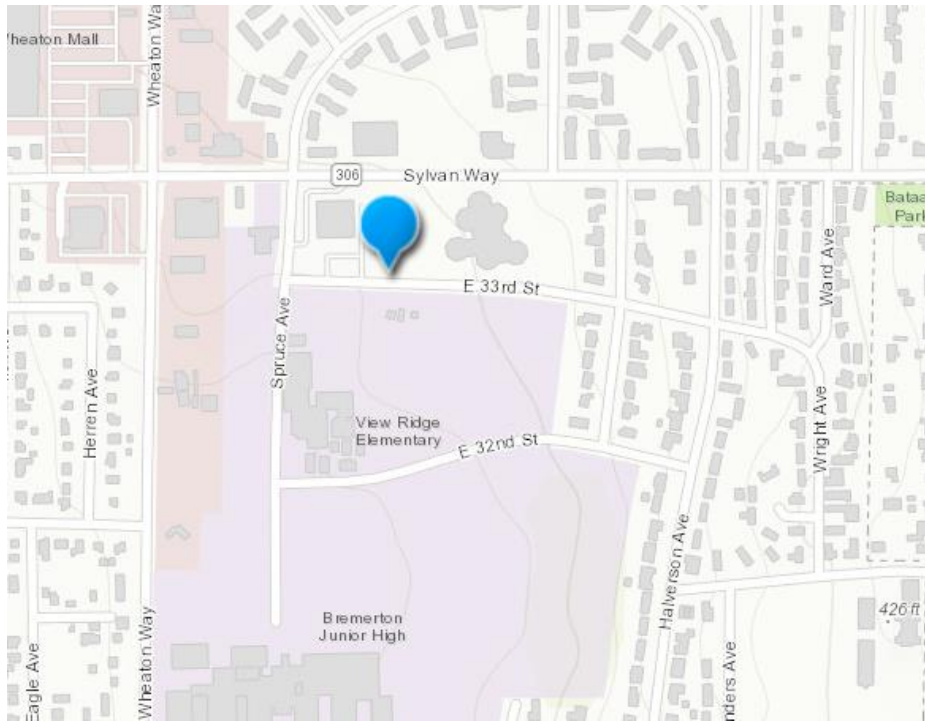
This was submitted through our Bremerton1App.

**Comments:**

Hello, I submitted a previous complaint about a growing homeless encampment that's been present for multiple months - nearly all summer but wanted to attach a photo- photo is a bit blurry but you get a sense of the area. As of the last two weeks the garbage has become more prevalent and wide spread.

**Contact info:**

[Ybbabennett@gmail.com](mailto:Ybbabennett@gmail.com)



Thanks,



**Liliana Foster**

Office Assistant Senior

Direct (360) 473-2326

Customer Response (360) 473-5920

Email: [Liliana.Foster@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Liliana.Foster@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**From:** [Buck, Patrick G CIV USN NAVSHIPYDIMF PGS WA \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Encampment 6th & Broadway  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:53:48 AM

---

Concerning the encampment at 6<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, what is being done to resolve this issue? I have a co-worker who lives on Broadway, has 3 children and has an encampment of 17 tents directly across the street from her house. She has observed drug use, public nudity, public defecation/urination, has had items stolen from her yard as well as people so high on drugs that they strip off their clothes and run in front of oncoming traffic. She has repeatedly called the police who tell her that their hands are tied and they cannot do anything about it. I have gone to the Starbucks there and personally observed the growing tent city as well as open air drug use. Why is the city council allowing this to happen and why are you not empowering our police department, that our tax dollars pay for, to resolve the situation? I have lived in Bremerton for over 20 years and over the last couple of years it has steadily been going downhill after what was a promising improvement over the previous 18 or so years. I've seen tents blowing in the street on 11<sup>th</sup>, the recent incident of someone breaking windows all down Callow, people high on drugs standing and screaming in the middle of 11<sup>th</sup> and Callow, topless women walking down Kitsap Way and now the growing encampment on Broadway as well as on Park/MLK way. Taxpayers deserve better, our city deserves better.

Patrick Buck  
1910 N. Wycoff Ave  
Bremerton WA.  
[Patrick.Buck@comcast.net](mailto:Patrick.Buck@comcast.net)

**From:** Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:34 PM

**To:** Hadley Tillson [hadleytillson8248@gmail.com](mailto:hadleytillson8248@gmail.com)

**Cc:** City Council; Jill Stanton; Andi Reed; Joseph Sexton; Steven Forbrag; Rodney Rauback; Aaron Elton; Mike Davis; Jennifer Hayes

**Subject:** RE: Unsafe neighborhood

Hi Hadley,

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. I am including the Bremerton City Council and officials from the Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA) in my reply for their information and follow up regarding your request to be connected with them directly. Also included in my reply are officials from the City of Bremerton Police Department for their information and follow up regarding potential criminal activity. Hopefully, you and your neighbors are calling 911 when you suspect or witness a crime being committed. Regarding the camping you are witnessing, you may not be aware, but the city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9th Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton (COB) Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information. One last resource I would like to share regarding what you and your neighbors can do is contact information for the City of Bremerton Community Resource Officer, Joe Sexton, who manages the COB Block Watch (BW) program. BW's are a great way for neighborhood groups to organize, share resources, and speak with one voice. This communication channel is a direct link to the city and may be something you are interested in forming. Take care, I hope you a great week.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler

Mayor, City of Bremerton

(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Hadley Tillson

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 10:37 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler

**Subject:** Unsafe neighborhood

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization.

Hey Greg,

This is Hadley Tillson. I am a previous Salvation Army employee and now work at Kitsap Rescue Mission. I live on the corner of Driftwood St and Bay Vista BLVD over by Winco. I am reaching out in hopes you can forward this to our city councilman as the beginning of documentation and effort towards cleaning up the neighborhoods in our community. Over just the last few months the crime and disturbance has gotten really bad along with RVs and tents and constant all night activity that wakes us up more than not during the week in the middle of the night. I understand it's a problem everywhere, however this area wasn't so bad before and now I cannot even let my kids play outside. Everybody deserves a solution but I am a home owner and follow HOA yet the whole Bay Vista road is covered in chaos. I would like to know how I can make a difference in my neighborhood and also if you could contact Bremerton Housing Authorities which is in charge of the low income apartments, where all this is going on, and the HOA. There has to be something we can do! I'll be looking forward to your response. I hope all is well and Godbless. Lets make a difference!

Hadley Tillson

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** 08/23/23 Study Session  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:28:16 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

At the last study session wording was used by council member Eric Younger regarding a designated place (or places) to camp in Bremerton. This has my total support. I would encourage the council to move forward as rapidly as possible with this.

Neighbors around the homeless are becoming increasingly frustrated and some are turning their anger toward those on our streets and people administering help. I had an angry man tell me he could cure the whole thing himself with just a baseball bat. Our citizens on both sides of this issue need your help!

At this study session please make it a priority to move this to a vote at the next council meeting!

Thank you,

Neal



**From:** Mike Altman [mike@waaccidentlaw.com](mailto:mike@waaccidentlaw.com)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 12:26 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Cc:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Steven Forbragd [Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Rodney Rauback [Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Aaron Elton [Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mike Davis [Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Tom Wolfe [Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Public Works & Utilities Customer Response [bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Hillary Hamilton [Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Thomas Knuckey [Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Ned Lever [Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Dave Carter [Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Brett Jette [Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mychael Raya [Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Jennifer Hayes [Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kelsie Donleycott [Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** RE: 1000 6th Street

The situation on Broadway has only gotten worse since my initial email. See the attached photo taken today, August 16, 2023.

**This email shall serve as formal notice to the City of Bremerton of a dangerous condition on Broadway Avenue.**

The City of Bremerton was made aware of this issue last week and the City of Bremerton has made no effort to fix this problem. Any injury or death that occurs to individuals residing in the tents, customers of local businesses, employees, residents or any other individual that may be harmed by this dangerous condition shall have a civil claim for damages against the City of Bremerton.

As you can see in the photo, the tents on Broadway are an inch away from the street or hanging into the street. There are many laws/codes that are being violated, but the City of Bremerton is looking solely at a judicial opinion regarding anti-camping statutes. **This is not camping, this is dangerous to everyone involved.** If a large vehicle drives down this narrow roadway there is a good chance of a tent being struck and any inhabitants suffering severe injury or death. There is a "No Parking This Side" sign posted by the City of Bremerton presumably because of the narrow nature of this roadway. Now, you have tents parked on this same side of the street. Many of these individuals are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which makes them even more vulnerable to harm. Their front door is not even an inch away from a busy street. This morning, one of the individuals was sleeping on the street. Does the City of Bremerton allow houses to be built where the front door opens inches away from the roadway? A grass buffer between the curb and sidewalk is typically built for safety reasons. Now, we have people living on those strips of grass and the City of Bremerton is allowing them to risk their life living in this space.

**In addition to the dangerous condition of the location of the tents, there is also a major concern about sanitation.** There are no public restrooms and many of the individuals in the tents are defecating and urinating on public streets or in our parking lot. Given the failure of the City of Bremerton to fix this problem an increase in disease is also highly likely. Typhoid, dysentery, cholera and many other diseases can be spread when basic sanitation is not available.

**Again, this email is a formal notice of an actual dangerous condition. To date, the City of Bremerton has failed to take any corrective action and the dangerous condition continues to exist.**

Michael Altman

**Altman Law Offices**

1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
(360) 377-7100 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

4301 S. Pine Street, Ste. 30-06  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
(253) 761-1000 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

[www.waaccidentlaw.com](http://www.waaccidentlaw.com)



---

**From:** Mike Altman

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:10 AM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Cc:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Steven Forbragd <[Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Rodney Rauback <[Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Aaron Elton <[Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mike Davis <[Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Hillary Hamilton <[Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Thomas Knuckey <[Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Ned Lever <[Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Dave Carter <[Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Brett Jette <[Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mychael Raya <[Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kelsie Donleycott <[Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** RE: 1000 6th Street

Thank you, I hope we can get this issue resolved as soon as possible.

I just had a client come to the office today and ask about the tents and if it was safe to park her car in our parking lot. I also witnessed a number of local homeowners get into a heated conversation with one of the tent dwellers. I can only imagine how angry the people who reside on this street must be at this point. As someone who has owned a business in Bremerton for nearly 20 years, this is not an ideal economic environment and I hope new policies can be put in place soon to clean up these streets.

Michael Altman

**Altman Law Offices**

1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
(360) 377-7100 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

4301 S. Pine Street, Ste. 30-06  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
(253) 761-1000 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

[www.waaccidentlaw.com](http://www.waaccidentlaw.com)

---

**From:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 11:10 AM

**To:** Mike Altman <[mike@waaccidentlaw.com](mailto:mike@waaccidentlaw.com)>

**Cc:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Steven Forbragd <[Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Rodney Rauback <[Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Aaron Elton <[Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mike Davis <[Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <[bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Hillary Hamilton <[Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Thomas Knuckey <[Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Ned Lever <[Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Dave Carter <[Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Brett Jette <[Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mychael Raya <[Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kelsie Donleycott <[Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** RE: 1000 6th Street

Good morning Mike,

Thank you for following up on our conversation this morning with an email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. The city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information and follow up. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Mike Altman <[mike@waaccidentlaw.com](mailto:mike@waaccidentlaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 10:26 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** 1000 6th Street

Mr. Wheeler,

I appreciate our walk and talk this morning.

The tents on Broadway next to our parking lot need to be removed. I cannot put my employees and clients at risk by having a homeless encampment blocking the sidewalk. As I mentioned to you, we have had many of the people living in these tents defecate in our dumpsters, in our parking lot or on our sidewalk leading into the building. Many of them smoke and inject drugs in our parking lot as well. It is not uncommon to get into the office and see needles and large amount of trash littered throughout our parking lot and sidewalks. The stench is horrible and this has only gotten worse as the tents have tripled or more on Broadway. As I mentioned, over the weekend, the tents are now directly in front of our parking lot covering the sidewalks.

Finally, I represent victims of automobile accidents and my local clients often walk to our office. Some of them who have suffered leg injuries require the use of a scooter or wheelchair while they recover from their injuries. With these tents, there is no way for them to even navigate down the sidewalks. It is not safe.

I ask that whatever resources you have can be used to clean this area up immediately. If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Michael Altman

**Altman Law Offices**  
1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
(360) 377-7100 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

4301 S. Pine Street, Ste. 30-06  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
(253) 761-1000 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

[www.waaccidentlaw.com](http://www.waaccidentlaw.com)

**Published for**  
**August 9**  
**Council Study Session**  
**A7 – Public Comments**

**From:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [Jeff Coughlin](#); [Alison Loris](#)  
**Cc:** [Denise Frey](#); [Quinn Dennehy](#); [Michael Goodnow](#); [Eric Younger](#); [Anna Mockler](#); [Jennifer Chamberlin](#); [City Council](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Thomas Knuckey](#); [Jennifer Hayes](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Question - Kitsap Sun Op-Ed on status of Portable Toilets  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2023 5:13:42 PM

---

Council,

I want to provide background on what the Administration has done regarding Council's budget allocation for portable toilets on MLK Way. The Administration began assessing the feasibility of this budget allocation immediately after the first of this year. This review primarily involved Facilities, Engineering, and the City Attorney's Office. Issues identified from PW included limited space on MLK (any facility would have to be in the parking area of the street, there is no room on the sidewalk/planter strip), and safety concerns about placement in and along the street (need for ADA accessibility, clear zone/barrier installation for protection from vehicles). The City Attorney's Office's identified concerns about liability related to placing the portable toilet in the street as well as premises liability related to placing a public portable toilet in a high crime area without security. Based on the input from staff, I decided to defer making the expenditure until a better alternative could be identified.

The City Attorney and I shared our concerns and my decision to defer the expenditure with President Coughlin in a meeting at my office in mid-March. Shortly after that meeting I understand the City Attorney forwarded an email summarizing the liability concerns to President Coughlin and had a brief conversation explaining the liability concerns to Jo Walters, who you know of course had advocated for the budget allocation.

Recently emails and public comments about the placement of a portable toilet on MLK have resumed stating the City's liability concerns are insufficient and I asked staff to review the issue again. Additional legal issues were identified and my determination to defer this expenditure is unchanged. I urge you to review BMC 20.46.090 to see the City's standards for permitting temporary outdoor encampments. Council passed this ordinance in 2019 and the considerations outlined in our code address the legal and safety issues identified by our staff. I cannot ignore these issues and make this expenditure for the unauthorized encampment on MLK.

There is also a practical consideration that weighs against taking this action until after the Council has amended the unauthorized camping code. The Council's discussion last night included possible restrictions on camping near community centers. If such a restriction is included in a final ordinance, camping on MLK could be prohibited due to its proximity to the Marvin Williams Center.

We all agree the situation on MLK is not good for any of our community members. I look forward to working with the Council on bringing Bremerton a better solution in the near future.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 6:44 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Question - Kitsap Sun Op-Ed on status of Portable Toilets

---

Attn: Council Members

**\*\*For informational purposes only. Do not reply to this email\*\***

---

**From:** Jeff Coughlin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:30 PM  
**To:** Alison Loris [asloris@gmail.com](mailto:asloris@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Re: question, especially for Jeff Coughlin and Quinn Dennehy

Hi Alison,

Thanks for reaching out on this.

The Council in the 2023 budget allocated \$10,000 for "professional services - public restrooms" with the intent for the city to contract with a portable toilet provider to be placed and serviced near the MLK Way area. This proposal was brought forward to Council by a citizen-led group.

Once Council approves a budget, the money is available to spend Jan. 1 of that year, and the Mayor and their administration are responsible for execution and implementation. I would reach out to the Mayor for the status on this and any roadblocks and avenues regarding implementation, as well as if any alternative uses for this money related to its intent have been explored or are under consideration.

Cheers,  
Jeff

**Jeff Coughlin, Phd**  
**Councilmember, Dist. 3**  
**2023 Council President**

**From:** Alison Loris <[asloris@gmail.com](mailto:asloris@gmail.com)>

**Date:** July 25, 2023 at 9:34:29 PM PDT

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** question, especially for Jeff Coughlin and Quinn Dennehy

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, folks.

I am writing an op-ed for the Kitsap Sun about the lack of basic hygiene facilities for the *de facto* tent village on Martin Luther King Way. The primary thrust of my article will be why Bremerton needs an Urban Rest Stop (as in Seattle and other cities) where unhoused people can use restrooms and showers and get laundry done.

I have heard from multiple vague sources that the City has the money for portable toilets, but I have not heard anything clear about **why** toilets cannot be placed there where they are needed, or what needs to happen to make it possible. I'd really appreciate current information on that.

Thank you!  
Alison

Alison Slow Loris  
Writer & Adventuress  
Bremerton, WA

~~~~~

"All we ever have is here, now."

~ Ursula K. Le Guin ~~~~~



**From:** [GLENN CAHOON](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless camp on MLK Way  
**Date:** Friday, July 28, 2023 1:32:02 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please align your votes to deal with the permanent elimination of this festering and dangerous eyesore, we the people have had enough.

Thank You,  
Glenn Cahoon

**From:** Joanna Hayes <joanna.s.hayes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 6:29 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Anti-camping Legislation

Dear Bremerton City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I am a social work student and local resident. I am also a member of Kitsap ERACE's Housing Systems Team. I have been following the discussion about potential anti-camping legislation since the July 5th public comment opportunity. I have also been attending the study sessions.

I was prepared to be angry about what was happening and, instead, I have been heartened by some of the discussion. I still stand strongly against any type of anti-camping legislation. I have been pleased to see that the discussion has focused more on the humanitarian aspect than on the punitive aspect. I was pleased to see time limits eliminated as a possibility. I am especially pleased to hear the discussion about potential emergency shelter options and a safe area for camping with security and appropriate sanitation facilities.

While I have been pleased about the discussion of emergency shelter options, I want to remind you that shelters don't cure homelessness. We need a robust approach to helping our unhoused neighbors find permanent homes, not just transitional housing. We need more affordable units and we need more low-barrier units. We need to expand the case management that is currently available to be able to aid more people. It seems that, currently, everyone has a waitlist for services. There are people who have the desire to help and many people waiting for that help, but we need more funding and more infrastructure.

While we need a solution to safely house our unsheltered neighbors as soon as possible we cannot stop there. We must create more opportunities to have a home and support to keep our neighbors housed once they have begun to live in that home. There is abundant research on how to do this. I hope we can turn talk into action together.

Respectfully,  
Joie Hayes

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Input on Homeless and bridge.  
**Date:** Monday, July 31, 2023 6:50:30 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

Recently I began regularly attending City Council meetings here in Bremerton. I want to say that I have been very impressed with the compassion, insight, and ideas that many of you have expressed IRT the homeless issue and others. I would like to encourage you not to hurry and to please not give up on this very hard issue particularly as you frame city ordinances around our homeless populations. You are the ones who can plant the seeds for something positive and long lasting. Homelessness is a not a new norm, it has always been pervasive in our society and will be an ongoing issue. I would like to see the citizens, city, county, state etc., work together and establish the best programs we can for those that need our help the most.

Imagine living in a tent on the streets, no really, take a minute and try to even imagine yourself there. This is not Camping. This is not fun. It's a constant struggle for these folks to just to exist. This is the last place you would want to find yourself. The very last place. But hey, we are going to make you pick up all your stuff everyday and pack it out? Citing a homeless person for having camping paraphernalia - are you kidding me!?! Are we going to start a war on camping? Have the courage to "Just say no to Camping!"?

Now imagine being given a small roof over your head and a place to LOCK YOUR OWN DOOR. A secure environment. Help with addiction, mental and physical health, and other personal issues. A place to do laundry, an address, a place to shower, and A PLACE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.

A place to go to the bathroom.....

Stability, personal security, and actual help have been shown to be the bedrock of all successful programs.

Several council members mentioned the possibility of actual structures/communities for our homeless citizens. I STRONGLY support this approach.

I wanted to share these articles with you to show that these approaches can work and are working. Please take a few moments to read these articles. They provide a significant amount of information concerning cooperation of different entities, services provided, operation and management, etc.. Could the Bremerton Council invite members of the City Councils involved and see if someone can come and talk or Zoom with us ?

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/New-Riverton-Park-Village-opens--Tulalip-Tribes--TERO-grads-build-tiny-house--Sand-Point-Cottages-on-Seattle-Channel-.html?soid=1103692006784&aid=SWjksfVCR3Q>

<https://komonews.com/news/local/tent-campers-at-tukwila-church-fill-two-new-tiny-house-villages-homeless-addicts-housing-lihi-krha-unhoused>

I think much of this road is already paved and blueprints are waiting for ordinances, community support involved, as well as for structural units. I am thinking of someone like Kitsap Lumber (I have not spoken to them), that builds docks, picnic tables, obtains lumber packages for businesses and homeowners, and much more, working to kit units. We have a trade school (I have not spoken to them) right on National Avenue that might really love to get involved in this to teach young people several different trades. What a great opportunity for those in our community. This would surely benefit local businesses and our communities. Some of our current homeless may even be able to become part of the solution.

I strongly urge the City Council to repeal, in its entirety, the current no camping ordinance. It is not enforced and paints homelessness with unwarranted criminality. I oppose criminalizing homelessness and/or mental illnesses!

Protect sensitive areas in a separate code. It is apparent that no one is against this. Is it only camping we are concerned about in these sensitive areas? NO! For instance I would like Bremerton to say we will no longer allow the spraying weed killer in these areas as well.

I want to sincerely thank Mayor Wheeler for being proactive in his efforts to obtain shelter space and wish him the best in doing so. But this is only a beginning for homeless people. Shelters keep people alive long enough so they can be helped. Real progress starts with secure housing for all of our citizens that need it. What a great second tier it would be to move folks from shelters into tiny home villages as a next step and from there on to more permanent housing.

I agree that the site on Oyster Bay Ave looks very attractive as far as a location for action. The site would need work to be flattened to provide areas big enough for people to stay.

Lastly, I really like the 10ft with lookouts bridge option. it blends the best with the other projects.

Thank you,

Neal

**From:** [kim siebens](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** supportive solutions for the unhoused  
**Date:** Sunday, July 30, 2023 12:56:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council, Mayor,

I wanted to share some ways community can come together to help support their unhoused population while waiting for longer term solutions like affordable housing or a shelter. Currently I am one of many community members coming together to offer support and navigation, in a coordinated effort, to our unhoused neighbors. By keeping more of a presence at the most affected areas, for example- MLK Way, we hope to promote an improvement in conditions for housed and unhoused neighbors alike.

Lately, I have been removing human waste from MLK tent residents with my portable septic tank that I take to the water treatment plant where this waste is properly disposed of. I have been removing 36 gallons a week and could do much more with more man power. I have also been taking large items to the garbage dump as needed and purchased large garbage containers, bags, brooms and dustpans that residents are using frequently to keep the area much cleaner.

There are ways we can provide supportive services to people that will not only help them but the greater community at large during this time of crisis. We understand that many others in professional positions have hands that are always tied or policies preventing a simple solution or intervention. I am hoping that by increasing community engagement - we can help minimize damage done by not acting fast enough to prevent these issue from spiraling even further out of control.

The drug dealers depend on the community not caring about these people in order to gain control of the street which provides them with a perfect place to hide in plain site and access to many customers and cheap labor. This doesn't happen as prevalently in areas where there is a large community presence with supportive services and many eyes on the street.

<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/three-ways-communities-can-promote-inclusive-public-space-and-better-support-people-forced-live-outside>

Kimmy Siebens RN  
Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

President, Their Voice <http://www.their-voice.org>

[Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless)



### Camping on city property

City officials are looking at this problem from the wrong angle. What do I see? Property owners are being denied the safe and peaceful enjoyment of their property. Is the city truly impotent to deal with tent dwellers on public property? Creating a dangerous environment where children are not safe in the streets or in their own back yards is wrong. Bremerton's BMC chapter 9.32 has been deemed unconstitutional and yet it has stood for years. Simply because recently the drug culture liberals got the ninth circuit court, known for being extremely liberal, has judged it so. Without it being appealed to the supreme court and possibly overturned why would the city find it necessary to change our BMC now. Many of the ninth circuit court judgements have been reversed in higher courts. As a prime recent example, Coach Joe Kennedy vs. Bremerton School district.

The removal of "No camping on city property" being considered by city council leaves taxpayers at odds with the city. Defecation in the streets and sidewalks, garbage and rat infestation are serious health hazards. Those camping have no plumbing to even wash off the sidewalks. Is the City responsible for sanitizing and washing off these areas? Picking up the trash? If threats of bodily harm to children and mothers is not enough to remove drug addled mentally ill from our streets, then what is? Must we wait for real harm to come to one of our women, children or fathers protecting them? Tent sidewalk dwellers pay no taxes. They pay no water service fees. They pay no Property taxes. They pay nothing for Police and fire services and yet they are getting all this free. The property owners are required to pay for all these things. Property owners pay for the Narcan that the police have been administering regularly to these street people. The police Chief at his last meeting stated that the department has been using Narcan more frequently and in larger numbers than last year in just the past few months. We the taxpayers are having to pay for that too. Washington State is the national leader in the use of fentanyl. Police are called recurringly. Theft of property owned by tax paying residents has been blatant. Saying the cause of street people is homelessness is a mislabeling of the problem. Limited housing or high rents is not a problem. The vast majority of residents have been able to find ways to own and rent shelter. FAMILIES HAVE PITCHED IN TO SUPPORT THOSE THAT SEEK REAL HELP AND SOLUTIONS. People who pitch a tent in the city thoroughfare are not looking for a solution to their problems. There is a reluctance by many emotional and empathetic hearts to state the glaring obvious cause, these people

have chosen drugs over civil behavior. Mental health issues erupt from this activity. The health department has fallen down on its job and so has the police department, and now the city council and Mayor are trying to put a Band-Aid on a hemorrhaging wound. Having the city attorney massage words on a piece of paper and changing the rule of law and order is not the right way to address this problem.

I would think that there are many violations on the books these anti-social street squatters could be cited for. If we did any of the things the street people have done, we would be fined and imprisoned. The city requires building permits and inspections to allow people to occupy a house. There is no requirement for occupying the street. Could we or should we all be treated equally? Consider if we had no property taxes being collected annually to allow continued enjoyment of a roof over our family's heads. We might be able to eat dinner out every day if we wanted or buy that new car. If the city is going to treat the street people one way and then all property owners exactly the opposite, then do we have a protected class? I would say that is the only conclusion one can come to. Shall we strip all references to fees and taxes from the Bremerton Municipal code to rectify the injustice and failure to treat people equally? The sanitation pick-up should be free as it is for the street people. We should all have free water to water our lawns. The street squatters are being treated like a protected class with special privileges. Homelessness is a problem that is the result of anti-social behavior by enslaved drug victims. Let's not forget the people that are victims are victims of their personal choices. Drug use is at the bottom of this new phenomenon together with the illogical and dispirit rules and regulations in place by liberal cities across the STATES. Are liberal minds blind to freedom without responsibility? Who is enjoying the drug culture and the profits from this industry. ARE OUR CITY LEADERS TRYING TO DEVALUE THE PROPERTY OF SELECT PROPERTIES TO ALLOW DEVELOPER FRIENDS TO PICK UP THE PROPERTY AT A DISCOUNT TO BUILD LARGE MULTI UNIT APARTMENTS AT A HIGHER PROFIT AND INCREASE TAX INCOME? IT ALMOST SEEMS AS THOUGH THIS IS THE CASE. The city must go after the root cause of this problem and that is drugs in our city. If a tent community were to plant itself in front of the mayor's home or a city council person's home how long do you think it would last there? Everywhere tent cities are allowed they grow and become more dangerous and problematic to the resident homeowners. I suggest that the city attorney start drawing up BMC regulations that put health care in the forefront of this problem. We must try harder to get people off drugs to get them off the streets. If the state says it is legal to do drugs, then we must send a strong message to the state that we oppose legalization. Helping people get off drugs should be our first priority. We could say using drugs may be legal, but we will be bringing all those who use or sell to a helping center/Jail to give them counseling and treatment for a month or two. There they will have a shower, a meal and a roof over their head.

**From:** [kim.siebens](mailto:kim.siebens@kitsappublichealth.org)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@cityofbremerton.com); [City Council](mailto:pio@kitsappublichealth.org); [pio@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:pio@kitsappublichealth.org); [Gib.morrow@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:Gib.morrow@kitsappublichealth.org)  
**Subject:** Kitsap Public Health District involvement??  
**Date:** Friday, August 4, 2023 11:32:29 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding all of the public health language I see in your draft ordinance (anti camping) - have you reached out to the Kitsap Public Health District at all for their suggestions? I am sending this email to their Public Information Officer and the Public Health Officer as well to make sure they are aware of what you are proposing.

This is a link to the issue I am bringing to your attention (starting on page 51 of 163) <https://lpublic.bremertonwa.gov/weblinkpublic/0/doc/640282/Page1.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0hrxk-kd8-qaPZKRa93xiUCoaJfsGU9FCNAf1r7wkDtIzsUgk2LhseNY>

The public health concerns, cited repeatedly throughout these ordinance amendments, are connected to stigmatizing language, essentially legitimizing punitive action toward our most vulnerable. You are using public health language in very inappropriate ways here. If they have not been consulted, it seems imperative that they are, to ensure they agree with the statements in the draft ordinance amendments that are being linked to "public health."

They may also be able to offer suggestions, appropriate language, and potential solutions to address the "public health" issues" as I am not sure the current verbiage is in line with their recently revised Mission which states that "Kitsap Public Health District prevents disease and protects and promotes the health of all people in Kitsap County".

"All people" includes those experiencing homelessness. This ordinance does not help prevent disease, protect, or promote health for those experiencing homelessness.

They really should be involved here. Are they??

Kimmy Siebens RN

Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

President, Their Voice  
<http://www.their-voice.org>

Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless>



**From:** [Mike Altman](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Steven Forbragd](#); [Rodney Rauback](#); [Aaron Elton](#); [Mike Davis](#); [Tom Wolfe](#); [Public Works & Utilities Customer Response](#); [Hillary Hamilton](#); [Thomas Knuckey](#); [Ned Lever](#); [Dave Carter](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Brett Jette](#); [Mychael Raya](#); [Jennifer Hayes](#); [Kelsie Donleycott](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 1000 6th Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:10:21 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you, I hope we can get this issue resolved as soon as possible.

I just had a client come to the office today and ask about the tents and if it was safe to park her car in our parking lot. I also witnessed a number of local homeowners get into a heated conversation with one of the tent dwellers. I can only imagine how angry the people who reside on this street must be at this point. As someone who has owned a business in Bremerton for nearly 20 years, this is not an ideal economic environment and I hope new policies can be put in place soon to clean up these streets.

Michael Altman

#### **Altman Law Offices**

1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
(360) 377-7100 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

4301 S. Pine Street, Ste. 30-06  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
(253) 761-1000 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

[www.waaccidentlaw.com](http://www.waaccidentlaw.com)

---

**From:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 11:10 AM  
**To:** Mike Altman <mike@waaccidentlaw.com>  
**Cc:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Steven Forbragd <Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Rodney Rauback <Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Aaron Elton <Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mike Davis <Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Tom Wolfe <Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Hillary Hamilton <Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Thomas Knuckey <Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Ned Lever <Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Dave Carter <Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Brett Jette <Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mychael Raya

<Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kelsie Donleycott <Kelsie.Donleycott@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Subject:** RE: 1000 6th Street

Good morning Mike,

Thank you for following up on our conversation this morning with an email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. The city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information and follow up. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Mike Altman <[mike@waaccidentlaw.com](mailto:mike@waaccidentlaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 10:26 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** 1000 6th Street

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Wheeler,

I appreciate our walk and talk this morning.

The tents on Broadway next to our parking lot need to be removed. I cannot put my employees and clients at risk by having a homeless encampment blocking the sidewalk. As I mentioned to you, we have had many of the people living in these tents defecate in our dumpsters, in our parking lot or on our sidewalk leading into the building. Many of them smoke and inject drugs in our parking lot as well. It is not uncommon to get into the office and see needles and large amount of trash littered throughout our parking lot and sidewalks. The stench is horrible and this has only gotten worse as

the tents have tripled or more on Broadway. As I mentioned, over the weekend, the tent are now directly in front of our parking lot covering the sidewalks.

Finally, I represent victims of automobile accidents and my local clients often walk to our office. Some of them who have suffered leg injuries require the use of a scooter or wheelchair while they recover from their injuries. With these tents, there is no way for them to even navigate down the sidewalks. It is not safe.

I ask that whatever resources you have can be used to clean this area up immediately. If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Michael Altman

**Altman Law Offices**

1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
(360) 377-7100 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

4301 S. Pine Street, Ste. 30-06  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
(253) 761-1000 (Phone)  
(360) 377-7200 (Fax)

[www.waaccidentlaw.com](http://www.waaccidentlaw.com)

**From:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 8:19 PM

**To:** Jamie Payne <jamiepayne007@aol.com>

**Cc:** City Council; Steven Forbragd; Rodney Rauback; Aaron Elton; Mike Davis; Tom Wolfe; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Hillary Hamilton; Thomas Knuckey; Ned Lever; Dave Carter; Kylie Finnell; Brett Jette; Mychael Raya; Jennifer Hayes; Kelsie Donleycott

**Subject:** RE: Homeless camping in front of my house.

Good evening Jamie,

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. The city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information and follow up. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Jamie Payne <[jamiepayne007@aol.com](mailto:jamiepayne007@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 7:49 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Homeless camping in front of my house.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Homeless people are camping in front of my house at 620 Broadway and they won't leave. They police need to get them out now. Send them to the park, or anywhere. They have been there for 2 months now. The police tell them to leave but they just come back. It started with 2 tents. Now there are five tents. They poop and pee where ever they want. They are on drugs. They are harassing my tenants. They are camping on the little strip of what used to be grass that I have maintained for 19 years. They have ruined the strip of grass that the city requires me to maintain. This is a residential neighborhood. How can I charge my tenants to live there when your police can't stop them from tread passing on the property and drinking water. From the hose? What are you going to do about this?

How about you hire a construction crew to place large rocks on the grass strip so that no one can put a tent there. Or better yet instruct the police to treat our neighborhood at least as good as you treat the park and don't let them put all this garbage in front of our houses.

Jamie Payne  
(360) 434-1090



**From:** [Carma Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Unhoused question  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:57:39 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings City Councilmembers,

Thank you first of all for your continued service to our community.

I have recently been to a board meeting and just had a few questions.

1. If there is \$ for a bathroom how about having the unhoused persons self monitoring its usage and realize that they are responsible for it being clean and useable. I would think meeting with them to discuss this is an important first step. If they are agreeable, maybe a portable unit could be tried first. The parks have pit style toilets that are used by various members in our community and seem to be well built and sturdy. It may be worthwhile to ask the county what it would take to provide something like this closeby.
2. If the Salvation Army is providing such great services such as meals, showers, bathrooms, laundry. Wifi, etc., why not support this organization for longer hours with funding and staff, instead of spreading limited funding and resources around to various organizations.

I would appreciate your thoughts on these questions. These may have already been considered but it doesn't hurt to bring ideas to the table for this complicated and important issue.

Carma L. Foley  
Retired Human Service worker  
360-509-7225

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:20 AM  
To: Brian Balfe <brian.balfe1@gmail.com>  
Cc: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Steven Forbragd <Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Rodney Rauback <Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Aaron Elton <Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mike Davis <Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Tom Wolfe <Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Public Works & Utilities Customer Response <bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Hillary Hamilton <Hillary.Hamilton@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Thomas Knuckey <Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Ned Lever <Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Dave Carter <Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Brett Jette <Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Mychael Raya <Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Jennifer Hayes <Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: RE: Concerned

Good morning Brian,

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to share your comments, questions, and concerns with me. The city is now down to one shelter (which is full) since the Salvation Army closed. I am working with regional partners including Kitsap County to stand up another homeless shelter. We are working through multiple options and hope to have more information to share soon. This will remain a high priority until completed. City Council is also working on updating the city's camping ordinance as the current one has been determined to be illegal by court rulings (9th Circuit). They are currently considering options for regulating time, place, and manner for camping and have been included in my reply. This is a high priority for them also. I realize this response does not make things immediately better, so I understand your frustration. You have my commitment to stay on this. In the meantime, I am including officials from the City of Bremerton Police, Public Works, and Legal Departments for their information. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Balfe <[brian.balfe1@gmail.com](mailto:brian.balfe1@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:06 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Concerned

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello I would say first that I'm happy to live in Bremerton. It's a great place for my wife and I to raise my two children. We like the community. However I have noticed more and more of the homeless community establishing more permanent housing in the public areas of our community. This is very

concerning to my family and I as to how the government plans to deal with this issue. I understand that there isn't an easy solution to this problem. However an entire city block now occupied in downtown with other area popping up. Just down the road there is a Motorhome that has been parked within walking distance from a children's park. I'm not saying that that person would do anything. Just on how easy it would be to bring a child into it. I would like to know what the city's plan is to handle the situation.

Brian Balfe



**Published for**  
**July 26 Study Session**  
**A3 – Public Comments**

**From:** [charles mayer](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Kim](#)  
**Subject:** Harms done by criminalizing homelessness  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:49:34 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council Members,

As a physician and co-chair of the Economic Inequity Task Force and Health for the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, we take a hard look at what improves the health and well-being of our communities. Though we understand the concerns of community members when homeless people live unsheltered in parks, near schools and near other public spaces, it has become clear that ordinances against encampments and criminalizing homelessness leads to much more harm than good.

The major causes of homelessness are unaffordable and limited housing availability, low wages and large increases in rent with no rental protections in place. Though mental health and drug use disorders can sometimes contribute, more often becoming homeless leads to mental health illness and drug use even to crisis levels.

Based on what we know leads to better outcomes, we at WPSR strongly support the community health approach to government both local and state policy. We recommend focusing on creating urgent and affordable housing, renter protections and supporting livable wages. This is the best way to prevent and care for people who suffer from being homeless. Criminalizing people and or decampments leads to serious life disruptions and ill-health. Harms that often if not sometimes impossible to repair. It also leads to higher costs for all.

By taking the public health approach, you can build your community's strength and become state leaders in compassionate AND practical policy.

Sincerely,

Charles Mayer MD MPH

Family Physician

Co-chair, Economic Inequity and Health Task Force

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR)



**From:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [charles mayer](#)  
**Cc:** [Kim](#); [City Council](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Kelsie Donleycott](#); [Jennifer Hayes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Harms done by criminalizing people who are homeless  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:47:59 AM

---

Dear Dr. Mayer,

Thank you for your email! The city has prioritized creating urgent and affordable housing, renter protections and supporting livable wages. I am forwarding your email to the City Council for their consideration as they deliberate on a camping ordinance. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me. Take care.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** charles mayer <charlesmayer411@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:52 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Kim <kimmysiebens@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Harms done by criminalizing people who are homeless

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Thank you for all your service for Bremerton!

As a physician and co-chair of the Economic Inequity Task Force and Health for the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, we take a hard look at what improves the health and well-being of our communities. Though we understand the concerns of community members when homeless people live unsheltered in parks, near schools and near other public spaces, it has become clear that ordinances against encampments and criminalizing homelessness leads to much more harm than good.

The major causes of homelessness are unaffordable and limited housing availability, low wages and large increases in rent with no rental protections in place. Though mental health and drug use disorders can sometimes contribute, more often becoming homeless leads to mental health illness and drug use even to crisis levels.

Based on what we know leads to better outcomes, we at WPSR strongly support the community health approach to government both local and state policy. We recommend focusing on creating urgent and affordable housing, renter protections and supporting livable wages. This is the best way to prevent and care for people who suffer from being homeless. Criminalizing people and or decampments leads to serious life disruptions and ill-health. Harms that often if not sometimes impossible to repair. It also leads to higher costs for all.

By taking the public health approach, you can build your community's strength and become state leaders in compassionate AND practical policy.

Sincerely,

Charles Mayer MD MPH

Family Physician

Co-chair, Economic Inequity and Health Task Force

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR)

I acknowledge the land I occupy today as the traditional home of the Duwamish tribal nation who are still living here today.

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** ML King Way/Camping  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 11:09:45 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council,

Feedback from the people on ML King Way is that it is very hard to leave their tent area for anytime at all as their things disappear. Hard to work, obtain services, go to the bathroom, or basically do anything to improve their current condition when they cannot leave. Crime follows and preys on the weak and impoverished. These people are citizens of Bremerton and victims of continual crime. Why is there no security here? Prosecute the criminals and provide a safe place for those who find themselves here!

I still see feces on the ground in a few spots and still no place for those on ML King Way to use a bathroom? I am surprised there is not more human waste. Try an experiment yourself and see how long you can hold it.

Tents can be killers. Both rain/cold and high temperatures can kill. Some people do not have or do not have the ability to set up a satisfactory dry tent. A gentleman died 6/18/2023 on ML King Way primarily of Hypothermia. He was not breathing and had no heartbeat when found. After CPR they obtained a heartbeat but he never regained consciousness but officially “lived” until 2:30PM on 6/19/2023. It had been raining for 2 days, his tent was set up over another tent that was already collapsed and wet. The entry on the top tent had several rips and there was no rain cover. Summertime right? His body was 77 degrees when they picked him up off of ML King Way. His tents and belongings were wet clear through and VERY heavy. A bag of his wet clothes were returned at the hospital after his death. Just another drug related death? Not so fast. There was absolutely no evidence of drug use in any of his personal things, zero. Word on the street from several that knew him close was he was not using. Mentally Ill yes. He had no where else to live after the shelter closed. His family did not know his whereabouts after the shelter closed until after his death.

Bremerton needs a shelter ASAP. This is how we keep these folks alive to be able to help them the best ways we can. They need a secure safe place. Let’s get The Salvation Army shelter open or something equivalent ASAP!

Related -

A federal judge just found Washington state in contempt and ordered it to pay more than \$100 million in fines for failing to provide timely psychiatric services to mentally ill people who are forced to wait in jails for weeks or months. In the recent Washington State DSHS ordered to pay 100 million.

In the article .....

Christopher Carney, representing Disability Rights Washington, said prosecuting vulnerable people accomplishes little. Instead, the funds should be spent on supportive housing with staffing and medication.

“We just keep throwing away resources and causing harm trying the wrong solutions,” Carney said in a release. “If what we want is to save lives and improve public safety, we know arrest and competency services are not the way to get there. Our clients need homes and help, not

more punishment.”

One last thing on a personal note. I notice an air of contempt that permeates many individuals views concerning these people who have found themselves on ML King Way. It is easy to look from afar and throw stones based on misconceived personal biases. I would recommend that anyone involved in making decisions concerning this population go and meet them. Take a walk with the prayer walk group or other organizations who are actively helping these people. Learn their names, hear their stories and understand their conditions and needs. THEN make informed decisions.

Thank you,

Neal Foley

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** No camping ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 8:00:13 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am still a resident of the City of Bremerton in District 5.

I am still adamantly opposed to criminalizing homelessness and/or mental illnesses.

I continue to strongly urge the City Council to repeal, in its entirety, the current no camping ordinance. It is non enforceable, useless as is, and taints homelessness with unwarranted criminality.

Please signal a new beginning in our city with an entirely new code dealing with homelessness and mental illness in a positive educated way.

Consider protecting sensitive areas in a "Sensitive Area Code". We absolutely need to protect our sensitive areas.

I would ask our City Council and Mayor to be proactive and support our local experts in homelessness 100%. Move forward with THEIR knowledge as our guide. We can become leaders in this regard rather than sit on our hands.

I would also like a clear explanation at the next public meeting as to EXACTLY why a porta-potty has been funded by council and not provided. A clear concise explanation as to where the inaction resides? There is a porta-potty in Manette that sits partially on the sidewalk and within inches of the handicap ramp??? If a porta-potty cannot be provided what other options are available NOW? Fire Station? These are Bremerton residents.

I continue to urge our local law enforcement to use existing laws to curb criminality that follows homelessness on ML King Way. It not only affects our local residents, it affects our homeless even more.

Thank you,

Neal Foley



**From:** [G2 Housing](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#); [Kylie Finnell](#)  
**Cc:** [molly.rose.brooks42@gmail.com](mailto:molly.rose.brooks42@gmail.com); [peggi.erickson@comcast.net](mailto:peggi.erickson@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Camping and Toilets  
**Date:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:37:52 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Councilmembers and Mr. Mayor,

Thanks for your ongoing work in support of our community's most vulnerable neighbors. We were especially glad to hear that the Mayor has prioritized establishing an emergency shelter in Bremerton.

In the meantime, We know you are working on the camping issue. Members of G2 Housing and Kitsap Equity, Race, And Community Engagement Coalition spoke at the last Council meeting. I am sending this message so that you will have a document version of our words.

G2 Housing stands with Kitsap ERACE Coalition on these points:

- We stand against any anti-camping legislation due to the negative impact on our unhoused neighbors.
- We support providing an area for camping to our unhoused neighbors, with access to clean water and sanitation, to include restroom facilities and showers.
- We are in favor of the City increasing funding for housing and shelter services for our unhoused neighbors.
- We are in favor of immediately funding an increase in the number of shelter beds in Bremerton.
- We are opposed to any fines and fees that might be levied against unhoused people for being in public spaces.
- We are opposed to "sweeps" of homeless camps that lead to the total loss of our neighbor's belongings.

G2 Housing adds:

Any ordinance that is passed will not be not enforced until the city's new designated space has been secured, and folks have been given a reasonable amount of time to make the transition. They will be provided with transportation to enable them to move their belongings.

-----

And separately, regarding the \$10,000 allocation for porta-potties:

We would like to know why the \$10,000 allocation for porta potties has not been used to install portable toilets. Many have asked at council meetings with no formal response. We have been told informally that liability concerns are stopping the installation. The city's liability concerns are just not a good enough reason to deny these folks the most basic sanitation needs, Like has been done at many other locations, it is time to install toilets on or near MLK Way

Thank you,

Jo Walter  
on behalf of G2 Housing

**From:** [amanda reynolds](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Unauthorized Camping Amendment opinion  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 9:43:18 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Amanda and I live in Downtown Bremerton. I'm just adding my thoughts on the proposal to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping."

I'm proud of the work Bremerton is doing to help the homeless population; from mental health support to housing opportunities.

I don't believe that the people in tents on MLK comprise the majority of homeless who want the support Bremerton has to offer. This is based on my conversations with law enforcement and the Salvation Army.

For 30 years I have watched Downtown Bremerton claw it's way back from being a place you wouldn't be caught in after dark to becoming a creative and fun place to spend time in. I volunteer downtown a few days every week and i've noticed over the past year the tone has become more sinister; with the smell of human waste, used needles and people in crisis on full display.

There are so many citizens from all walks of life that are actively working to make Bremerton succeed, are they not as important as those who are indifferent or don't care if they destroy it? Bremerton already supports its homeless population, the people who live in tents on MLK and refuse assistance should not be encouraged to remain there. I oppose a portable restroom being installed there as it will only encourage the situation to be permanent. The Salvation Army already offers hygiene and restroom facilities for use.

My family will be moving in the next year if the situation stays the same. We have seen the writing on the wall with Seattle and Portland. There has literally been nothing positive about allowing tent cities to exist.

Thank you for letting me add my opinion.

Sincerely,

Amanda

**From:** [kim.siebens](mailto:kim.siebens)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#); [Lance Walters](#); [Cnjadrian@comcast.net](mailto:Cnjadrian@comcast.net); [Tom Wolfe](#); [Rodney Rauback](#); [Robin O'Grady](#); [Dawn Michele Wilson](#); [Chuck Svac](#); [Anton Preisinger](#); [DFA.Public.Affairs@dea.gov](mailto:DFA.Public.Affairs@dea.gov); [community.outreach@dea.gov](mailto:community.outreach@dea.gov); [ODLL@dea.gov](mailto:ODLL@dea.gov); [ODLP@dea.gov](mailto:ODLP@dea.gov); [Legal](#); [Kari Mann](#); [Anthony Ives](#); [monicab@kmhs.org](mailto:monicab@kmhs.org)  
**Subject:** SAD NEWS TO ANNOUNCE: URGENT CONCERNS REGARDING MLK STREET AND THE UNHOUSED POPULATION  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 10:47:34 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Community Leaders,

I am writing to bring to your attention a concerning issue that has been affecting our community, specifically the homeless population in our area, particularly on MLK Street. It saddens me to share this news, but it is crucial that we address it to work towards finding a solution and making things better for those who are unhoused.

In recent times, there has been a significant increase in criminal activities targeting the homeless, with MLK Street being a focal point. We have become aware of an alarming prevalence of drug sales and distribution taking place on the street, perpetrated by individuals who do not need to reside in tents or live on the streets.

Unfortunately, the presence of homeless individuals in tents provides an ideal hiding place for criminals. As the community extends its support by offering free water, meals, and other necessary items meant for the unhoused, it inadvertently creates an environment that attracts high-profit drug dealers instead. They can hide in plain site.

Despite our concerns, the police chief has informed us that they can only take action within the confines of the existing laws. This has left me puzzled as to why acts such as disorderly conduct, trespassing, and high-level drug distribution are not illegal on MLK Street. The police chief mentioned that once drug possession becomes illegal again in Washington State, they will be able to take more decisive action. However, I am uncertain when this change will occur, and if there are no longer laws against selling substantial amounts of fentanyl or possessing weapons without proper authorization.

Given the presence of significant drug dealers and distributors, it is imperative to acknowledge that MLK Street is no longer a safe place for individuals to reside. Many people are seeking a safer environment where rules and order can be established.

Today, I will be meeting with others to brainstorm potential temporary locations for those who wish to live in a secure environment. However, it has come to our attention that criminals, particularly those involved in managing prostitution and drug sales, tend to follow public camps, taking advantage of the vulnerable and seeking control over cheap labor through addiction and intimidation.

Police Chief Tom Wolfe stated that "many of the issues are not criminal in nature and therefore fall to the community to decide how best to move forward." However, we are witnessing criminal acts that go unreported due to the fear of retaliation from the non-homeless criminals who are preying on the vulnerable. It is disheartening to recall the incident on July 12, where a homeless man was found dead and burned inside his tent at Evergreen Park.

Moreover, within a span of two days, three women were physically assaulted on MLK Street, with only one aggressor being apprehended by the police. The fear of retaliation prevented the reporting of the third incident.

Just last week, I personally witnessed 2 women physically assaulted and I called 911. Nobody else would call for help and remained hiding in their tents. I personally witnessed a man attempting to provoke his dog into attacking an elderly homeless man, likely with the intention to cause harm or even death. I intervened to ensure the safety of the elderly man and the dog, but in doing so, I became the target of verbal abuse and intimidation by a criminal who sought to scare me. He even instigated others to attack me.

These incidents are emblematic of the dangerous environment prevailing on MLK Street, where many long-term unhoused individuals live in constant fear, undeserving of such treatment.

It is important to note that MLK Street's location is ideal for the unhoused population due to its proximity to the limited services our community provides for the most impoverished and vulnerable individuals. Moving them further away without a safe place to go will only move them away from the few services that sustain them.

Unfortunately, the influx of drugs, dealers, and criminal activities has transformed it into a place devoid of law and order.

Furthermore, it is disheartening that the city has chosen this time to consider an ordinance that would effectively criminalize homelessness. (Amending the currently unconstitutional "anti camping ordinance", creating loop holes around the 2018 9th circuit court ruling)

There are real criminals hiding among the unhoused, participating in high level crimes, that should be criminalized. I am not talking about just a small/personal sized amount of drugs, but thousands of blue fentanyl pills are being funneled through that area for major distribution. This is a major operation in plain site.

Why is the city council focusing on making it even harder for the unhoused and most vulnerable people in our community? An anti camping ordinance will help reduce the issue on MLK but at what cost? It will also push the true unhoused to the margins of our community and lead to even more suffering. Those large drug sellers will just go home or go to some other poor neighborhood and keep selling. It won't even get close to solving this re-occurring problem.

Why not focus on the crimes being committed, using laws that are already in place, and then take action to make our community a healthier and safer place?

The Chief said the community has to figure out how to move forward. NOW is a great time to act!

More articles about this:

<https://www.npr.org/.../24/1074577305/homeless-crime-experts>

<https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/.../violence-against-people...>

I will attach a copy of basic homeless encampment rules as an example of what could

be implemented when managing a law abiding and safe encampment. We can provide a safe place for people to be while waiting for affordable housing or treatment, etc. When there is no place for so many to go we have to start thinking outside the box and helping our unhoused neighbors in more meaningful and safe ways.

Thank you,

Kimmy Siebens RN

Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

President, Their Voice

<http://www.their-voice.org>

Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless>

**From:** [Judy Arbogast](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Stop attacking the homeless - provide solutions NOW  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 2:07:06 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members:

The homeless in our area should not be targets of actions in the city. Instead the city should be trying to find positive solutions to affordable housing availability.

- I stand against any anti-camping legislation due to the negative impact on our unhoused neighbors.
- I support providing an area for camping to our unhoused neighbors, with access to clean water and sanitation, to include restroom facilities and showers.
- I am in favor of the City increasing funding for housing and shelter services for our unhoused neighbors.
- I am in favor of immediately funding an increase in the number of shelter beds in Bremerton.
- I am opposed to any fines and fees that might be levied against unhoused people for being in public spaces.
- I am opposed to "sweeps" of homeless camps that lead to the total loss of our neighbor's belongings.

The homeless people are NOT the cause of the lack of affordable housing. They are victims! Do not 'punish' them further with your policies. They need HELP, not fines [which they cannot afford], not being moved from place to place [while also taking their few possessions], not legislation against camping [further creating problems for them].

Your policies should reflect caring and concern for all the people of Bremerton.

Sincerely,  
Judy Arbogast  
[judy.arbogast@gmail.com](mailto:judy.arbogast@gmail.com)  
253 225 1977

**From:** [Ed & Maureen Heuss](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Eric Younger Council District 7  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 1:48:36 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Younger,

I am writing to you to address a vagrancy problem of drug users and thieves living and frequenting an area that borders our property on Kitsap Way. This problem has come about since the underground large culvert was installed for the future fish passage going under Kitsap Way and into Forest Lawn Cemetery. We are frequently witnessing drug users going in and out of the culvert at various times. We are also experiencing a lot of recent thefts occurring at our property at 5420 Kitsap Way and also at our tenant's business at 5418 Kitsap Way ( Strait Floors ). We plan to attend the upcoming City Council meeting this Wed. evening July 19th, and hopefully will have an opportunity to voice our concerns. We strongly feel that installing a fence around this area, would help immensely. We also have been finding drug needles and human waste on our properties.

Another issue that we have regarding this area, is the abandon vehicles that are filled with people's belongings and parked in the City ROW for months on end. Some without even wheels or tires. Why is this allowed and the vehicles are not towed to an impound yard. They appear to be storage facilities for some people. They started appearing after Pendleton Place was built. This issue has been ignored by the city for too long. We had truly hoped that Pendleton Place would somehow be a good neighbor. Though that has yet to be seen. The shopping carts from Winco somehow end up on our property every week and the transient traffic have certainly increased since .

We cannot continue to enable these wrong doers at the expense of the hard-working businesses, their customers and their employees. Or the taxpayers that pay to be represented by their elected officials. At this point I believe we can curtail the issues that I have mentioned with the suggestions of towing the cars in the ROW and installing fencing around the areas that I have mentioned, leading to the culvert. As far as the shopping carts, we and our tenants have returned several to the Winco store. Though we shouldn't have to. I believe this issue is also related to the bus stop that is in this same area.

Our neighbor Forest Lawn Cemetery and Lewis Funeral Chapel are aware of these issues and agree that something needs to be done.

I look forward to meeting you at the council meeting Wed. evening.

Thank you,  
Maureen Heuss  
[heusscompany@msn.com](mailto:heusscompany@msn.com)

**From:** Tom Wolfe [Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Allen Sweet [allen.sweet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allen.sweet@sbcglobal.net)  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment - Homeless People (Allen Sweet)

Mr. Sweet,

We rely on property owners to let us know they have persons trespassing on their property. If that is happening we will come out and trespass them off the property for you and if they refuse and you are willing to press charges we will arrest and remove them. We do not have the resources for 24 hr surveillance so I would recommend a security system and or hiring private security for commercial properties.

As to “stronger police action” we can operate within the law only and do so regularly, but we do not represent private interests so we need your cooperation to accomplish serving the over 45 thousand citizens and their public safety needs each day.

---

From: Allen Sweet <[allen.sweet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allen.sweet@sbcglobal.net)>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:50 PM  
To: City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless people

I am a property owner in East Bremerton- specifically at 2625 Wheaton Way. Our commercial property is vacant due to losing the hospital. It has now become a place that the homeless people find attractive.

It would help if there was more police presence in the area. Even more important would be stronger police action. We have even had homeless people tell us they do not fear police action as the police never do anything. What can you do about this?

Allen Sweet  
Owner  
858-735-6168



**From:** Robert Shaffer [robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)

**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 2:20 PM

**To:** Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us); City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Cc:** Rodney Rauback [Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Steven Forbragd

[Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Aaron Elton [Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mike Davis

[Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Jennifer Hayes [Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell

[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Brett Jette [Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Mychael Raya

[Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Subject:** MLK homeless tents blocking the sidewalk- please have them removed

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler, members of the Council-

Homeless tent campers are blocking sidewalks downtown on MLK. This is illegal and a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please have them removed.

Recently, Portland, Oregon agreed to move tents after handicapped Portlanders sued because they had no ability to use the city's sidewalks. I don't want the city of Bremerton to be sued, but if that's what it takes for the city to comply with the law (and remove this illegal tent camp), so be it.

Here's the story:



[Portland, Oregon, to clear sidewalk tents to settle suit with people with disabilities  
apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)

I'm deeply frustrated the city can solve these problems. It's your jobs.

Regards,  
Robert Shaffer (and many neighbors)  
820 Mckenzie Ave

---

On Jun 8, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Robert,

Thank you for your email. I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that it has been received and read. Take care, I hope you have a great rest of your day!

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Robert Shaffer <[robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 7:44 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Rodney Rauback <[Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Steven Forbragd <[Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Aaron Elton <[Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mike Davis <[Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Brett Jette <[Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mychael Raya <[Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Porland, OR just banned daytime camping

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We can do it in Bremerton, too.

## Portland City Council bans daytime camping

- Updated: Jun. 07, 2023, 7:18 p.m. |
- Published: Jun. 07, 2023, 5:37 p.m.

By [Nicole Hayden | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

The Portland City Council voted 3 to 1 on Wednesday to [ban people from camping](#) on public land during daytime hours within the city and to prohibit camping at all times near schools and other specific locations. The ordinance, put forth by [Mayor Ted Wheeler](#), comes as the city is seeking to comply by July 1 with a state law that requires local governments to write “objectively reasonable” rules to allow people to sit, lie, sleep and keep warm and dry on public property in places like Portland that don’t have enough shelter beds to serve all unhoused individuals.

Under the ordinance, people considered involuntarily homeless will only be allowed to camp from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. in certain areas and will be required to dismantle their campsites during the day. They will be restricted from pitching tents at any time near schools, day care centers, pedestrian plazas, shelter and construction sites, high-speed roads, parks, greenways and numerous other locations.

People who violate the rules more than two times — or more than twice build fires, obstruct private property or leave trash around campsites — could face fines of up to \$100 or up to 30 days in jail, according to the ordinance.

The new rules will go into effect in 30 days, but the city doesn’t plan to begin enforcement until mid-July. Mayor Ted Wheeler said the city will spend the next few months focused on reaching out to unhoused individuals to educate them about the new rules.

“These reasonable restrictions, coupled with our work on increasing shelter availability along with access to services, are a step in the right direction toward a revitalized Portland,” Wheeler said prior to voting in favor of the ordinance.

The City Council’s approval of the new rules comes a week after more than 100 people testified during a five-hour hearing on the ordinance, with most speakers urging the city to not move forward with what many described as inhumane regulations.

---

On Jun 7, 2023, at 10:21 AM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good morning Robert,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate you taking the time to follow up on your prior communication with me regarding your ability to enjoy your house, property, and neighborhood due to disruptive behavior on MLK Way and Park Ave. Included in my reply are officials from the City of Bremerton Police and Legal Departments for their review and follow up. Please know that city staff and I take your concerns very seriously and we will do everything we can, within the law with the resources available, to maintain a safe and healthy environment for you and your neighbors to live in. Take care Robert, I hope you have a nice day.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

From: Robert Shaffer <[robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 8:14 AM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Re: Homeless camping at MLK and Park downtown

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler, what are you doing to get rid of the homeless camp (now more than 20 tents) in downtown Bremerton?

It’s a public safety hazard for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Please help us.

Robert and Michele Shaffer, Mckenzie Ave  
Amanda and Aidan Clark, Mckenzie Ave  
Tyler and Maxine Larsen, 9th  
Cisco, Cogean Ave.

---

On Apr 25, 2023, at 3:28 PM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Robert,

Thank you so much for taking the time to inform us of your concerns regarding unacceptable behavior in your neighborhood. Please know that I totally understand where you are coming from, and I appreciate the thoughtful way you let us know this is happening. The fact that you mentioned some of these individuals appear to be emboldened is not lost on me, and I am including in my response officials from the City of Bremerton (COB) Police Department for their review and follow up, and the COB Legal Department for their information. Thank you again Robert for your email, I hope you and your family (and your neighbors) get to enjoy some of this recent sunny weather.

Sincerely,  
Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

From: Robert Shaffer <[robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:14 PM  
To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Cc: Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Subject: Homeless camping at MLK and Park downtown

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler, Chief Wolfe-

First, let me thank you both for all you do for the city. Bremerton is a really great place to live, and it's because of the work you and others do.

My neighbors and I are concerned about the homeless camp starting to form at MLK and Park. It's acceptable to us when it's just people hanging out during the day, but when people start to camp, we see more homeless and mentally ill in the neighborhood, wandering into our yards and onto porches, mostly after dark (the Ring doorbells pick them up in the middle of the night).

We live on McKenzie, and last night, a man ripped up my neighbor's flowers and placed them (inside a fence) on another neighbor's porch, along with a steel pipe. Not violent, not the end of the world, but a bit unnerving- both have two-year-old children. Last week, I yelled at a guy in my backyard in the middle of the night- I think he was just looking for something to steal. Again, not necessarily dangerous, but certainly a quality of life issue.

We also notice when this group hits a critical mass- the dynamics change from a few generally friendly people hanging around to a group that thinks this is their property, and will stare me down when Michele and I are out for a walk. The families on our street with kids avoid the area. It makes the neighborhood much less friendly.

You've done a great job in the past taking action when it reaches the level where it becomes more than a nuisance- can we do that again?

Thanks again,  
Robert and Michele Shaffer, 820 McKenzie Amanda and Aidan (he's 2) Clark, 809 McKenzie Tyler and Maxine Larsen and Rowan (also age 2), 702 8th Ave.

**From:** Jo Walter [msjowalter@gmail.com](mailto:msjowalter@gmail.com)

**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 11:01 PM

**To:** Thomas Knuckey [Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Cc:** Ned Lever [Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Dave Carter [Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us); City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment - MLK Way (Jo Walter)

Thanks for this information. That's a lot of dump trucks being filled with loose trash! I believe the reason folks are buying cans and plastic bags is to have receptacles available to avoid loose trash laying about.

At various times there have been dumpsters in the area which seemed a good idea if it was regularly emptied. On one occasion we filled my pickup truck with just the overflow.

Would it be possible for a dumpster to return, with a regular schedule for emptying it?

I know there was talk about housed people abusing dumpster privileges. Even so, if having a dumpster in the neighborhood could help with the loose trash problem, dumping trash from visitors might be a price worth paying.

Sounds like a lot of resources are being used with workers picking up from the ground every day, and twice weekly heavy equipment runs. I'm hoping that maintaining a dumpster might require fewer worker hours, or at least no more than the work that is done now.

Hoping your weekend was a good one. Best regards,

Jo Walter  
360-551-6944

---

**From:** Thomas Knuckey [Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 12:00 PM

**To:** [msjowalter@gmail.com](mailto:msjowalter@gmail.com)

**Cc:** Ned Lever [Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Ned.Lever@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Dave Carter [Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Dave.Carter@ci.bremerton.wa.us); City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**Subject:** RE: Public Comment - MLK Way (Jo Walter)

Good afternoon Ms. Walter – I thought I'd provide a little additional information regarding how Public Works is managing trash collection/dumping on ML King Way. The volume of trash has evolved over time, and so our response has likewise evolved. Currently we drive through the street every weekday and collect any loose trash we find. Twice each week we go to the site with heavy equipment to collect and dump. This week was pretty typical of our recent efforts - today we filled a 5-cubic yard dump truck, and earlier this week we filled two F550 trucks which combined have about the same (or maybe a little greater) capacity than a 5-cubic yard dump truck. We intend to continue adapting as necessary to address this issue until a better solution is in place.

Take care and I hope you have a very nice weekend.

**Tom Knuckey, P.E.**

Director of Public Works & Utilities

City of Bremerton

Desk (360) 473-2376/Cell (360) 710-0039

[thomas.knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:thomas.knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

**From:** Jo Walter <[msjowalter@gmail.com](mailto:msjowalter@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:58 AM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** MLK Way

Good morning,

Thank you for your work on the anti camping ordinance. I appreciated everyone's work at the study session last night, particularly the words of Eric Younger and Jennifer Chamberlin. You are grappling with such a complex and challenging issue, and thank you for sticking with it.

I didn't hear anyone following up on Eric's suggestion that we find an appropriate location for camping, making basic services available, and addressing transportation. If not sooner, I hope you will revisit that idea at the next study session.

And Jennifer's request to include Chief Wolfe in these discussions is right on. I hope you can bring him to the next study session to describe what is happening to address the criminal threats to both the housed and unhoused on MLK Way.

I'm sure you are following Kimmie's recent activity on MLK, documented on Facebook. She is fundraising for trash cans and plastic bags. I remember hearing at a council meeting that Public Works is collecting trash there every day, so where is the disconnect?

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless/permalink/1724689211318391/?ref=share&mibextid=DcJ9fc>

She is also dramatically collecting human waste, and disposing of it at a dump station. Obviously this highlights the need for installing a porta potty. And as this tent city is growing, one is not enough. I hope you will discuss this issue directly at an upcoming study session. At this point the city's liability concerns are just not a good enough reason to deny these folks the most basic sanitation needs. It is another issue that needs grappling with, and given that it has been in discussion for so long, I suggest that the toilets should be prioritized over the camping ordinance!

Also, Kimmie has posted that the man who brought the compelling testimony about his young daughter being sexually propositioned, is suspect himself. I know I was moved when he spoke, but I will investigate a bit more. I can't imagine him showing up only to lie, so I will learn more about Kimmie's suspicions.

Thank you,  
Jo Walter

**From:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [spirosbremerton@gmail.com](mailto:spirosbremerton@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Tom Wolfe](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Steven Forbraqd](#); [Rodney Rauback](#); [Aaron Elton](#); [Mike Davis](#); [Brett Jette](#); [Jennifer Hayes](#); [Kelsie Donleycott](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment - Homeless Problem (Lesleigh Blackstock, Spiro's Pizza)  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 4:13:36 PM

---

Good afternoon Lesleigh,

Thank you for your email. Please do not hesitate to call 911 the next time this happens and encourage your employees to do the same. We (the city) have made significant investments in eviction prevention, rental assistance, transitional and permanent supportive housing, shelters, addiction and mental health counseling and treatment, deeply affordable and low-income housing, food & supplies distribution, trash pickup, behavior health and housing navigator services, and many other programs. We are fully aware that there is a greater need for everything I just mentioned, and the work will continue to increase services. The city currently has a shelter, but there is no availability. I am currently working on a location for another shelter in Bremerton and met recently on site to discuss feasibility with the property/building owner. To learn more about all the work going on to address homelessness and/or initiatives and challenges that are directly or indirectly associated because of homelessness, please attend upcoming Wednesday City Council Meetings and Study Sessions, in person or zoom, as this topic receives a lot of attention. The Council will also be discussing a camping ordinance in upcoming meetings. You may not be aware, but the City of Bremerton (COB) does not have an enforceable camping ordinance as it stands today. The city's ordinance is outdated and out of compliance with state law. The city's only homeless shelter with capacity, The Salvation Army, closed on May 1<sup>st</sup> which exacerbated an already tenuous situation. As a side note, I would also like to provide you information regarding recent Washington State drug law changes and what has happened over the last few years. I feel it is important for you and others to know about this as every individual who lives, works, plays, or invests in Bremerton probably has a slightly different opinion on the impacts that drug addiction, drug laws, and drug enforcement have on this crisis. The State Legislature essentially legalized drugs (from an enforcement standpoint) approximately 2 years ago. Through recent legislation, drug use, to a certain extent, has now been recriminalized (beginning August 14th) although the punishment is less punitive than it was pre decriminalization. The legislature has indicated that with recriminalization of drugs there should be emphasis on deferrals or behavior courts as sentencing alternatives. How this will work remains to be seen. With all this being said, we (myself and officials from the COB Police Department (PD)) will do the best we can, within the law and resources available, to keep your neighborhood, business, employees, patrons and property safe. Included in my reply are officials from the COB PD and Legal Departments for their awareness. An important side note, the City Council will continue taking testimony during public comment at their July 19th meeting beginning at 5:30pm. It will be important for you to weigh in with your testimony as your experiences and observations should be heard.

Take care Lesleigh, I hope you enjoy the rest of your day. Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

**From:** customer was charged 4 times for the same order [spirosbremerton@gmail.com](mailto:spirosbremerton@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:14 PM  
**To:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Homeless Problem

Dear Councilwoman/man,

I am the manager at the Bremerton Spiros on Kitsap Way. We have been apart of this city since 2014, and we love our location and all of our customers. However, I would like to express my concern and frustration towards the homelessness situation that we have been experiencing. I came into the restaurant this morning and we had, and this is not the first time, a group of people camped out in our outdoor patio. I felt comfortable enough to walk out there and let them know that they cannot stay here and they were fine with packing up and leaving. But I do have younger employees that may not feel comfortable in this situation being able to do that. This time, they were not confrontational, but in a situation where someone may be under the influence of drugs or not mentally stable, I feel that it is not safe for my employees to have to deal with this. I don't know if you are working on trying to figure how to deal with all of this, but I feel like it is getting out of hand. For the safety of myself and all of my employees, I would like to know what will be done about all of this.

Lesleigh Blackstock



**From:** [City Council](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Citizen Concerns - Rota Vista Park (Jacob Bullon)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 12:16:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-hd0kmhys.png](#)

---

Attn: Council Members

**\*\*For informational purposes only. Do not reply to this email\*\***

---

**From:** Jeff Coughlin [Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 12:04 AM  
**To:** jacob bullon [kingbocaj@yahoo.com](mailto:kingbocaj@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** City Council [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Greg Wheeler [Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Jeff Elevado [Jeff.Elevado@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Elevado@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Tom Wolfe [Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us); Kylie Finnell [Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)  
**Subject:** Re: Citizen Concerns - Rota Vista Park (Jacob Bullon)

Hi Jacob,

Thanks for writing in about Rota Vista Park, and my apologies for my delay in responding to you. I also want to thank you for your exceptional level of volunteerism and dedication to maintaining the neighborhood and local parks.

I agree that Roto Vista Park has the potential to be a shining gem of a waterfront park in the city, similar to the many other excellently maintained Parks in our city. I've highlighted this in past Council reports.

I think you have several excellent questions regarding Parks maintenance that I am requesting Mayor Wheeler and Parks Director Elevado answer as part of this years' budget cycle, as Council has on it's 2023 Goals and Priorities to secure additional funding for Parks.

- How much would it cost (or is it possible to adjust current staffing) to perform more routine vegetation control in Roto Vista park, including maintenance of the trail, for visibility and safety?
- How much would it cost (or is it possible to adjust current staffing) to perform daily checks of Roto Vista park?
- How much would it cost to replace and maintain the stairs in Roto Vista park?
- How much would it cost to restore and maintain the horseshoe pits in Evergreen park?

I'm also CC-ing Police Chief Wolfe and City Attorney Kylie Finnell for awareness of the response you received in regards to the enforcement of camping in city parks. While Council is presently in the middle of updating the city-wide camping ordinance, my current understanding is that camping in parks is already prohibited and enforceable by other ordinances.

I will note that Gold Mountain golf course is a net source of revenue for the city, the profit from which goes into the Parks budget, but I understand the appearance and frustration.

In the long run, I am hopeful that as part of the Warren Bridge Multimodal Project that the city will be able to secure funding to establish a multimodal connector through Roto Vista and in the process complete numerous improvements in the park. However, in the short run I again agree that this park is in dire need of more regular upkeep and city presence. The more we could maintain it, the more it would be used by the neighborhood and others, with more volunteers working with the city to help maintain landscaping and safety.

Cheers,  
Jeff

--



**Jeff Coughlin, PhD**  
**Councilmember, Dist. 3**  
**2023 Council President**

*This e-mail and further communication may be subject to public disclosure, if requested under the Washington Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).*

---

**From:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 12:24 AM  
**To:** Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Citizen Concerns - Rota Vista Park (Jacob Bullon)

---

**From:** jacob bullon <[kingbocaj@yahoo.com](mailto:kingbocaj@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 4:15 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Jeff Coughlin

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello - I wanted to send this email to share not only my disappointment but also of some of my neighbors. For years Rota Vista has been a known problem area and yet even with Citizens willing to chip in to help we haven't seen any respectful level of help back from the City. Instead just excuses- really the main thing that park would need is for park workers to actually stop by daily for a 15 minute Audit. I've suggested this in the past and again just Recently when I was told that Due to Safety it's required that two park workers go together and this is hard to arrange. Public safety in the parks should be number one. This response is a blow off. There are workers in Evergreen every day and a 15 minute stop by Vista to notify and work together with BPD is not a lot to ask. It would also make it easier to maintain. It's current shape is disgusting and I suggest ea of you stop by unannounced and imagine that your taking your family to visit and check out what should be a decent

pocket park.

I would like to see a list of days visited and time spent at the parks- but I'm sure they don't keep these records otherwise we would be able to show the lack of response and that there is no transparency. How often is Bachman park - whitey Domstead visited in comparison. Maybe gold mountain shouldn't be owned by the City if any of our parks look like this.

Also to have to ask every year to have the trail area cut down - this needs to be just part of up keep. It's was originally cut back as I was told by being Requested by BPD for visibility and safety and ea year we shouldn't have to ask to have this done since it has actually become more unsafe dud to neglect.

Also the island in upper vista should be removed ( picture attached ) or dropped to ground level. And other bushes and trees opened for line of sight. All in all disappointed by the Parks performance. From unable-unwilling to maintain lights - to hand rails and stairs rotting away.

Horse shoe pits that are more of a safety issue from neglect. On and on.







**PET WASTE**  
TRANSMITS DISEASE  
LEASH AND CLEAN  
UP AFTER  
YOUR PET



**PLEASE KEEP  
THIS AREA  
CLEAN**

NO WAR

Good afternoon, sir:

Thank you for contacting the City regarding your concerns at Roto Vista Park. Regarding the marijuana plants, I requested an officer to check for the MJ debris, and the tent. I have also asked Patrol sergeants to keep this park on their radar for patrols.

The officer will ask the camper in the red/white tent to move along. If the camper is using the tent as housing, we are unable to force them to leave due to legislative restrictions. However, I have messaged the Parks Manager to check for signage at the top. If there is a sign indicating the park hours (sunrise to sunset), we can notify them that they are violating the ordinance regarding hours. They can be removed at that point.

If you witness illegal activity at the park, please don't hesitate to call 9-1-1. You may also report it as an anonymous report.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,





**From:** Mary Lou Long <[maryloulong2515@gmail.com](mailto:maryloulong2515@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:03 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:**

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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

**From:** **Mary Lou Long** <[maryloulong2515@gmail.com](mailto:maryloulong2515@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 13, 2023, 11:18 AM  
**Subject:**  
**To:** <[maryloulong2515@gmail.com](mailto:maryloulong2515@gmail.com)>

The ninth circuit Court is not the last word in law. Is this case going to the Supreme Court? If so, we can wait till it is settled. Why the big rush to change our rules for camping on city property? In the mean time to resolve the dangerous activity of those living in city limits on public land causing nuisances and health issues we need to use these tools to remove dangerous people from our neighborhoods. Drug usage will not be tolerated on city property. Go to jail directly. Anyone creating health hazards of human waste on public thoroughfares will be sent to jail. Anyone selling drugs on the streets will be sent to jail. Any children in a tented community where there are drugs being used will be removed from their parents control and placed in foster homes. If people don't want to find themselves going to jail or losing the children will be finding ways to get off the streets and drugs. All social services and charitable groups need to unit their efforts to help those who really want to get help to get out of their situation.

We property owners pay property taxes the campers pay nothing.



From: jane Rebelowski <janerebelowski@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 8:07 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

Subject: repeal "unauthorized camping" ordinance. Distribute to ALL Councilors

The proposed Unauthorized Camping ordinance is lacking in compassion. As we all know there is no existing shelter space to house those currently living on the streets of Bremerton. Pretending to care by shuffling them off to Port Orchard is not a solution.

The City of Bremerton's Audit Committee has identified over 30 surplus properties. Please consider allowing houseless residents to live in an authorized camp on surplus property until real shelter space or permanent affordable housing is available.

Please implore staff to use the \$10,000 Council authorized for portable toilets.

Jane Rebelowski

1445 17th St

98337

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kitsap ERACE Coalition](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#); [Kitsap ERACE Coalition](#)  
**Cc:** [Nelson, David](#)  
**Subject:** We stand against any anti-camping legislation. We stand with our unhoused neighbors.  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 4:24:04 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council and Mayor,

Kitsap ERACE (Equity, Race, And Community Engagement) Coalition acknowledges the work that the Bremerton City Council members are doing on behalf of our unhoused neighbors to provide spaces for camping and parking that are free from harassment and constant disruption.

In advance of your next study session, we would like to reiterate the points made by members of the Kitsap ERACE Coalition Housing Systems Team at the last Bremerton City Council meeting.

The Housing Systems Team has clarified our stand on the anti-camping ordinance under consideration by the council. Our stand is as follows:

- We stand against any anti-camping legislation due to the negative impact on our unhoused neighbors.
- We support providing an area for camping to our unhoused neighbors, with access to clean water and sanitation, to include restroom facilities and showers.
- We are in favor of the City of Bremerton increasing funding for housing and shelter services for our unhoused neighbors.
- We are in favor of an immediate increase in the number of shelter beds in Bremerton.
- We are opposed to any fines and fees that might be levied against unhoused people for being in public spaces.
- We are opposed to “sweeps” of homeless camps that lead to the total loss of our neighbors’ belongings.

We are encouraged to hear that the City of Bremerton is working with the Salvation Army to ensure they can open a severe weather shelter to keep unhoused community members safe and warm during inclement weather.

The City of Seattle is providing sanitation facilities to Seattle community members living on the streets, and we encourage the City of Bremerton to be the first city in Kitsap County to provide such sanitation facilities for unhoused community members.

As housing costs have skyrocketed and wages stagnated the population of unhoused community members in Kitsap has grown and may continue to grow. All community members have the right to be treated with dignity, to be securely sheltered, and to have their belongings protected from confiscation. All community members have the right to sanitation facilities, housing services, and other needed services. We encourage the City of Bremerton to ensure that all its community members’ rights to housing and services are fulfilled and protected.

Respectfully,

Kitsap ERACE Coalition  
[KitsapERACEcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:KitsapERACEcoalition@gmail.com)  
@KitsapERACEcoalition

cc: Kitsap Sun Editor, David Nelson

--

**Kitsap Equity, Race, And Community Engagement Coalition** is part of a local legacy of people-powered change, of years of Black, Indigenous, People Of Color (BIPOC), and allies engaging neighbors in the *hard* work, the *heart* work, the *collective* work of building beloved community. Kitsap ERACE Coalition is a coming together of groups and individuals boosting interconnected race equity work. Rooted in relationships, collaboration, and commitment to racial justice, Kitsap ERACE Coalition tenaciously organizes for thriving community and for profound, accountable, and liberatory institutional change. Let us know if you'd like to check out an upcoming Kitsap ERACE Coalition meeting by emailing [KitsapERACEcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:KitsapERACEcoalition@gmail.com). Follow Kitsap ERACE Coalition on [Facebook](#) and on [Instagram](#) to stay tuned to actions, collaborations, and more in which the Coalition is involved.

#KitsapERACEcoalition

#KitsapEquityRaceAndCommunityEngagementCoalition

**Published for  
July 12, 2023  
Study Session**

**B5 – Public Comments**

**From:** [Eric Kneebone](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Camping ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 5:00:17 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Esteemed City Council Members:

After hearing the city attorneys presentation last night and the public comments, many of which focused on the clear danger associated with the MLK way homeless encampment, as a resident of MLK Way I support the following in regards the camping ordinance issue:

1. Amending the current ordinance to meet constitutionality.
2. Restrict camping to 10pm to 6 am in the downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods - perhaps the entire proposed creative district. Tents must be taken down daily and people must be mobile.
3. Sleeping/living in a vehicle is permissible provided the vehicle is in an operable condition, and is properly licensed, insured, and registered. Vehicles must move every 14 days maximum to a new location 2 miles or more away from the previous location.
4. Tents, vehicles and property may not obstruct any street, sidewalk, right of way, fire lane or fire hydrant at any time.
5. Designate an authorized camping area for long term needs outside of the downtown area and provide restrooms.
6. No open fires at any campsite.
7. Suspend enforcement of ordinance in extreme cold weather with no shelters available.

I heard a lot of impassioned pleas from the folks with nonprofit outreach groups that seemed to oppose any action. They ask for repeal without any alternative. I feel they are thinking of their personal convenience for their personal missions. This does not seem to be a course of action that will result in positive results.

The MLK way encampment must go and not be allowed to return. It simply has concentrated the crime and prostitution in a convenient location for patronage. Clear it and set up ecoblocks along the parking to prevent tents and rvs from being driven onto the sidewalks. Do not allow a recolonization of the area by street people.

I heard many comments by residents asking for relief from this blight on our community. Businesses that are closing because of the behavior of the street people. Folks being threatened. Parking being unavailable due to the encampment vehicles and vandalism. This is untenable. I have heard gunshots from this camp. I've heard explosions well outside of the usual 4th of July chaos. I have witnessed street people attempting to gain access to houses and vehicles. What happens when the unthinkable occurs?

Sometimes you can't cure a disease, but you can treat the symptoms. Please amend the ordinance so MLK way and the surrounding neighborhood and the city of Bremerton can be made safe.

Eric Kneebone

**From:** amanda reynolds <strongamanda@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 9:43 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unauthorized Camping Amendment opinion

Hello,

My name is Amanda and I live in Downtown Bremerton. I'm just adding my thoughts on the proposal to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping."

I'm proud of the work Bremerton is doing to help the homeless population; from mental health support to housing opportunities.

I don't believe that the people in tents on MLK comprise the majority of homeless who want the support Bremerton has to offer. This is based on my conversations with law enforcement and the Salvation Army.

For 30 years I have watched Downtown Bremerton claw it's way back from being a place you wouldn't be caught in after dark to becoming a creative and fun place to spend time in. I volunteer downtown a few days every week and i've noticed over the past year the tone has become more sinister; with the smell of human waste, used needles and people in crisis on full display.

There are so many citizens from all walks of life that are actively working to make Bremerton succeed, are they not as important as those who are indifferent or don't care if they destroy it? Bremerton already supports its homeless population, the people who live in tents on MLK and refuse assistance should not be encouraged to remain there. I oppose a portable restroom being installed there as it will only encourage the situation to be permanent. The Salvation Army already offers hygiene and restroom facilities for use.

My family will be moving in the next year if the situation stays the same. We have seen the writing on the wall with Seattle and Portland. There has literally been nothing positive about allowing tent cities to exist.

Thank you for letting me add my opinion.

Sincerely,  
Amanda

**From:** [Mike Fairchild](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Housing and the lack of help  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 1:41:29 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Charles Fairchild and I am a resident of Kitsap county and have been for over 30 years. I am not a drug addict I am not an alcoholic and I am not being heard by the city council. I am currently homeless because I became disabled and I have been on lists for over 6 years now waiting for housing. I was in the hospital fighting for my life when they sent an email to me wanting me to fill out papers so I could get affordable housing. I was not able to leave the hospital to get the papers turned in as I was not healthy enough to leave the hospital. Bremerton housing then gave away the apartment I had been waiting for for over 5 years at that time. I was told I would be the next person housed which also was changed for some reason to now I am the second in line to be housed. I fortunately do not reside on Martin Luther King Road like many of my fellow homeless friends are forced to do. I am blessed enough to have a better hiding place and so I don't go through alot of the harassment they go through. You and city hall are supposed to be listening to the voices of the people and carrying out the needs of the people. I don't feel like people are hearing all the voices that are screaming for help. Please do not choke out my voice by limiting the public from commenting on the topics of housing and how wrong it is to criminalize being homeless. Putting us in jail and causing more issues for already traumatized people is far more expensive than creating housing. It is more humane to help the people. I also have no criminal record and don't feel I should have one because I became disabled and then could not afford my home any more. Thank you for your time.

Charles Fairchild

**From:** [Neal Foley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** ML King Way/Camping  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 11:09:45 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council,

Feedback from the people on ML King Way is that it is very hard to leave their tent area for anytime at all as their things disappear. Hard to work, obtain services, go to the bathroom, or basically do anything to improve their current condition when they cannot leave. Crime follows and preys on the weak and impoverished. These people are citizens of Bremerton and victims of continual crime. Why is there no security here? Prosecute the criminals and provide a safe place for those who find themselves here!

I still see feces on the ground in a few spots and still no place for those on ML King Way to use a bathroom? I am surprised there is not more human waste. Try an experiment yourself and see how long you can hold it.

Tents can be killers. Both rain/cold and high temperatures can kill. Some people do not have or do not have the ability to set up a satisfactory dry tent. A gentleman died 6/18/2023 on ML King Way primarily of Hypothermia. He was not breathing and had no heartbeat when found. After CPR they obtained a heartbeat but he never regained consciousness but officially "lived" until 2:30PM on 6/19/2023. It had been raining for 2 days, his tent was set up over another tent that was already collapsed and wet. The entry on the top tent had several rips and there was no rain cover. Summertime right? His body was 77 degrees when they picked him up off of ML King Way. His tents and belongings were wet clear through and VERY heavy. A bag of his wet clothes were returned at the hospital after his death. Just another drug related death? Not so fast. There was absolutely no evidence of drug use in any of his personal things, zero. Word on the street from several that knew him close was he was not using. Mentally Ill yes. He had no where else to live after the shelter closed. His family did not know his whereabouts after the shelter closed until after his death.

Bremerton needs a shelter ASAP. This is how we keep these folks alive to be able to help them the best ways we can. They need a secure safe place. Let's get The Salvation Army shelter open or something equivalent ASAP!

Related -

A federal judge just found Washington state in contempt and ordered it to pay more than \$100 million in fines for failing to provide timely psychiatric services to mentally ill people who are forced to wait in jails for weeks or months. In the recent Washington State DSHS ordered to pay 100 million.

In the article .....

Christopher Carney, representing Disability Rights Washington, said prosecuting vulnerable people accomplishes little. Instead, the funds should be spent on supportive housing with staffing and medication.

"We just keep throwing away resources and causing harm trying the wrong solutions," Carney said in a release. "If what we want is to save lives and improve public safety, we know arrest and competency services are not the way to get there. Our clients need homes and help, not



more punishment.”

One last thing on a personal note. I notice an air of contempt that permeates many individuals views concerning these people who have found themselves on ML King Way. It is easy to look from afar and throw stones based on misconceived personal biases. I would recommend that anyone involved in making decisions concerning this population go and meet them. Take a walk with the prayer walk group or other organizations who are actively helping these people. Learn their names, hear their stories and understand their conditions and needs. THEN make informed decisions.

Thank you,

Neal Foley

**From:** [Robert Shaffer](#)  
**To:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Rodney Rauback](#); [Steven Forbraqg](#); [Aaron Elton](#); [Mike Davis](#); [Jennifer Hayes](#); [Kylie Finnell](#); [Brett Jette](#); [Mychael Raya](#)  
**Subject:** MLK homeless tents blocking the sidewalk- please have them removed  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 2:20:11 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler, members of the Council-

Homeless tent campers are blocking sidewalks downtown on MLK. This is illegal and a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please have them removed.

Recently, Portland, Oregon agreed to move tents after handicapped Portlanders sued because they had no ability to use the city's sidewalks. I don't want the city of Bremerton to be sued, but if that's what it takes for the city to comply with the law (and remove this illegal tent camp), so be it.

Here's the story:



Portland, Oregon, to clear sidewalk tents to settle suit with people with disabilities  
apnews.com

I'm deeply frustrated the city can solve these problems. It's your jobs.

Regards,  
Robert Shaffer (and many neighbors)  
820 Mckenzie Ave

On Jun 8, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Robert,

Thank you for your email. I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that it has

been received and read. Take care, I hope you have a great rest of your day!

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

---

**From:** Robert Shaffer <[robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 7:44 AM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Rodney Rauback <[Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Rodney.Rauback@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Steven Forbragd <[Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Forbragd@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Aaron Elton <[Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Aaron.Elton@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mike Davis <[Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mike.Davis@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Hayes <[Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Hayes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Kylie Finnell <[Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Brett Jette <[Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Brett.Jette@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Mychael Raya <[Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Mychael.Raya@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Portland, OR just banned daytime camping

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We can do it in Bremerton, too.

## Portland City Council bans daytime camping

- Updated: Jun. 07, 2023, 7:18 p.m. |
- Published: Jun. 07, 2023, 5:37 p.m.



134  
shares

By

- [Nicole Hayden | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

The Portland City Council voted 3 to 1 on Wednesday to [ban people from camping](#) on public land during daytime hours within the city and to prohibit

camping at all times near schools and other specific locations.

The ordinance, put forth by [Mayor Ted Wheeler](#), comes as the city is seeking to comply by July 1 with a state law that requires local governments to write “objectively reasonable” rules to allow people to sit, lie, sleep and keep warm and dry on public property in places like Portland that don’t have enough shelter beds to serve all unhoused individuals.

Under the ordinance, people considered involuntarily homeless will only be allowed to camp from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. in certain areas and will be required to dismantle their campsites during the day. They will be restricted from pitching tents at any time near schools, day care centers, pedestrian plazas, shelter and construction sites, high-speed roads, parks, greenways and numerous other locations.

People who violate the rules more than two times — or more than twice build fires, obstruct private property or leave trash around campsites— could face fines of up to \$100 or up to 30 days in jail, according to the ordinance.

The new rules will go into effect in 30 days, but the city doesn’t plan to begin enforcement until mid-July. Mayor Ted Wheeler said the city will spend the next few months focused on reaching out to unhoused individuals to educate them about the new rules.

“These reasonable restrictions, coupled with our work on increasing shelter availability along with access to services, are a step in the right direction toward a revitalized Portland,” Wheeler said prior to voting in favor of the ordinance.

The City Council’s approval of the new rules comes a week after more than 100 people testified during a five-hour hearing on the ordinance, with most speakers urging the city to not move forward with what many described as inhumane regulations.

On Jun 7, 2023, at 10:21 AM, Greg Wheeler  
<[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good morning Robert,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate you taking the time to follow up on your prior communication with me regarding your ability to enjoy your house, property, and neighborhood due to disruptive behavior on MLK Way and Park Ave. Included in my reply are officials from the City of Bremerton Police and Legal Departments for their review and follow up. Please know that city staff and I take your concerns very seriously and we will do everything we can, within the law with the resources available, to maintain a safe and healthy environment for you and your neighbors to live in. Take care Robert, I hope you have a nice day.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler  
Mayor  
City of Bremerton  
(360) 473-5266

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Shaffer <[robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 8:14 AM

To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

Subject: Re: Homeless camping at MLK and Park downtown

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler, what are you doing to get rid of the homeless camp (now more than 20 tents) in downtown Bremerton?

It's a public safety hazard for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Please help us.

Robert and Michele Shaffer, Mckenzie Ave

Amanda and Aidan Clark, Mckenzie Ave

Tyler and Maxine Larsen, 9th

Cisco, Cogean Ave.

On Apr 25, 2023, at 3:28 PM, Greg Wheeler  
<[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Robert,

Thank you so much for taking the time to inform us of your concerns regarding unacceptable behavior in your neighborhood. Please know that I totally understand where you are coming from, and I appreciate the thoughtful way you let us know this is happening. The fact that you mentioned some of these individuals appear to be emboldened is not lost on me, and I am including in my response officials from the City of Bremerton (COB) Police Department for their review and follow up, and the COB Legal Department for their information. Thank you again Robert for your email, I hope you and your family (and your neighbors) get to enjoy some of this recent sunny weather.

Sincerely,

Greg Wheeler

Mayor

City of Bremerton

(360) 473-5266

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Shaffer <[robertjshaffer@yahoo.com](mailto:robertjshaffer@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:14 PM

To: Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> Cc: Tom Wolfe <[Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Tom.Wolfe@ci.bremerton.wa.us)> Subject: Homeless camping at MLK and Park downtown

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Wheeler, Chief Wolfe-

First, let me thank you both for all you do for the city. Bremerton is a really great place to live, and it's because of the work you and others do.

My neighbors and I are concerned about the homeless camp starting to form at MLK and Park. It's acceptable to us when it's just people hanging out during the day, but when people start to camp, we see more homeless and mentally ill in the neighborhood, wandering into our yards and onto porches, mostly after dark (the Ring doorbells pick them up in the middle of the night).

We live on McKenzie, and last night, a man ripped up my neighbor's flowers and placed them (Inside a fence) on another neighbor's porch, along with a steel pipe. Not violent, not the end of the world, but a bit unnerving- both have two-year-old children. Last week, I yelled at a guy in my backyard in the middle of the night- I think he was just looking for something to steal. Again, not necessarily dangerous, but certainly a quality of life issue.

We also notice when this group hits a critical mass- the dynamics change from a few generally friendly people hanging around to a group that thinks this is their property, and will stare me down when Michele and I are out for a walk. The families on our street with kids avoid the area. It makes the neighborhood much less friendly.

You've done a great job in the past taking action when it reaches the level where it becomes more than a nuisance-can we do that again?

Thanks again,

Robert and Michele Shaffer, 820 Mckenzie Amanda and Aidan (he's 2) Clark, 809 Mckenzie Tyler and Maxine Larsen and Rowan (also age 2), 702 8th Ave.

**From:** [City Council](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Wheeler](#); [Kylie Finnell](#)  
**Subject:** FW: July 12 - Item B5 Public Comment (Justin Gurley)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:17:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [IKE6WDK1U.wav](#)

---

Attn: Council Members (FYI)

\*\*For informational purposes only. Do not reply to this email\*\*

The attached message received today from Tristan Gurley (District 3 Resident) included comments for Item B5 "Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled "Unauthorized Camping".

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitel Voice Mail <shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:37 PM  
To: Lori Smith <Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Mitel voice message from +13606495943 for mailbox 5280

You have received a voice mail message from +13606495943 for mailbox 5280.  
Message length is 00:03:39. Message size is 1713 KB.

**Published for  
July 5, 2023  
Council Meeting**

**6B – Public Comments**



**From:** [Bonnie Thane](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-Camping Bans...  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:50:17 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

A 2018 decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (*Martin v. Boise*) found it unconstitutional for cities to enforce anti-camping ordinances if they do not have shelter beds for all unhoused individuals. We know that there are currently not enough shelter beds in Bremerton to meet the needs of all unhoused and housing insecure individuals and families.

This lifelong Bremerton resident is against anti camping bans that would affect our most vulnerable. Please brainstorm solutions that are proven to actually help end homelessness in a humane way, such as affordable housing, public restrooms, a homeless shelter, etc.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Thane

**From:** [Caroline Evergreen](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-Camping Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, July 3, 2023 2:28:40 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

As a citizen who moved to Bremerton last year, I have been keeping an eye on local community events and issues in my new hometown. I saw the most recent article in the Kitsap Sun about the anti-camping ordinance and I felt it was my responsibility as a conscientious citizen to let you know where I (and many of your constituents) stand. Obviously, homelessness is not a new problem in our community or many others across the country. The struggles the homeless citizens in our community face are numerous and while it is not possible for the city council alone to change or end homelessness- I do believe the work you do can and does have a profound impact on the lives of our homeless and housed residents here in Bremerton. While I am not a business owner, I am an educator with several degrees and many years of experience in community outreach so I recognize the difficult position that the council is currently in with trying to balance community and economic safety for business owners, alongside compassion and empathy for the unhoused citizens of Bremerton. I do not believe that those two goals have to be mutually exclusive.

I wanted to reach out and state that I support a full repeal of the existing anti-camping ordinance - however, I would support investment into measures like public restrooms, a designated camping zone, and further community outreach to address the struggles of our homeless population. While I completely understand the desire to help our community look and feel safe, I think anti-camping ordinances are often just bandaid solutions that fix the "look" of a problem, rather than creating long lasting change. Many major cities including our neighbors in Tacoma and Seattle have seen how little anti-camping ordinances do to help our homeless citizens - in fact, these ordinances routinely make it much MUCH harder for social workers and community aid organizers to find homeless citizens and help them get off of the streets and into housing and receive medical care and other much needed services. When an anti-camping ordinance is enacted, it is often followed by an increased amount of death and crime in the area (from homeless citizens being forcibly removed and ending up in worse areas or with fewer resources, among other things).

I would like to implore you to connect with existing community groups and aid networks like the Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition, the WA Physicians for Social Responsibility, and engage the community itself to look for immediate solutions to this problem that do not involve criminalizing a terrible and unfortunate time in people's lives.

I respectfully thank you for your consideration,

Caroline Askew

**From:** [Chris Berg](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Camping Ban on MLK Way  
**Date:** Monday, July 3, 2023 6:30:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I was recently informed by a neighbor that there is a camping ban (either for the whole city, or MLK Way, I am unclear on that point) to be discussed at your upcoming meeting on July 5th. I will not be able to attend said meeting, but would like to offer my thoughts as a long time resident.

First off, I have no issue with homeless folks in general, as there are a large number who genuinely fell on hard times and just need a hand. HOWEVER, a quick walk down my street (I live at the South Court Apartments at 834 MLK Way) will show you that these are NOT those type of individuals. They are openly smoking methamphetamine and other drugs, conducting drug transactions and engaging in prostitution openly and in broad daylight. This occurs in front of homes where children play. I have even come home to find one of them highly intoxicated in the stairwell my building after urinating and defecating in said stairwell. This is in addition to the constant screaming, yelling, and fighting at all hours of the night. There was once last summer when I almost tripped over a gentleman lounging on the front stoop, and when I informed him rather politely "I'm sorry man, but you can't hang out here" he became agitated and attempted to aggressively follow me to my girlfriends car until I showed him that I had a knife and was willing to defend myself if he elected to push the issue any further. There are many elderly folks and single women in my building and the surrounding neighborhood, and if these "campers" will become violent and aggressive with an armed 250lb man, I shudder to think at what might happen to my neighbor who is in his 80's, or the 90lb college girl in the next building if they catch one of these people in the middle of an episode or in need of drug money.

I pay a good amount of money for rent (probably more than I should in this part of town TBH, but that's a different issue), not to mention taxes, as do my neighbors, and I feel that we all deserve to be able to take the trash out or go check the mail without wondering if we're going to get into a violent altercation w/ a drug addict.

Lastly, I know there will most likely be several community groups that are against this measure, and while I absolutely believe that their hearts are in the right place and they want to help, I would urge them to walk the block a few times over the course of a normal day, NOT while working with their organization and handing out food and such, but "undercover" as it were, and then ask themselves if they would want this campground next to THEIR house...or their mother's house? If the answer is "no", then why should my neighbors and I have to put up with it; and if the answer is "yes", then feel free to move them in.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Berg

**From:** [Havalah Noble](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** No Camping Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:26:13 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Please do not introduce penalties for the unhoused community for simply trying to live by creating laws that prohibit camping. Instead, create a shelter and support ways affordable housing, especially with pets can be attained.

Thank you,

Havalah Noble

**From:** [Jacob Nau](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [kim siebens](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding Camping Ban  
**Date:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 2:54:13 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello esteemed Bremerton City Council folk

My name's Jake Nau. I am a homeless Outreach worker with Comprehensive Life Resources in Tacoma Washington. I'm writing to share with you what an embarrassing hindrance Tacoma's recently passed camping ban has been to my work and the general existence of people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma.

The job of homeless outreach is basically three fold, 1) we keep folks experiencing homelessness from dying, we find them and make sure they have enough food, water, clothing and medical supplies to stay alive another day 2) we get to know people experiencing homelessness, we learn their names and stories, build rapport and relationships built on trust 3) we accompany them toward hope, reconnect them to solutions; we use that trusting relationship we've built to help them accomplish their goals, which usually include employment, MH and SUD services and housing.

# 3 rarely happens without # 2. #2 has become ridiculously hard, far more difficult since our city started sweeping folks all over the city, which has led to #1, homeless folks dying.

It's actually that simple. I could give example after example after example but I won't because I'm really tired because my city has made my job way more difficult and the life's of their homeless citizens way more dangerous.

Please choose differently.

Jake Nau

**From:** [Jennifer Adams](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homelessness  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 4:52:05 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please decriminalize homelessness. Stop making it harder on these individuals and come up with some helpful solutions. My daughter and I were homeless back in 2017/2018. It's very difficult and humiliating. Where do you expect people to go? Times are hard around here.

I have a good job now and can still barely afford to live. Rent prices are literally insane for the average person. Solutions! Not more problems! Please help.

Jennifer Adams

**From:** [Jolinda Eckard](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** camping ban  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:48:07 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On top of everything else like high housing costs, making illegal drugs ok now you want to put a ban on camps for those who can not afford the ridiculous amount of rent this county charges. We have working families who can not afford housing and I am one of them who is in that category due to counties greed!!! Mayor wheeler I met you about 3 years ago and you told me at that you were working on “affordable housing” and the high cost of rent. And that was a lie. All I have seen since that time is more housing going up all over making our once beautiful city look a mini Seattle!!! I hope none of you on this council and Mayor wheeler ever have to face homelessness because of this city and counties greed. How about focusing on some real issues and not trying to make us Seattle!! Shame on you mayor wheeler!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Guyt, Juliana](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-camping  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 9:05:57 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I was recently made aware that there is an effort to ban camping in Bremerton in an attempt to hide or displace homeless folks. What is the proposed solution if this action is taken? Where are these individuals supposed to go if they cannot camp?

I hope to hear back about the solutions being pursued.

Best,  
Juliana



**From:** [Kelsey Stedman](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to new anti-camping ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, July 3, 2023 9:06:28 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I am writing to oppose amendments to the current ordinance to make it align with the Martin ruling but continue to penalize people who have no other options. Only allowing camping at night would lead to loss of belongings and lack of safety. As a nurse who has worked with many of the folks downtown, I know they look out for each other, sleep during the day or in shifts for safety, and many of them have chronic physical health issues that limit their ability to walk more than a short distance. There are no shelter beds available and some even qualify for long term care facilities due to their disabilities but nowhere will accept them due to their homelessness and/or histories. As the weather warms, and we head into wildfire season, forcing people to move and pack around all their personal belongings is unhealthy and unsafe for these community members.

Any changes to the ordinance would be more punitive than the current options because the current ordinance cannot be enforced.

I am supportive of finding options for port-o-potties, access to sharps containers and clean syringes, and naloxone. Until there are additional shelter options, it is inhumane to deny people a place to sleep and rest in the safest place they can find.

Best,

Kelsey Stedman, RN, MSN

**From:** [Lindsey Gearllach](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, July 3, 2023 10:11:54 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council,

I am a lifelong Kitsap County resident. I will keep this short and sweet.

Why are we criminalizing people that already facing inequity? Find ways to help the homeless community and stop treating them like subhuman beings. Just remember, each one of us is a paycheck away from becoming just like them. And how would you want to be treated if that was the case?

Lindsey Gearllach  
Poulsbo, WA

**From:** [Matt Frost](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Homeless  
**Date:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:48:33 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Matt Frost and I am a resident on DR ML KING WAY. I have live here for over two years now and it has gotten worst. Last October I took a job as a night shelter worker at the Salvation Army. In that time I was able to build a lot of relationships with all of our clients. We had clients that were drug addicts, mentally unstable and people that just fell on bad times.

As the closing 2 months came Salvation Army was finding housing for everyone that wanted it. And most of them got housing. What we have here on my street are drug addicts that didn't want housing. They don't care about anyone but them self's. They throw trash in front of the complex And all over the street! You can't even walk on the side walk because they have taken over that. We have sex offenders living in those tents when we have children living on our street.

Like I said the homeless that are on ML KING way was given the chance to find housing through The Salvation Army and they chose the streets. Where does the community have a voice? People are moving out from where I live and not moving in, because of those tents on the street. I love Bremerton and it is a great town and community. But it's not fair to tax payers and people that pay a lot of money to live here.

I am tired of watching people doing there drugs in the open. Watching them sell there drugs in the open. Watching BPD driving bye like it's no big deal. This is a big deal! I am 100 %for the camping band! People overdose not once not twice and still don't get it. There is only so many times you can go and help them.

I know people are writing the city to stop from removing them from the street. The ones that are being a voice for this only come down here for like 30 mins at a time. Try asking people that live 24-7 on this street. There has to be a solution to this madness. The BPD aren't design to deal with intervention strategy dealing with people in crisis. We need to have other systems in place to deal with the homeless. What is the solution? It's not going to get better. Let's make Bremerton great again!

Thank for your time  
Resident of Bremerton  
Matt Frost

**From:** [Mike Fairchild](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti camping laws  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:56:29 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I once again find myself very surprised by the actions or proposed actions of our city council. I am a homeless person in Kitsap county. I do not do drugs or drink alcohol I don't have a criminal record and until I became disabled I was a housed tax paying resident in Kitsap county. Now that I am disabled I can't afford to rent anywhere and I have been on a wait list for over five years. My name got called as I was in the hospital hooked up to life support and when I was in good enough condition to respond and do the required paperwork for my affordable rent place it was to late and I was told I would be the very next person to get housed. This was over three months ago and somehow I am now the second name on the list. I lost a spot and my place no fault of my own. The housing situation is horrible and I guess lucky for me I am not camping where you can find me and throw out all my things then not offer me any real solutions. Criminalizing homelessness with no solutions available is not the way to help people. Where are the shelters and where are the places those in my situation can live? If I become a criminal because I became disabled and now can't afford my rent what do I do while waiting for Bremerton housings wait list to re open or have a place where I can rent? This making camping illegal is not fixing the problem and the cost of paying for someone's stay in jail to taxpayers is not cheap at all. Besides the fact that the homeless person who gets all their belongings thrown away by the state when they get arrested. It is the worst possible way to treat a person who is already feeling like less than a human from all the other crap our community puts us homeless people through. How about you try and do what you would want someone to do to you if you found yourself in their situation.

Thank you

Mike Fairchild

**From:** [molly.rose.brooks42@gmail.com](mailto:molly.rose.brooks42@gmail.com)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** no anti camping ordinances  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 4:44:29 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not enact anti camping ordinances. Our unhoused neighbors have no where to go. They need services and to get services service providers need to be able to find them. It is inhumane to kick them out of where they are living. When camps are cleared out people lose all their belongings and they have precious few belongings. This can result in people losing their only tent and therefor the roof over their head. Getting arrested for camping can give unhoused people a record which can be detrimental for them later on when they apply for a job or in other situations where they need a background check. We have plenty of public spaces we can make available for people to camp.

Sincerely,

Molly Brooks

**From:** [Robin Henderson](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Camping ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 2:55:54 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I will confess that I'm not fully up to speed on this issue. But I would like to let our mayor and city council know that I support the efforts of Kimmy Siebens and oppose , an anti camping ordinance.

Robin Henderson.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robin Hills](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Greg Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-Camping Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 10:27:43 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council and Mayor Wheeler,

I am a medical student and a resident of Lake Forest Park in King County, Washington. I am writing with my concern regarding the anti-camping ordinance in Bremerton. Although I understand the challenges that must come with having unhoused people in Bremerton, creating and upholding anti-camping laws only forces unhoused people into the surrounding areas that also do not have enough infrastructure to support them. This tactic also penalizes these individuals creating yet another barrier to getting back on their feet.

I urge you to consider alternatives to aid this vulnerable population rather than forcing them out of the area. I would also ask that you consider the strong military presence in Bremerton and think of the unhoused veterans, who no longer serve us, but who still need our continued support.

As a future physician I dream of a Washington where no person goes without a stable place to live, access to basic needs, or to preventative healthcare measures. I hope that you are able to act with compassion on this matter and work to come up with an equitable solution to support stable housing for individuals without enacting an anti-camping ordinance in the interim.

Best,  
Robin

**Robin Hills Von Davies**  
Master of Medical Science, 2020  
Master of Reproductive Clinical Sciences, 2022  
MD, 2026 (expected)  
206.920.6144 | [robinvondavies@gmail.com](mailto:robinvondavies@gmail.com) | [robinhills@gmail.com](mailto:robinhills@gmail.com)

**From:** [Tina Mari Fox](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Consideration  
**Date:** Saturday, July 1, 2023 4:59:56 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As you consider a ban on camping as a solution to turning your back on our homeless population, I remind you every.single.human. is a single poor decision or a single life changing event away from being homeless. How we treat or care for our society's most vulnerable is a reflection of our inner heart. Let's find another solution...homelessness is NOT a crime, it is a tragedy. Wouldn't it be less expensive to focus on mental health and addiction services, education and job training...and by expensive, I don't just mean monetary cost. I would like to believe that I live in a community that looks for solutions, rather than trying to exterminate/eliminate/shut out those whose only crime may be not having a place to shelter that we deem acceptable.

Tina Fox  
2058 E 16th St  
Bremerton, WA

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



**From:** [Patricia Morris](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-camping Letters  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 4:31:39 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not enact anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane, ineffective and counter-productive. Instead establish research based policies that provide services and appropriate housing solutions. This will benefit our unhoused neighbors as well as the whole community of Bremerton.

Patricia Morris

---

From: Patricia Morris <pmorris1015@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 4:53 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homelessness

As a community member I strongly am opposed to anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane, ineffective, and counter-productive. Research demonstrates that these draconian approaches exacerbate the problem by discouraging this vulnerable population from seeking services. Anti-camping policies are detrimental to the whole community.

Patricia Morris

---

From: Patricia Morris <pmorris1015@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 5:55 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Anti-camping ord

I am in strong opposition to anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane, ineffective, and counter-productive. Research supports the fact that such policies exacerbate the homelessness by further marginalizing this vulnerable population making services less accessible. Let's find real solutions such as affordable housing, better health-care and substance abuse treatment. Anti-camping ordinances are destructive to our entire community.

Patricia Morris

**From:** [Patricia Morris](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-camping Letters  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 4:31:39 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not enact anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane, ineffective and counter-productive. Instead establish research based policies that provide services and appropriate housing solutions. This will benefit our unhoused neighbors as well as the whole community of Bremerton.

Patricia Morris

---

From: Patricia Morris <pmorris1015@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 4:53 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Homelessness

As a community member I strongly am opposed to anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane, I effective, and counter-productive. Research demonstrates that these draconian approaches exacerbate the problem by discouraging this vulnerable population from seeking services. Anti-camping policies are detrimental to the whole community.

Patricia Morris

---

From: Patricia Morris <pmorris1015@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 5:55 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Anti-camping ord

I am in strong opposition to anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane, ineffective, and counter-productive. Research supports the fact that such policies exacerbate the homelessness by further marginalizing this vulnerable population making services less accessible. Let's find real solutions such as affordable housing, better health-care and substance abuse treatment. Anti-camping ordinances are destructive to our entire community.

Patricia Morris

---

From: Patricia Morris <pmorris1015@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 9:21 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Anti-camping ordinances and sanitation facilities

I am strongly opposed to anti-camping ordinances. They are inhumane and counterproductive. It further marginalizes this vulnerable population and prevents them from seeking services. Real solutions such as mental health services and affordable housing need to be established. As a temporary solution, bathroom facilities need to be provided for the currently unhoused members of our community.

Thank you.  
Patricia Morris

**From:** Eric Kneebone <edkneebone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 7:30 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Encampments

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To members of the city council:

As a resident of MLK Way, I wish to state my support for a no camping ordinance.

The street people on MLK way have made walking down the street a hazardous undertaking at all hours of the day or night. The sidewalks are impossible to walk due to the debris, collection of wheelchairs and bicycles, and occasionally people laying across the route. I've never seen so many rats on the street as I have since the shantytown was reestablished this latest time.

Every time people choosing street living have been helped or removed, no action has been taken to address the unsafe conditions of camping on MLK way - namely encouraging people to camp where facilities are available to support them. Placing of eco blocks, Requiring vehicles to be licensed and registered to park on the street, and not allowing tents or makeshift shelters to be constructed are means to prevent this once the street people have been helped.

I do not wish to see sleeping on the streets criminalized. Erecting shanties and establishing tent residences should be.

Please pass an ordinance to address the tents and trash and rats and mess.

Eric Kneebone

**From:** [georgiagatzke@comcast.net](mailto:georgiagatzke@comcast.net) <[georgiagatzke@comcast.net](mailto:georgiagatzke@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 4:17 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>

**Subject:** Upcoming Meeting About Encampments as shown in Kitsap Sun on Monday 7/3/23.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I just heard about this meeting to be held on 7/5/23 but I will be out of town. I wanted my thoughts on record.

I acknowledge that I am no expert on the homeless situation in Kitsap County and City of Bremerton. However, I believe every one of us needs to voice concerns and what we would like to see happen.

I definitely want homeless people to have a safe place to go. I want it to be supervised and monitored so that wherever it is does not become “just another problem place.”

I do not want people to be allowed to camp/park/etc on public or private property.

I want anyone who wants to take advantage of any housing or safe-monitored camping space that the city/county/state provides to have to undergo an evaluation for mental health, drugs, (notice I did not say anything bad about their possible drug addiction – the provider should simply have ALL the info), job skills, and also people who take advantage of such places should not be allowed to move to Washington from other states just to take advantage of those provisions. So some kind of proof of having already lived in the state for some period of time needs to be in effect. I am not saying this to be punitive. It is simply not possible for Washington to be everything to every homeless person in the nation. We must draw the line to be able to deal with the number we CAN deal with. I also would want to see firm limits on the amount of time a person can live in such a space before they would be required to meet certain standards – such as having achieved a job, regular attendance at counseling with documented progress, etc. This would be what I call cooperation on both sides and create a situation where the previously homeless person would have to be part of the solution.

I do not wish to be heartless nor unhelpful. However, I also think that this business of having people camping wherever they want and making messes and creating dangerous situations CANNOT CONTINUE OR BE ALLOWED.

I also apologize that I do not have a solution to put forward. I realize that complaining without proposing concrete solutions is not morally acceptable.

Please have my thoughts recorded as part of the meeting.

Thank you,  
Georgia Gatzke

**From:** Lilly Deerwater <lilly@wpsr.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:44 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility Urges You Not to Criminalize Camping

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bremerton City Council & Mayor Wheeler,

We at Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility urge you to decide against criminalizing camping in Bremerton. Anti-camping ordinances worsen homelessness. By criminalizing people who are unhoused, you make it more difficult for people experiencing homelessness to secure housing. By adding the barrier of a criminal record, you ensure people will remain homeless for longer, adding to the problems of your city and those who live in it.

Please decide against perpetuating homelessness in your city simply for the sake of appearances. By focusing on solutions such as housing and services instead, you have the opportunity to address homelessness, rather than prolong this crisis and cause damage to the health and wellbeing of people who are already struggling.

Thank you,  
Lilly Deerwater, Economic Inequity & Health Program Manager  
On Behalf of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

--

**Lilly Deerwater** (she/her/hers)  
Economic Inequity & Health Program Manager  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
**Email:** [lilly@wpsr.org](mailto:lilly@wpsr.org) | **Phone:** 206.547.2630  
**Visit us:** [wpsr.org](http://wpsr.org) | **Join us:** [Become a member](#)  
**Donate:** [Support our work](#) | **Learn more:** [Sign up for emails](#)



**From:** Neal Foley <[nealfoley1021@gmail.com](mailto:nealfoley1021@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 7:01 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** [nealfoley1021@gmail.com](mailto:nealfoley1021@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Please no Anti Camping Ordinances

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Neal, I am a resident of the City of Bremerton in District 5.

I am adamantly opposed to criminalizing homelessness and/or mental illness.

I strongly urge the City Council to repeal, in its entirety, the current no camping ordinance. It is non enforceable and useless.

Please signal a new beginning with an entirely new code dealing with homelessness and mental illness in this community in a positive educated way.

Let's deal with this problem instead of sweeping it off our streets with no action because it is ugly and hard. This is not a temporary problem it is here to stay.

We have VERY highly educated experts like those in the Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition right in our midst. Let's stand behind these people and let them guide us with facts and knowledge rather than making decisions based on biases and hearsay.

I would ask our City Council and Mayor to be proactive and support the experts in this field 100%. Move forward with THEIR knowledge as our guide.

**From:** Susan Brooks-Young <sjbrooksyoun@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 11:17 AM

**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>; Susan Brooks-Young <sjbrooksyoun@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Addressing the need for shelter in Bremerton

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am aware that the subject of a new city ordinance related to where and when people may (or may not) sleep is on the agenda for this evening's city council meeting. I find it very disconcerting that the mayor would apparently suggest circumventing *Martin vs. Boise* and that council would consider doing this **(Bremerton won't clear encampments, so council opens discussion on changes to current law**, Kitsap Sun, July 3, 2023).

As a resident of downtown Bremerton, I am well aware of the concerns raised when unhoused people are forced to resort to living outdoors. However, I am also aware that every society will always have a segment of its population who, for whatever reason, needs assistance accessing the most basic needs - food, clothing, and shelter. Part of the social contract is establishing systems to ensure that these people's basic needs are met. We can either acknowledge that reality and actually take steps to do something about it or we can continue to blame the unhoused for their life circumstances and punish them by refusing to ensure they have access to basics. For example, one frequently cited issue with the encampment on MLK Way is that human waste is everywhere. The city funded installation of a portable toilet months ago. Where is it? And where are these people supposed to relieve themselves when there are no public restrooms and they are locked out of the Marvin Williams Center?

I would hazard a guess that it is less expensive overall to ensure that everyone has access to food, clothing, and shelter than it is to mitigate all the negative outcomes of refusing to do so including crime, spread of disease, the cost of shuffling people from one location to another, etc.

As such, I encourage city council and the mayor to quit spending time and resources trying to figure out how to punish the unhoused and start spending that time and those resources to figuring out systemic ways to identify and implement humane solutions. These are human beings and deserve much better treatment than they are currently receiving.

Thank you,

Susan Young  
Bremerton

--

SJ Brooks-Young Consulting

Telephone: 951-202-2042

Web site: [www.sjbrooks-young.org](http://www.sjbrooks-young.org)

Twitter: @sjbrooksyoun

Facebook Business Page: [www.facebook.com/SjBrooksYoungConsulting](https://www.facebook.com/SjBrooksYoungConsulting)

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

# Bremerton won't clear encampments, so council opens discussion on changes to current law



**Phillip Chin**  
Kitsap Sun

Published 8:57 a.m. PT July 3, 2023



A person with a guitar heads toward a tent pitched in front of the forest mural on the MLK Way facing side of the vacant building planned as a new medical respite facility for Peninsula Community Health Services, in Bremerton on Thursday. The city acknowledges its ordinance that prohibits unauthorized camping is not being enforced, and now the city council is opening a discussion over revisions and other needs that may help address the number of people living unsheltered. *MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN*

“It’s getting worse,” said Reuben Wilkins, a barbershop owner and cook for the Marvin Williams Recreation Center. “Garbage, poop, piss. They get butt naked behind the building.”

Wilkins does not blame the people who live in the large encampment on the MLK Way sidewalk, just feet away from the Marvin Williams Recreation Center, a gleaming facility that opened in 2018. Instead, most of his anger is directed toward Bremerton’s city government.



“The city is definitely inactive on this ... They’re not talking to us,” said Wilkins.

“These kids should be able to grow up and have some protection,” added Tovi Wilkins, who runs a summer program for children at the center. Staff usually keep most of the doors locked. They had to turn off the fountain in front of the building because people were washing themselves in it. Reuben Wilkins has found needles nearby.

Parents still bring their children for summer camp, but the one question that they want to know is “What is the city doing?” said Wilkins. She reemphasized the question: “What is the city doing?”

When the Salvation Army closed its overnight shelter on May 1, the city was left without any emergency shelter beds. According to the city's reading of a Ninth Circuit Court ruling from 2019 known as *Martin v. Boise*, a lack of shelter availability makes it illegal to clear encampments. Over the past two months, the encampment on MLK Way, just a block behind the Salvation Army and near where the former Kitsap Rescue Mission was located, has grown. On Friday, approximately a dozen tents could be seen on the sidewalk between Park Avenue and Warren Avenue, along with shopping carts and assorted personal items.

“[T]o clear an encampment is not legal,” said Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler. Although Bremerton has a municipal code for “unauthorized camping,” which bans camping “in any park or other public place,” the ordinance can no longer be enforced now that there are no available shelter beds. When asked whether the Bremerton Police Department

cites residents for unauthorized camping, Wheeler replied, “As a rule, no.”

When the Kitsap Rescue Mission or the Salvation Army's temporary shelter were open, officers could direct people who are homeless there. “Now we don’t have a place for them to go anymore,” said Wheeler.

Right now, Wheeler identifies two projects for Bremerton’s government which could address the MLK Way encampment. First, Bremerton must create a new shelter. Wheeler said the city has picked a location and partners, but he must get funding from the state before he can share a timeline for opening.

Second, Wheeler urged the Bremerton City Council to create a new ordinance which would not violate *Martin*. The new ordinance could ban camping on MLK Way or restrict camping to nighttime hours, so that the street would have to be clear during the day.

Last Wednesday, the City Council discussed the possibility of changing the current ordinance. On July 5, the council will hold a public hearing on the issue during its regular meeting, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Government Center.

Initially, council members were hesitant to even discuss the issue, because they were afraid that the public could perceive them as being too punitive without offering any housing solutions.

“Before we get any more aggressive ... we better know what we’re doing as far as providing adequate support,” said Councilmember Denise Frey.

Frey also raised concerns about the optics of spending time changing an ordinance while a portable toilet that the council allocated \$10,000 for has still not been installed on MLK Way. "This is for the administration," Frey said. "Fix it!"

City attorneys have reassured the council that any change to current ordinance would be less punitive, as the current code is a blanket prohibition on camping.

Councilmember Eric Younger began to understand why Wheeler and the lawyers were pushing for the change. "I have a sinking feeling that we don't enforce it at all," said Younger.

Even if the language of the new ordinance is less punitive, in practice it will be more punitive than an ordinance which is rarely enforced.

Kimmy Siebens, founder of the Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition and a nurse on the task force with Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, argued against any new law which would allow the city to criminalize and move people who are homeless.

"They're focusing on hiding people, pushing them to the margins of society," said Siebens, "... every single person on MLK Way has no place to go."

Siebens pointed to other cities that have passed new ordinances where people who are homeless hide from police and no longer trust social workers, which makes it more difficult to connect them with any resources that could help.

Siebens argued that any kind of criminal penalty is short-sighted and distracts from the need to address more complex issues that lead people to become unhoused.

“The mayor wants to get rid of this unsightly thing,” she said.

According to Siebens, new ordinances have been created without real knowledge of what it means to be homeless. For example, Longview and Portland ban daytime camping, but Siebens said that many people who are homeless sleep during the day because they need to be alert at night to protect themselves from the increased risk of assault.

“They do keep each other safe,” said Siebens, “This camp is no different than a neighborhood.”

Siebens does understand the concerns of parents and staff from the Marvin Williams Center. “If we’re going to put a Band-Aid on it, let’s give them a toilet,” she said in an interview. Many in the community agree and are frustrated that money has already been set aside, but nothing has been done.

According to Wheeler, the city had not determined a safe way to install the port-a-potty without blocking the street or the public right-of-way.

“This talk about the port-a-potty is serious, but almost comical,” said Younger.

7/5/2023

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in response to the proposed ordinance regulating the time place and manner of tents being used on public property to protect individuals experiencing involuntary homelessness.

My name is Joslyn and I am with the Bremerton Prayer Walk. During the past 3.5 years, we have consistently been fellowshipping with many of the individuals this ordinance will have a devastating effect.

There are numerous issues with the course of action, but the most important is that we are going to lose many individuals, the majority are involuntarily homeless or fleeing violent and dangerous situations.

Furthermore, this type of ordinance is incredibly erroneous in many of the assumptions utilized in identifying this type of ordinance. First, many individuals who survive on the streets do not sleep during the evening hours as they stay awake for protection and sleep in intervals to protect themselves. By requiring they sleep during the most dangerous time so they can pack up by early dawn, they are suggesting they put themselves even more at risk.

Additionally, they assume individuals residing on the street have the means to pack up and move their belongings. This is absolutely absurd. Many individuals who face these current conditions have physical and mental restrictions preventing compliance. Our most vulnerable will become even more vulnerable

There are incredulous constitutional concerns, substantial mental health and addiction concerns, and it may be the most blatant attempt to hide one of the most pressing concerns facing this city...the growing homelessness crisis. This is not a unique problem, however, the solution being presented before this committee is taking this city down an incredibly dangerous path.

First, the time place and manner restrictions proposed will fail any type of judicial scrutiny. First, the courts have indicated that homelessness is protected as political speech under the 1st amendment. This means that any ordinance restricting the time place or manner restriction to be strictly scrutinized and in order to be upheld it requires the government to show the following:

1. content neutral (that the government does not outlaw content specific viewpoints)
  - a. **(are we requiring mothers with sunshades protecting children to move, are we requiring organizations that place sun covers as booths etc. to be moved?) ... the answer is clearly NO...this is only for homeless individuals.**

2. (2) narrowly tailored to serve a governmental interest (i.e., cannot be overly broad to regulate more than what is necessary to achieve government interest like, for example, public safety),
  - a. **I completely understand there are substantial concerns for businesses and the public, but placing additional burdens on our most fragile and vulnerable population is not the answer.**
3. (3) ample alternative means to express ideas.
  - a. **THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVES!!!**

The right to remain in public space is both a universal right that all Americans value dearly and a bulwark against deprivations that have starkly affected homeless people throughout history and, to a particularly dire extent, today. We treat refugees with more compassion than we do our own citizens.

We are well aware there is strong precedence indicating that criminalizing homelessness violates the 8th amendment of the united states constitution. In *Jones v. City of Los Angeles*, the leading case decided in favor of this view, the Ninth Circuit stated that “we understood *Robinson* to stand for the proposition that the Eighth Amendment prohibits the state from punishing an involuntary act or condition if it is the unavoidable consequence of one’s status or being.”

The unavoidable consequence of this particular ordinance is that people are going to die if we cannot find them to help find the appropriate services to help them. We will be unable to bring food to them, much needed living supplies, water, first aid supplies, etc. We know there is safety in numbers and those live on the streets and if people are constantly getting dispersed, more people will become isolated and even more vulnerable resulting in an increase in violent assaults, rapes and death.

I hope and pray this committee and this city can take a different approach to solving this problem and look for solutions instead of trying to find loopholes in existing laws to make life more difficult. To treat all with dignity is what this city should be striving for, instead isolating and hurting the vulnerable.

Joslyn Snow

From: sggriffith@fastmail.com <sggriffith@fastmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 4:28 PM  
To: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
Subject: Anti-camping

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Council:

I believe part of your mission is to care for the health and well being of the people of Bremerton. Were we to experience a natural disaster, I know you would all be out there doing your best to save us from the fire, flood, or wind. Afterwards, you would help us construct temporary housing and preparing food and gathering blankets to care for us until we could start living normal lives again.

The homeless disaster has gone on too long, and our humanitarian impulses have diminished. Imagine how the homeless must feel -- for some of them, it's been a very long time indeed. To help them, we need to move through the morass of funding, social policy, urban planning, and all the other wearing practices of modern life.

Solving homelessness is really hard! But that's a big part of your job at the moment.

A lot of solutions have been proposed, and some of them are pretty good. Find the money -- people are making money from real estate; they have to share it. It wouldn't hurt that bad. Tiny homes are cheap. We can detox and clean up the old Harrison Hospital -- my goodness, what a view!

Don't give up on kindness and good works. And fix the darn public toilet!

Suzanne Griffith, District 1  
[sggriffith@fastmail.com](mailto:sggriffith@fastmail.com)

**From:** [kim\\_siebens](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Anti-Camping Ordinance July 5 2023  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 6:10:07 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bremerton City Council Members,

My name is Kimmy Siebens. I am A 17 year resident of Bremerton, a Registered Nurse, a non profit founder, a community organizer, and a task force member representing Washington State Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Today, I am speaking to shed light on a decision that is not only morally bankrupt but also displays a complete lack of compassion by many of our city council. We are facing a proposal that would amend an already unconstitutional anti-camping ordinance, effectively criminalizing the most vulnerable citizens of our town. I am appalled, disgusted, and deeply saddened by the council's decision to consider turning their backs, even more, on those who need our help the most.

Let me be unequivocally clear: this revised ordinance will not be a solution; it will be a heartless attack on those who already face immense challenges in their lives. Instead of offering support, the council would be punishing individuals who have fallen on hard times, pushing them further into the dark. Do we truly believe that criminalizing poverty and medical issues is the answer?

Homelessness is not a choice; it is a complex issue rooted in a multitude of societal problems such as lack of affordable housing, unemployment, mental health, and addiction. Our city council should be addressing these root causes rather than exacerbating the suffering of those who already endure unimaginable hardships.

By creating an amendment to this ordinance, the council would be sending a message that it is acceptable to turn a blind eye to the suffering of our fellow citizens. This would show a complete disregard for human dignity and basic human rights. We cannot claim to be a compassionate community if we allow this to pass, unchallenged.

Let us not forget that homelessness affects people from all walks of life - These are not faceless statistics; they are our neighbors, friends, and community members. Criminalizing homelessness does not magically make it disappear. It shifts the problem from sight, sweeping it under the rug and perpetuating a cycle of poverty and despair.

Instead of investing in punitive measures, the council should be investing in affordable housing, mental health services, or, to start, a simple porta potty so people can use the restroom in a law abiding way. These are the true solutions that will uplift our community and save us more financially in the long run.

I am urging this council to reconsider this cruel and misguided idea.

Your duty is to represent all citizens, not just those who are privileged and fortunate or can make the city council meetings.

In closing, I implore each and every one of you to join me in opposing this ordinance and any amendments. Demand that this be repealed like it should have in 2018 when it was deemed to be unconstitutional. We have to stop all of these distractions and focus on the real issues at hand.

Kimmy Siebens RN

Economic Inequity and Health Task Force Member, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, [www.wpsr.org](http://www.wpsr.org)

President, Their Voice  
<http://www.their-voice.org>

Founder, Bremerton Homeless Community Coalition  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bremertonhomeless>



**Published for  
September 20  
Council Meeting**

**Item 3 – Mayor’s Report**



**MAYOR'S REPORT**  
*September 20, 2023*

BREMERTON  
WASHINGTON





## Kitsap Transit Sunday Service Restored

- Kitsap Transit voted to restore Sunday service beginning Sunday, Sept. 24 – Route 217 will run between Bremerton and Silverdale every 30 minutes between 8 am and 4 pm
- On-demand scheduling for Sunday service also available for first-time for City residents
- Sunday service set to resume for Port Orchard, Poulsbo and Bainbridge in later phases
- Been part of Mayor’s Initiatives since 2018 as commitment to City for restoration

Visit [kitsaptransit.com](https://www.kitsaptransit.com) for Sunday Service route info and on-demand scheduling details



## Biosolids Application Management

- Biosolids are a wastewater treatment by-product
- Our biosolids have been land-applied to utility lands since 1992
- This sustainable disposal method improves forest health and is low cost, helping keep our utility rates lowest in region
- Our applicator was off-line for five months earlier this year, resulting in need to increase application during this summer
- Through careful coordination with Gold Mountain Golf Course and daily tracking of wind and weather patterns by City's Forestry Manager, we received no complaints as a result of increased application



## **KUDOS: Department of Community Development**

“I am thinking of putting up a garage on my property and contacted a contractor to do the work. He asked where I lived and I told him Bremerton. His response was ‘Oh, good. They are so much more organized and easier to work with...’”

- *Feedback from City of Bremerton Resident*



## Tree Giveaway and Planting Demo – Sept. 23

The City of Bremerton Tree Committee is proud to present participation in the Community Canopy Program in Bremerton by giving away 100 trees to city residents.

Register at <http://www.arborday.org/bremerton> to receive your one (1) Energy-Saving Tree. Registration is required and residents will need to provide their City of Bremerton utility billing account number for proof of residency.

Tree pick-up and planting demo will be held:

**Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**  
Public Works & Utilities Building, 100 Oyster Bay Ave N

For questions, please contact [Bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us).



# Lower Washington Ave Sidewalk Before & After



# City of Bremerton and Port of Bremerton Partnership

- Historically, the Port has operated and maintained its own private sewer system out of necessity and a lack of alternative service providers
- City of Bremerton collaborating with Port of Bremerton to explore improvements to Port's wastewater infrastructure
- City of Bremerton will be working with Port of Bremerton to complete a feasibility study within city limits surrounding the Port's industrial park
- Collaboration will help support efforts to increase regional economic opportunity in Kitsap County





## Everett's Palisades Village could be educational model for Bremerton housing solutions

[Kai Uyehara](#) Kitsap Sun

Published 2:10 p.m. PT Sept. 20, 2023 | Updated 2:10 p.m. PT Sept. 20, 2023



Plants and landscape decals decorate the outsides of Palisades Village's 40 pallet homes. The village was first built with 20 units in 2021, and received 20 more in 2022. *Kai Uyehara*



**Published for  
September 20  
Council Meeting**

**Item 5 – Public Recognition**

Date: September 20, 2023

Council-President Coughlin and Bremerton City Council members,

I'm Dianne Iverson, resident of Bremerton, and an advocate for safer streets for all ages and abilities.

I want to thank the city council for their vote on August 2nd, 2023 for a safer Warren Avenue Bridge. Your leadership has made this happen.

The City of Poulsbo, our neighbor to the north, had a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 14th, 2023 for the Johnson Parkway/SR305 Roundabout. This was the biggest construction project led by the city of Poulsbo. 20 million dollars, for a roundabout, new and improved roadway, non-motorized tunnel crossing, newly constructed shared use path, removal of one fish barrier, wetland restoration and 7,500 tree seedlings planted.

Why is this relevant to us, here in Bremerton? What does the Warren Avenue Bridge have in common with The Johnson Parkway Project? A lot. They are both the biggest single comprehensive transportation project that either city has taken the lead. Let me take a moment to share with you how Poulsbo funded the Johnson Parkway Project.

5.3 million from Connect WA, a legislative allocation

2.6 million for tunnel from STP, City, and TIB

2.3 million for culverts from storm water

8.5 million for Johnson Parkway from STP, TIB, City Reet, City Utility, City Bond

So what is my ask? That the city of Bremerton be comprehensive now in the design and securing funds for the bridge and its connectors. That we show the legislature the we are indeed shovel ready. Shovel ready is how you move to the top of the Moving Ahead WA list for funding. Shovel ready is how Poulsbo was able to get back on the Connect WA list for funded projects when a freeze was announced in 2020.

Our current funding source for the Warren Avenue Bridge includes 25 million from the state legislature through Moving Ahead WA. At this time there is just one source of funding. Let's show the legislature that we are

committed to this project by addressing the connectors now, not later. The Council funded a design for the bridge and its connectors, yet the committee has not seen anything on connectors since November 30th, 2022. Let's be comprehensive and timely so that we can make the top of the Moving Ahead WA list.

If Poulsbo can do it, I know we can too.

*STP: Surface Transportation Program, The Surface Transportation Program provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects on any Federal-aid highway, including the NHS, bridge project on any public road, transit capital projects, and intracity and intercity bus terminals and facilities.*

*TIB: The Transportation Improvement Board distributes grant funding, which comes from the revenue generated by three cents of the statewide gas tax, to cities and counties for funding transportation projects.*

*REET/TIF: Real Estate Excise Tax. Is a tax on the sale of real property.*

*Dianne Iverson*

*[diverson1950@gmail.com](mailto:diverson1950@gmail.com)*

*360 990 4445*

*3 minute vignette to city council on September 20, 2023.*



# JOHNSON PARKWAY

## FUNDING SUMMARY EXHIBIT

**TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$18.5M**

**INCLUDES**

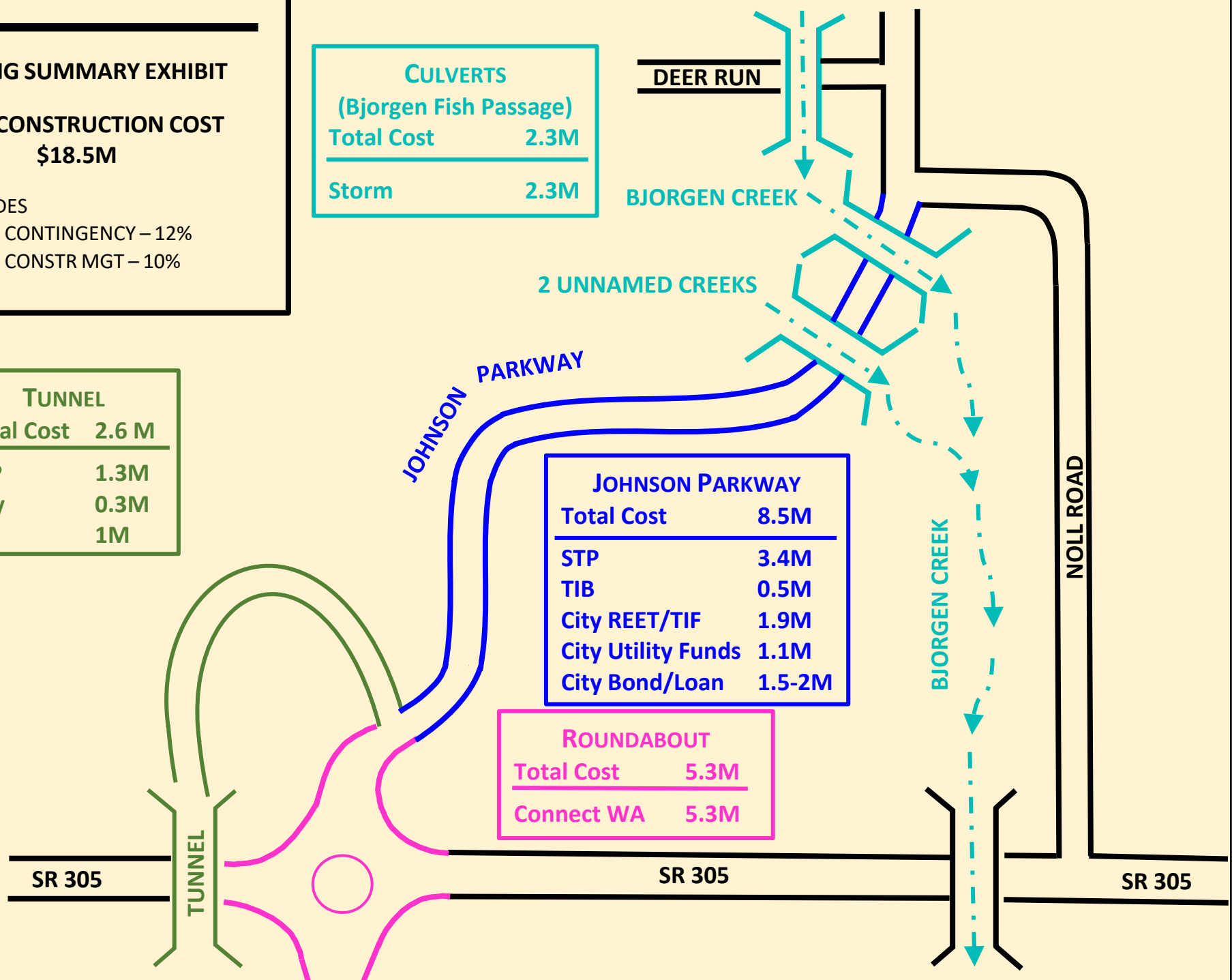
- CONTINGENCY – 12%
- CONSTR MGT – 10%

| CULVERTS<br>(Bjorgen Fish Passage) |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Total Cost                         | 2.3M |
| Storm                              | 2.3M |

| TUNNEL     |       |
|------------|-------|
| Total Cost | 2.6 M |
| STP        | 1.3M  |
| City       | 0.3M  |
| TIB        | 1M    |

| JOHNSON PARKWAY    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Total Cost         | 8.5M   |
| STP                | 3.4M   |
| TIB                | 0.5M   |
| City REET/TIF      | 1.9M   |
| City Utility Funds | 1.1M   |
| City Bond/Loan     | 1.5-2M |

| ROUNDAABOUT |      |
|-------------|------|
| Total Cost  | 5.3M |
| Connect WA  | 5.3M |



10/28/2020

**Published for  
September 20  
Council Meeting**

**Item 7 – Council Reports**

# COUNCIL DISTRICT 7

## Eric Younger



# *District Six Council Report*







# DISTRICT SIX TOWNHALL

*Presented by Anna Mockler,  
Bremerton City Council, District Six*

Every Second Monday, 4-6pm  
100 Oyster Bay Ave N (Bremerton Public Works)

**What are your hopes and concerns?  
Talk to your City Councilor**

**What Council did last month  
and  
What they'll look at soon**

Questions? Email [Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)



**2023 Dates:**

Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8, June 12,  
July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11



# COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

## Michael Goodnow



# COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

## Quinn Dennehy



# Report from District 2 Representative

**Denise Frey**  
September 20, 2023





Perception is based on Perspective

24 Units of  
New  
Multifamily  
Housing  
Coming  
to Wheaton  
Way





Instead of Hurry Up and Wait  
It's Wait and Hurry Up

# COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

## Jennifer Chamberlin







**WEAK  
WIFI**



**TALK TO EACH OTHER  
PRETEND IT'S THE 90's!**



# District 3 Report

September 20, 2023



Who is the Bremerton Ferry Coalition?

The Coalition:

- Bremerton Ferry Association
- Bremerton Ferry Users
- Bremerton Ferry Users Association
- Bremerton Ferry Users Group
- Bremerton Ferry Users Network
- Bremerton Ferry Users Council
- Bremerton Ferry Users Committee
- Bremerton Ferry Users Board
- Bremerton Ferry Users Commission
- Bremerton Ferry Users Authority
- Bremerton Ferry Users Commission
- Bremerton Ferry Users Authority
- Bremerton Ferry Users Commission
- Bremerton Ferry Users Authority

*(Note: The list above is a transcription of the text on the slide, which appears to be a list of various ferry-related organizations and groups.)*

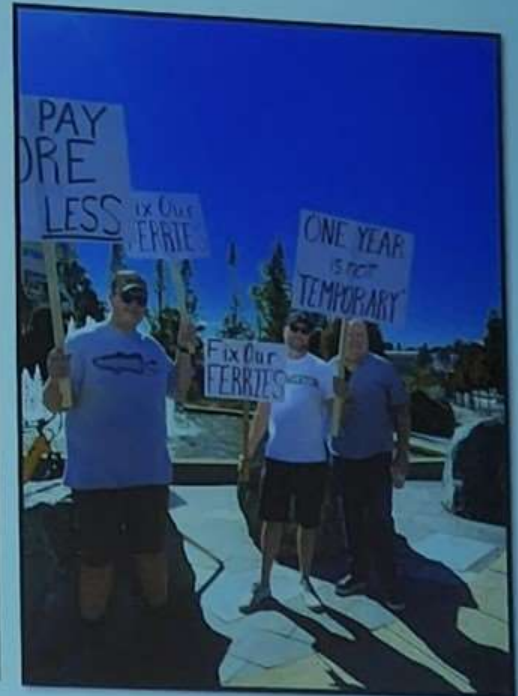


# Who is the Bremerton Ferry Coalition?

## The Coalition...

- Started as a frustrated group of community members
- Protested, made signs, attended meetings, emailed officials, and plead for help
- Created a forum for commuters to vent
- Collected impact stories and shared experiences
- Attempted the “right” channels
- Voted

- Educated ourselves on root causes & constraints
- Proposed, and advocated for, alternatives
- Designed plans, agendas, and began to organize
- Consulted on resolutions
- Celebrated Fast Ferry service expansion
- Grew to 242 members and collected input
- Formed productive relationships with WSF
- Progressed to partnership and collaboration



# Ridership vs Equity

"Perception is Reality"

WSDOT Statement on  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:

"We are deeply committed to actively combatting racism and strengthening our anti-racist, diversity, equity and inclusion efforts to guarantee that *our transportation system serves all Washingtonians.*"

|                                      | Bainbridge | Bremerton |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Population*                          | 24,546     | 44,122    |
| Household Income*                    | \$125,861  | \$57,963  |
| % Persons in Poverty*                | 3.7%       | 14.8%     |
| Non-White Population*                | 9.8%       | 29.8%     |
| WSF Adult, Single Round-Trip Ticket  | \$9.45     | \$9.45    |
| Kitsap Fast Ferry, Round-Trip Ticket |            | \$12.00   |
| WSF Monthly Pass 31 Ride             | \$122.60   | \$122.60  |
| Kitsap Fast Ferry, Monthly Pass      |            | \$168.00  |

\*US Census, July 1, 2021; V2021

Identify pain points, ideas, potential solutions, and who to contact  
Identify the ease of execution and complexity of implementation

Identify time to accomplish each idea: 1-3 years OR 4-10 years OR 10+ years

**MONEY**

- Funding
- Budgets
- Fares
- Administrative projects
- Operational projects
- Surveys
- Technology
- Alternatives for funding the transportation budget

**STAFFING**

- Hiring
- Recruiting
- Training
- Crew certifications
- Coast Guard
- Requirements
- Unions
- Crew Mobility

**EXPERIENCE**

- Equity
- Equality
- Controls
- Reporting
- Public accountability
- Data
- Backup plans
- Schedule reliability
- Vessel construction
- Vessel maintenance



## Another WA Ferry Out for at Least a Month, Forcing Fleet Shuffle

Published in [The Seattle Times](#), September 28, 2023

The ferry Walla Walla, which had been sailing between Seattle and Bremerton, will be out of service for at least four weeks as crews repair a propeller that broke near Rich Passage last week.

Losing the 188-car Jumbo class boat for a month forces Washington State Ferries to shuffle its fleet yet again, likely meaning more backups on the already thin ferry system.

The state ferry system has recently resembled a game of Tetris. The Walla Walla was pulled from service Friday when the ship started to vibrate. It was replaced by the 144-car Chimacum, which itself had just replaced the 202-car Wenatchee on the Seattle-Bainbridge route, which is out for a year as it's converted to hybrid-electric. Now, the 64-car Salish will remain on the Bainbridge crossing while the Chimacum stays on Bremerton.

The result of the puzzle is that both the Bremerton and Bainbridge routes have lost capacity. Bainbridge will carry 138 fewer cars between its two boats while Bremerton will carry 44 fewer. Bainbridge is the state's busiest route, carrying 4.5 million rides in 2022 and more than 8 million before the pandemic.

[Read the full article in The Seattle Times here.](#)





# 2023 City Council Goals & Priorities

Yellow = Administration Deferred    Green = In-Progress    Cyan= Budget Season

| Transportation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Advancing Equity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Environmental Stewardship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Staffing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete a Sidewalk Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review and update the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a policy for bicycle and scooter sharing programs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify additional funding for residential street maintenance and restoration</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft ordinance to create permanent Race Equity / DEI Commission</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hire a consultant to assist Council in defining the roles and responsibilities of the city DEI Position</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Secure dedicated sustainable funding for Parks Capital Improvements</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue support of Kitsap Lake Water Quality Program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop policies that encourage environmental stewardship</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Support the planning and development of a trail system through Bremerton</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review Charter section on City Auditor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review and Update Auditor staffing level</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Economic Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Public Safety and Support                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Affordable Housing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Communication                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to support Western Washington Small Business Development Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure BEST program is funded</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support ArtsWA Creative Arts District designation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide ~\$25k funding for more public art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to support incentives and secure additional funding for redevelopment of Wheaton Way Corridor and Charlestown District</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work with GKC, KEDA, etc. to send a survey to local registered businesses.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft and consider ordinance prohibiting controlled substance use in public</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update ordinance on prohibition of camping in public</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Explore creation of a City Health &amp; Human Services Coordinator position</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider ballot initiative for property tax levy to fund 17 additional Emergency Services FTEs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify funding for community organizations to develop more Affordable Housing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify and increase funding for rental assistance and weatherization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue implementing recommended actions of March 2020 Affordable Housing Recommendations Report</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create incentives for "Missing Middle" housing creation (e.g., ADUs, cottage, duplex/triplexes)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify empty City buildings and properties for housing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hold District Meetings on Comprehensive Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look for opportunities to implement changes that encourage civic engagement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Re-establish outreach program with Bremerton High School Youth Advisory Council</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Craft Elected Official Social Media Guidelines</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Craft proposal of a City Communications Position</li> </ul> |