



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

**\*\*\* AMENDED \*\*\***

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023**  
**CITY COUNCIL HYBRID STUDY SESSION AGENDA**  
**Starting at 5:00 PM in Council Conference Room 603**

*The Council Conference Room 603 will be open to the public to attend the Study Session in-person, but there will be no opportunities for input. However, public questions or comments may be submitted at any time to [City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us). Please remember that the content of the Agenda Bill items is subject to change; and no action at the Study Session is anticipated. If approved by the Council, these items will be placed on the **August 2, 2023** City Council Meeting Agenda, or as indicated...*

**A. BRIEFINGS ON AGENDA BILL ITEMS**

- 1.** Confirm Appointment of Susie Beil to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- 2.** Resolution to adopt the Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Project Preferred Design Alternative
- 3.** Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32 entitled “Unauthorized Camping”
- 4.** Resolution to repeal Resolution No. 3349; and adopt updated Council Rules & Procedures

**B. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

1. Audit Committee Briefing (*Special Meeting 7/13/2023*) – Chair Anna Mockler
2. Public Works Committee Briefing (*Last Meeting 7/18/2023*) – Chair Anna Mockler
3. Finance, Investment & Parking Committee Briefing (*Last Meeting 7/25/2023*) – Chair Jennifer Chamberlin
4. Regional and Other Committee/Board Briefings
5. Other General Council Business (*As necessary, and as time allows...*)

**C. ADJOURNMENT OF STUDY SESSION**



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

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**A1**  
*Item added...*

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**SUBJECT:** Confirm Appointment of Susie Beil to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Study Session Date: July 26, 2023  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: August 2, 2023  
Department: Executive  
Presenter: Mayor Wheeler  
Phone: 473-5266

**SUMMARY:** The Mayor is seeking confirmation of the appointment of Susie Beil to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. The term will expire on July 31, 2028.

**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 appointment of Susie Beil to the Bremerton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners with a term expiring on July 31, 2028.

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

**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**A2**

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution to adopt the Warren Avenue  
Bridge Multimodal Project Preferred Design  
Alternative

Study Session Date: July 26, 2023  
COUNCIL MEETING Date: August 2, 2023  
Department: PWU- Engineering  
Presenter: Shane Weber  
Phone: (360) 473-2345

**SUMMARY:**

City staff have concluded a bridge configuration alternatives analysis and public outreach process that included five Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Meetings, two public surveys, two open houses, and presentations and briefings to the City Council; a total of eleven alternatives were considered. Projects were eliminated from consideration due to structural infeasibility, unacceptable maintenance requirements, alignment with survey results, and cost constraints. As a result of the feasibility and outreach process, Staff recommends Alternative 2 as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 includes 10-foot clear width pathways on both sides of the bridge with two outlooks on each side (four total) and is within the current budget of \$26.5 Million. In addition, Staff also recommends moving Alternative 3 forward to be bid as an add alternate with the potential to award Alternative 3 if the bid cost is within budget. Alternative 3 includes 12' pathways on both sides of the bridge but will also require utilizing project funds to purchase a new Under Bridge Inspection Truck (UBIT) for WSDOT to maintain the bridge. A new UBIT truck is estimated at \$1M with additional mitigation costs to WSDOT that are currently undefined.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1.) Resolution No. \_\_\_\_; 2) Presentation *Added 7/25/23 3:30 PM*

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

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

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to adopt Resolution No.\_\_\_\_, endorsing the City of Bremerton Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Project Preferred Design Alternative.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington, Preferred Alternative for Design of Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Project

WHEREAS, the Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal and Safety Improvement project goal is to provide safe, ADA accessible options for all non-motorized users to cross the bridge, and;

WHEREAS, the current available funding for the project is \$26.5 million which includes a \$1.5 million Washington State grant to design the project and a \$25 million State grant to construct the project that was appropriated through the Moving Ahead Washington funding package approved in the 2022 legislative session, and;

WHEREAS, the \$1.5 million design grant is secured, and;

WHEREAS, the \$25 million Move Ahead Washington Grant is unsecured and currently programmed in the 2029+ outer years, and;

WHEREAS, the SR 303 Corridor Study was conducted to identify projects that would help meet the corridor needs as identified by the study team, a stakeholder advisory group (SAG), and the public, and;

WHEREAS, the SR 303 Corridor Study recommended Warren Avenue Bridge Improvements with 10' clear width pathways on both sides of the bridge, a center barrier, updated lighting and wayfinding, and;

WHEREAS, City Staff commenced a feasibility study that reviewed eleven (11) alternatives comprising a variety of pathway widths, structural considerations, ADA compliance, and design and construction costs and were screened through three levels of criteria in order to determine feasible alternatives, and;

WHEREAS, City Staff commenced a public outreach effort that consisted of a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), two public open houses, two public surveys, and;

WHEREAS, City Staff gave presentations to both the City's Complete Streets Committee and ADA Committee to obtain public feedback on the alternatives considered, and;



WHEREAS, the SAG included representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Olympic College, Bremerton Parks Department, Bremerton Police Department, Bremerton Fire Department, Naval Base Kitsap, Kitsap Transit, Kitsap Public Health, WSDOT, the Mayor, City Council President, bicycle advocates, and several others, and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the feasibility study and public feedback process, the Preferred Alternative was determined to be Alternative 2 (10-foot clear width pathways on both sides with four overlooks) as it meets the intent of the project and is within budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Public Works staff recommends including Alternative 3 (12-ft clear width pathways on both sides of the bridge) as an additive bid item to be selected if there is available budget, and;

WHEREAS, selection of Alternative 3 requires the separate purchase by the City of a new Under Bridge Inspection Truck (UBIT) and associated mitigation to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to maintain the bridge;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

**SECTION 1.** The City Council endorses Alternative 2 as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 includes 10-foot clear width pathways on both sides of the bridge with four overlooks (2 on each side of the bridge).

**SECTION 2.** The City Council endorses Alternative 3 as an additive bid item to be constructed if budget is available. Alternative 3 includes 12-foot clear width pathways on both sides of the bridge.

**SECTION 3.** The City Council endorses the purchase of a new UBIT and associated mitigation costs if Alternative 3 is constructed.

**SECTION 4.** *Severability.* If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this Resolution are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Resolution and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 5.** *Effective Date.* This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

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

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

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

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

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City of Bremerton

# Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Project

Council Study Session | July 26, 2023



SCJ ALLIANCE  
CONSULTING SERVICES





# Project Need, Intent and Budget

## PROJECT NEED

The Warren Avenue Bridge is a WSDOT owned and maintained facility and the major connection between east and west Bremerton. Its 3.5' wide pedestrian and bicycle facilities are substandard and do not meet minimum ADA requirements.

## INTENT

**To add ADA-accessible pedestrian and bicycle facilities where none currently exist.**

- Other improvements may include lighting and other features to enhance traffic safety and aesthetics.

## FUNDING

The current available budget for design and construction is **\$26.5M**, which includes:

- A \$1.5M Washington State grant to design the project, including preliminary engineering and permitting, was awarded to the City in 2020
- \$25M in construction funding, secured through the Moving Ahead Washington funding package was approved during the 2022 legislative session



# Public Process Overview

## Five Stakeholder Advisory Group Meetings

- 2022: February, March, September, November
- 2023: June

## City Committees

- November 2021: Complete Streets Committee
- March 2023: ADA Committee

## Public Feedback

- April 2023 survey
- April 2023 Public Open House
- June 2023 Virtual Public Open House

## WSDOT Coordination

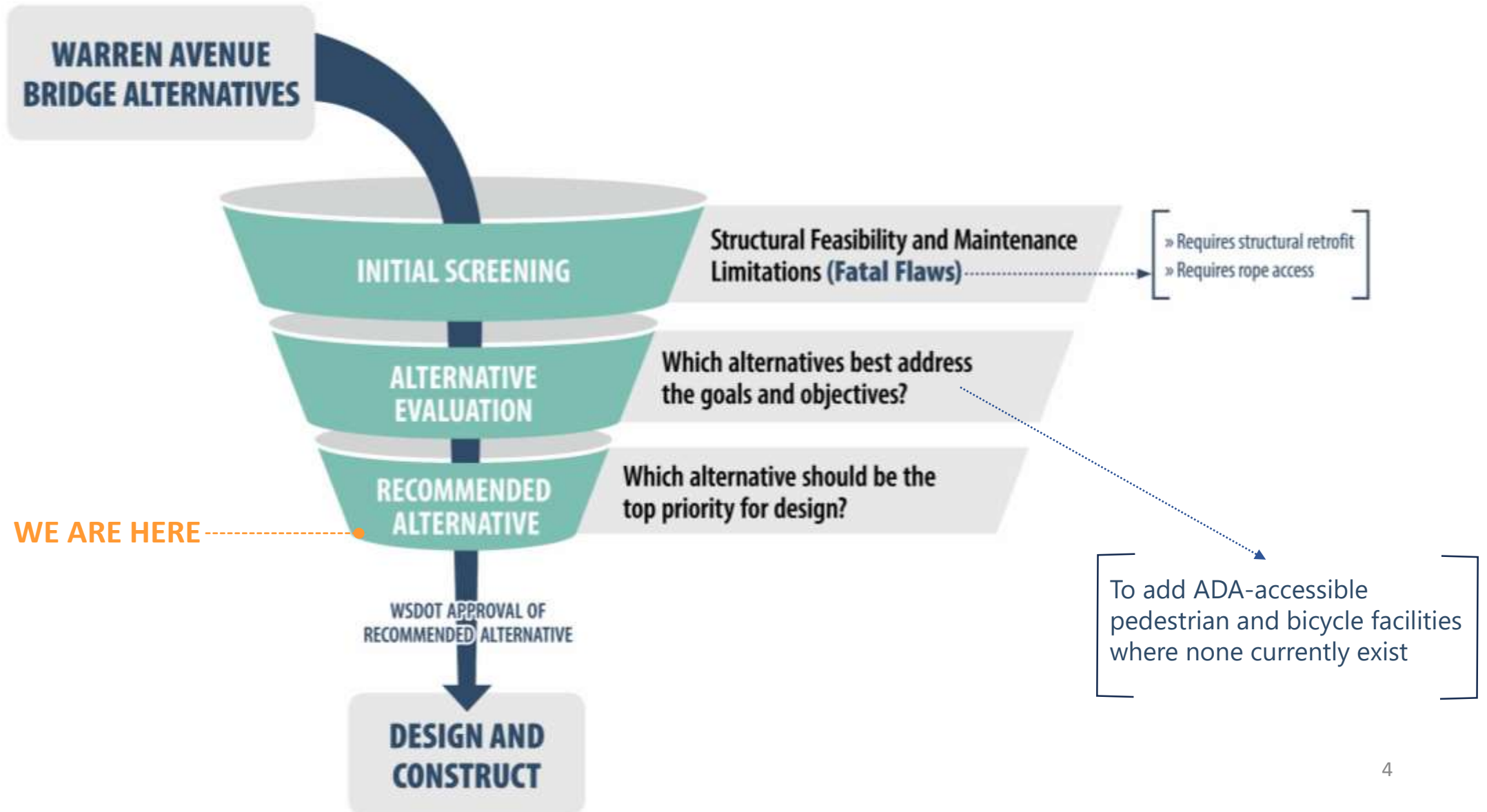
- Project Duration

## Project Website ([www.warrenavenuebridgeproject.com](http://www.warrenavenuebridgeproject.com))

- Project Duration



# Alternatives Analysis



# Three Levels of Screening

## Initial Screening Matrix

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4a	Alternative 4b	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	Alternative 7	Alternative 7a	Alternative 8	Alternative 8a
Alternatives	8-foot clear width	10-foot clear width	12-foot clear width	16-foot clear width	16-foot clear width	14-foot clear width	At-grade 6-foot bike lane, 6-foot sidewalk	12-foot clear width on east side; 5-ft clear width on west side	12-foot clear width	14-foot clear width on east side; 5-ft clear width on west side	14-foot clear width
	Both sides	Both sides	Both sides	West side	East side	Both sides	Both sides	Both sides	East side *	Both sides	East side *
Origin	WSDOT recommendation	SR 303 Corridor Study preferred alternative	Larger 2-sided alternative assuming purchase of new UBIT	Combined WSCC one-sided alternative with WSDOT standard for shared use path	Alternate to 4a, not requiring an undercrossing of SR 303	WSDOT Traffic Office requested	Input from the stakeholder survey	WSCC option plus 5' for ADA access on opposite side	WSCC option as presented to Council (2021)	WSCC option plus 5' for ADA access on opposite side	WSCC option as presented to Council (2021)
Overlooks	8'x24', 4 total	6'x24', 4 total	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No
Structural Feasibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bridge Fully ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Maintenance/Inspection Access	Existing UBIT	Existing UBIT	Larger UBIT	Rope access required	Rope access required	Larger UBIT	Existing UBIT	Larger UBIT	Larger UBIT	Larger UBIT	Larger UBIT
Planning Level Project Cost (Design and Construction)	\$23.1M	\$25.6M	\$29.1M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$23.0M	\$17.8M	\$25.6M	\$20.2M

\* Original West Sound Cycle Club (WSCC) proposal was for the improvement to be on the west side of the bridge but was subsequently revised to east side of the bridge at the request of WSCC.

# Key Preferences Determine Level 2 Screening

## Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) provided guidance on meeting accessibility (ADA) requirements:

- Federal ADA regulations require projects to remove barriers and to bring systems into compliance.
- City requested clarification on alternatives that leave one side unimproved, which currently does not meet ADA requirements.
- WSDOT Office of Equity and Civil Rights would not be supportive of a design that did not remove ADA barriers when there are other viable options being considered that do meet ADA requirements.

## City ADA Committee met on March 20 and provided the recommendations:

- Unanimously **opposed** to options that only built improvements on one side.
- Unanimously **opposed** to a 5' wide improvement on the west side of the bridge with a wider shared use path on the east side of the bridge
- Unanimously **supported** alternatives (2 and 3) which proposed at least a 10' wide path on each side of the bridge

## Key public preferences from April survey and public open house:

- Widening for pedestrian and bicycle use on both sides – 68%
- Equal width walkways on both sides accommodating pedestrians and bicycles – 65%
- Minimum walkway width of 10 feet or greater – 70%



# Level 1 and 2 Screening Results

Two alternatives remain after first two screenings:

	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<b>Alternatives</b>	10-foot clear width  Both sides	12-foot clear width  Both sides
<b>Origin</b>	SR 303 Corridor Study preferred alternative	Larger 2-sided alternative assuming purchase of new UBIT
<b>Overlooks</b>	6'x24', 4 total	No
<b>Structural Feasibility</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Bridge Fully ADA Compliant</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Maintenance/Inspection Access</b>	Existing UBIT	Larger UBIT
<b>Planning Level Project Cost (Design and Construction)</b>	\$25.6M	\$29.1M
*Costs are in 2023 \$\$ and not projected into 2029		

Feasible Alternative  
 Exceeds Project Budget

Alternative 2



Alternative 3



# Level 3 Screening Results

## BUDGET / PROJECT COST

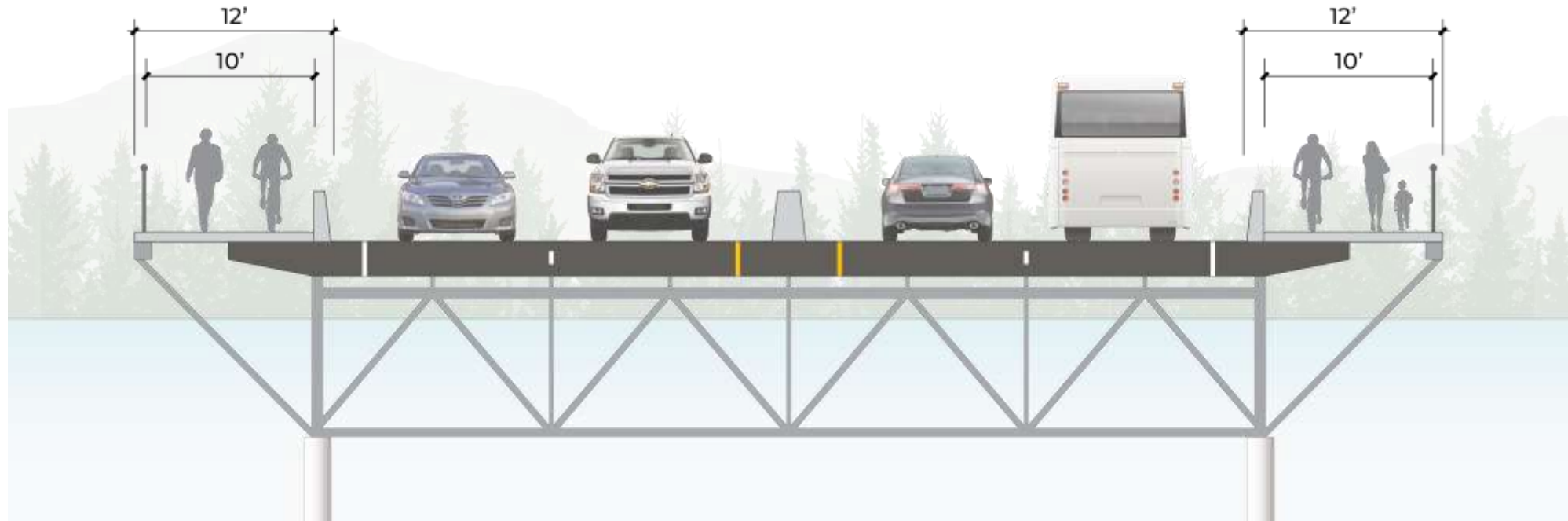
- The current available budget for design and construction is **\$26.5M**
- Keeping the project within the available budget is critical
- Alternative 3 exceeds the available budget
- Alternative 2 is within budget and is the preferred alternative; however, design and permitting will include Alternative 3 as an **additive bid item** (Add alternates are additional items of work that may be awarded as part of the contract if the bids in come within the budget specified in the contract.)

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION

- Work with legislative partners to ensure funding is available in 2025
- Ongoing consultation with WSDOT on mitigation regarding use of a larger UBIT

	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Alternatives	10-foot clear width Both sides	12-foot clear width Both sides
Origin	SR 303 Corridor Study preferred alternative	Larger 2-sided alternative assuming purchase of new UBIT
Overlooks	6'x24', 4 total	No
Structural Feasibility	Yes	Yes
Bridge Fully ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes
Maintenance/Inspection Access	Existing UBIT	Larger UBIT
Planning Level Project Cost (Design and Construction) <small>*Costs are in 2023 \$\$ and not projected into 2029</small>	\$25.6M	\$29.1M

# Contact Info



## Project Contact:

Shane Weber, PE

[Shane.Weber@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Shane.Weber@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

Managing Engineer, City of Bremerton

345 6th Street, Suite 600

Bremerton, WA 98337

360-473-2354

**Published for**  
**July 26 Study Session**  
**A2 – Public Comments**

**From:** Jeff Coughlin <Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:20 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Kylie Finnell <Kylie.Finnell@ci.bremerton.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Resolution for Warren Bridge Multimodal

Council,

Please find attached a resolution I drafted that supports Alternative 8 as the Warren Bridge Multimodal Project preferred alternative, as well as a copy of the slides I showed during my Council report on Wed. July 19.

Cheers,



**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).*

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington, Preferred Alternative for Design of Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Project

WHEREAS, the Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Project goal is to provide safe, ADA accessible options for all non-motorized users to cross the bridge and connect the Bremerton Bridge-to-Bridge trail, and;

WHEREAS, the current available funding for the project is \$26.5 million which includes a \$1.5 million Washington State grant to design the project and a \$25 million State grant to construct the project that was appropriated through the Moving Ahead Washington funding package approved in the 2022 legislative session, and;

WHEREAS, in September 2019, the City Council accepted the \$1.5 in funding for design work that included preliminary engineering and permitting for pedestrian and bike improvements, deck resurfacing, and additional design on Warren Avenue to the South and North of the bridge, and;

WHEREAS, in April 2021 the City Council approved a contract with WSDOT for design of the Warren Avenue Bridge with a Description of Work to widen one or both sides of the bridge to obtain a desirable shared use path width of 12 feet, excluding shoulders, in accordance with WSDOT Design Manual Chapter 1515, and to replace the existing center raised median with a traffic barrier, and;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the City Council approved a contract with SJC Alliance that included four preliminary alternative clear width configurations — 8 feet on both sides, 10 feet on both sides, 12 feet on the West side with a South end tunnel, and 12 feet on the East side — including connectivity to tie into existing bicycle networks and bridge-to-bridge trail, and;

WHEREAS, in October 2022 the City Council approved a contract modification with SJC that included a 12 foot path on the West side with a South end tunnel and a 14 foot West side path with South end tunnel, and;

WHEREAS, by May 2023 eleven (11) alternatives had been studied, including 8, 10, 12, and 14 foot paths on both sides, a 16 foot path on the West side with no modification to the East side, a 16 foot path on the East side with no modification to the West side, 6 foot paths on each side with 6 foot bike lanes on the deck, and four (4) alternatives from a combination of 12 and 14 foot East side paths with and without 5 feet ADA access on the West side, and with each alternative evaluated with regards to structural considerations, ADA compliance, and design and construction costs, and;

WHEREAS, the Kitsap County Bicycle Facilities Plan states that the minimum recommended width for a 2-way combined bicycle and pedestrian (multi-mode) use is 12 feet for areas of high volume usage, and;

WHEREAS, the WSDOT Shared-Use Path Design Manual states that the desirable paved width of a shared-use path, excluding the shoulders on either side, is 12 feet, and;

WHEREAS, many bicycling and non-motorized transportation groups have stated that 12 feet is the minimum safe width, with a preference for 14 feet, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Bremerton is expected to grow by approximately 20,000 people over the next 20 years, with much of that growth expected surrounding the Bridge-to-Bridge trail, and;

WHEREAS, the SR 303 Corridor Study was conducted to identify projects that would help meet the corridor needs as identified by the study team, a stakeholder advisory group (SAG), and the public, and;

WHEREAS, the SR 303 Corridor Study states a clear preference to have bicycle facilities on the Warren bridge connecting to Bremerton Bridge-to-Bridge trail, i.e., a shared-use multimodal path, and the final alternative was based on the multimodal alternative, which had a one-sided path, and;

WHEREAS, most modern bridge construction and bridge remodel projects employ a wide shared-use path of 14 to 16 feet on one side, with optionally a narrow pedestrian-focused path on the other side, and;

WHEREAS, a 14 foot shared-used path would ensure a safe route for multimodal traffic, as well as a desirable path for recreational traveling and sightseeing as part of the Bremerton Bridge-to-Bridge trail, and;

WHEREAS, the \$1.5 million design grant is secured, and the \$25 million Move Ahead Washington Grant is unsecured and currently programmed in the 2029+ outer years, and;

WHEREAS, City Staff commenced a public outreach effort that consisted of a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), with invitations extended to representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Olympic College, Bremerton Parks Department, Bremerton Police Department, Bremerton Fire Department, Naval Base Kitsap, Kitsap Transit, Kitsap Public Health, WSDOT, the Mayor, the City Council, bicycle advocates, and several others, and;

WHEREAS, City Staff hosted two public open houses and conducted two public surveys, and;

WHEREAS, half of online public comments and three-quarters of in-person public comments expressed that at least a minimum width of 12 feet was desired for a shared-use path, and;

WHEREAS, Alternative 8 (14-foot clear width on the East side and 5-foot clear width on the West side) meets the intent of the project, the desire of the public, and is within budget, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council recommends expanding the width of the West side if there is available budget, or if any additional funds are able to be secured in the future, and;

WHEREAS, the selection of Alternative 8 may require the purchase of a new Under Bridge Inspection Truck (UBIT) or associated mitigation efforts to enable the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to inspect the bridge;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

**SECTION 1.** The City Council endorses Alternative 8 as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 8 includes a 14-foot clear width pathway on the East side and a 5-foot pathway on the West side.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council endorses widening the West side to greater than 5 feet if budget is available or additional funding is able to be secured.

**SECTION 3.** The City Council endorses pursuing funding for the connectors as separate projects, ideally to be completed prior to the construction of the bridge improvements.

**SECTION 4.** The City Council endorses the purchase of a new UBIT or other associated mitigation costs if WSDOT is unwilling or unable to fund such costs themselves.

**SECTION 5.** *Severability.* If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this Resolution are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Resolution and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6.** *Effective Date.* This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

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

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



# WARREN AVENUE BRIDGE MULTIMODAL PROJECT



Presentation by Council Stakeholder Jeff Coughlin, July 19, 2023

# Conclusion and Options

- Alternatives 7 and 8 are the only viable alternatives that meet the project objectives, ensure safety, and match majority public preference.
  - Also ensures Bremerton is adopting modern design standards with a wide, attractive side for residents and visitors as part of the bridge-to-bridge trail.
- Option A: Council approves Alt 8 (14' East side and 5' West side) with any additional funds to go towards expanding West side.
  - Provides widest, most modern multimodal path for Bridge-to-Bridge trail.
- Option B: Council approves Alt 7 (12' East side and 5' West side) with any additional funds to go towards expanding West side.
  - 8' on West side is already in-budget if WSDOT doesn't request \$1.0 M for inspection.

# History of the Warren Multimodal Project Part I

- Sept. 2019 - Council accepts \$1.5M in funding.
  - "The design work includes preliminary engineering and permitting for pedestrian and bike improvements, deck resurfacing, and additional design on Warren Avenue to the south and north of the bridge."
- April 2021 - Council approves contract with WSDOT for design of the Warren Avenue Bridge with a Description of Work to:
  - 1) Widen one or both sides of the bridge to obtain a desirable shared use path width of 12', excluding shoulders, in accordance with WSDOT DM Chapter 1515.
  - 2) Replace existing center raised median with traffic barrier.

# History of the Warren Multimodal Project Part II

- Aug. 2021 - Council approves contract with SJC Alliance including four preliminary alternatives, including "connectivity...to tie into existing bicycle networks and bridge-to-bridge trail."
  - A) 8' both sides, B) 10' both sides, C) 12' West side with South end tunnel, and D) 12' on East side.
- Oct. 2022 - Council approves contract modification with SJC to add:
  - 12' West side with South end tunnel (though previously specified)
  - 14' West side with South end tunnel
- May 2023 – 12' and 14' East side alternatives with and without 5' ADA access on West side presented.

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4a	Alternative 4b	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	Alternative 7	Alternative 7a	Alternative 8	Alternative 8a
Alternatives	8-foot clear width	10-foot clear width	12-foot clear width	16-foot clear width	16-foot clear width	14-foot clear width	At-grade 6-foot bike lane, 6-foot sidewalk	12-foot clear width on east side; 5-ft clear width on west side	12-foot clear width	14-foot clear width on east side; 5-ft clear width on west side	14-foot clear width
	Both sides	Both sides	Both sides	West side	East side	Both sides	Both sides	Both sides	East side	Both sides	East side
Structural Feasibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bridge Fully ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Inspection Feasibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Planning Level Project Cost (Design, Inspection, and Construction)	\$23.1M	\$25.6M	\$29.1M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$23.0M	\$17.8M	\$25.6M	\$20.2M

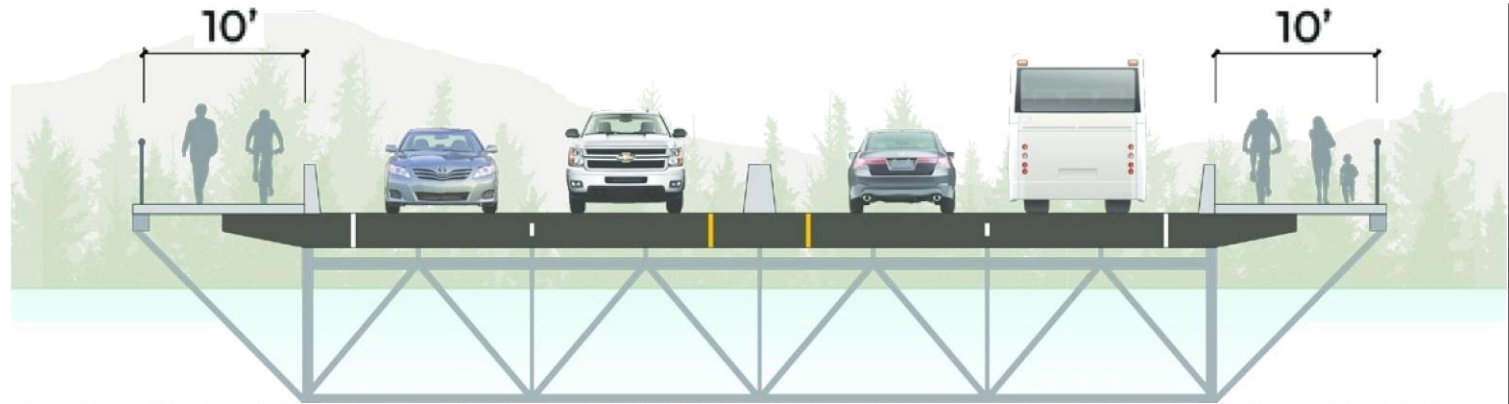
**Structural and Inspection Feasibility, ADA compliance, and Under \$26.0 M Budget**

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4a	Alternative 4b	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	Alternative 7	Alternative 7a	Alternative 8	Alternative 8a
Alternatives	8-foot clear width	10-foot clear width	12-foot clear width	16-foot clear width	16-foot clear width	14-foot clear width	At-grade 6-foot bike lane, 6-foot sidewalk	12-foot clear width on east side; 5-ft clear width on west side	12-foot clear width	14-foot clear width on east side; 5-ft clear width on west side	14-foot clear width
	Both sides	Both sides	Both sides	West side	East side	Both sides	Both sides	Both sides	East side	Both sides	East side
Structural Feasibility	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bridge Fully ADA Compliant	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Inspection Feasibility	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Planning Level Project Cost (Design, Inspection, and Construction)	\$23.1M	\$25.6M	\$29.1M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$23.0M	\$17.8M	\$25.6M	\$20.2M

# Best Bridge-only Alternatives w/o Fatal Flaws and Under \$26.0 M Budget

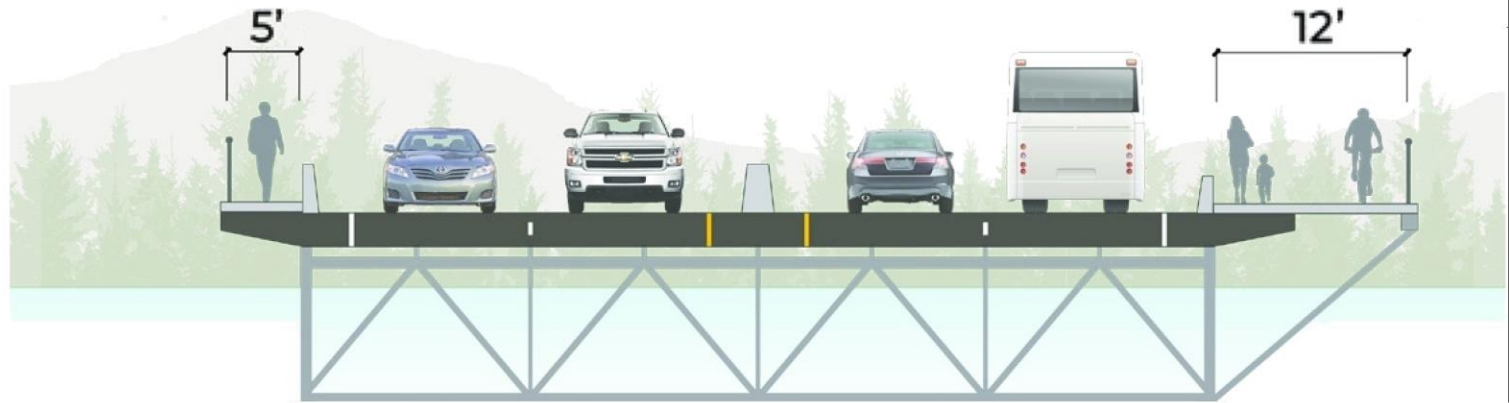
## ALTERNATIVE 2

Cost Estimate:  
\$25.6M



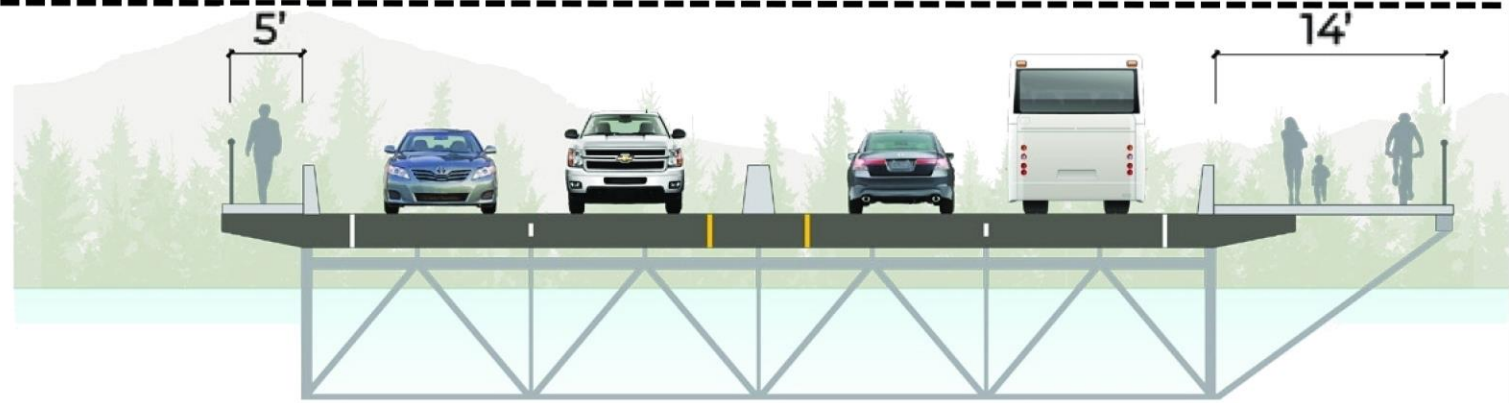
## ALTERNATIVE 7

Cost Estimate:  
\$23.0M



## ALTERNATIVE 8

Cost Estimate:  
\$25.6M





# Connector Concepts

**TUNNEL.....\$10.0M**

**LEBO BOULEVARD PATHWAY.....\$2.6M**

**ROTO VISTA PARK PATHWAY.....\$2.2M**

**ROADWAY/SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS..... \$5.8M**

*Note: The above listed projects are examples of potential off bridge improvements, and are conceptual designs only. Public outreach efforts will occur once additional funding is obtained to identify the community's preferred off bridge improvements.*

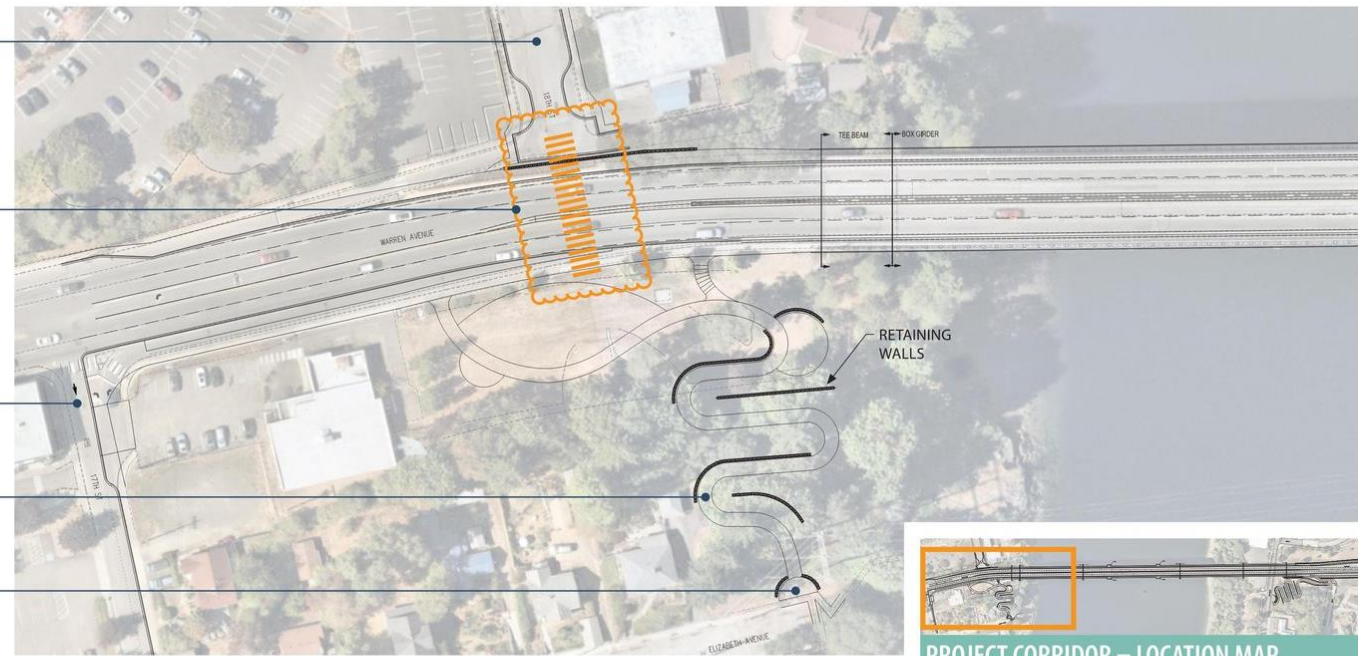
18TH STREET RAMP CLOSURE

POTENTIAL NON-MOTORIZED CONNECTION (TUNNEL)

17TH STREET ONE-WAY EASTBOUND CONVERSION

ROTO VISTA PARK PATHWAY

ELIZABETH AVENUE CONNECTION

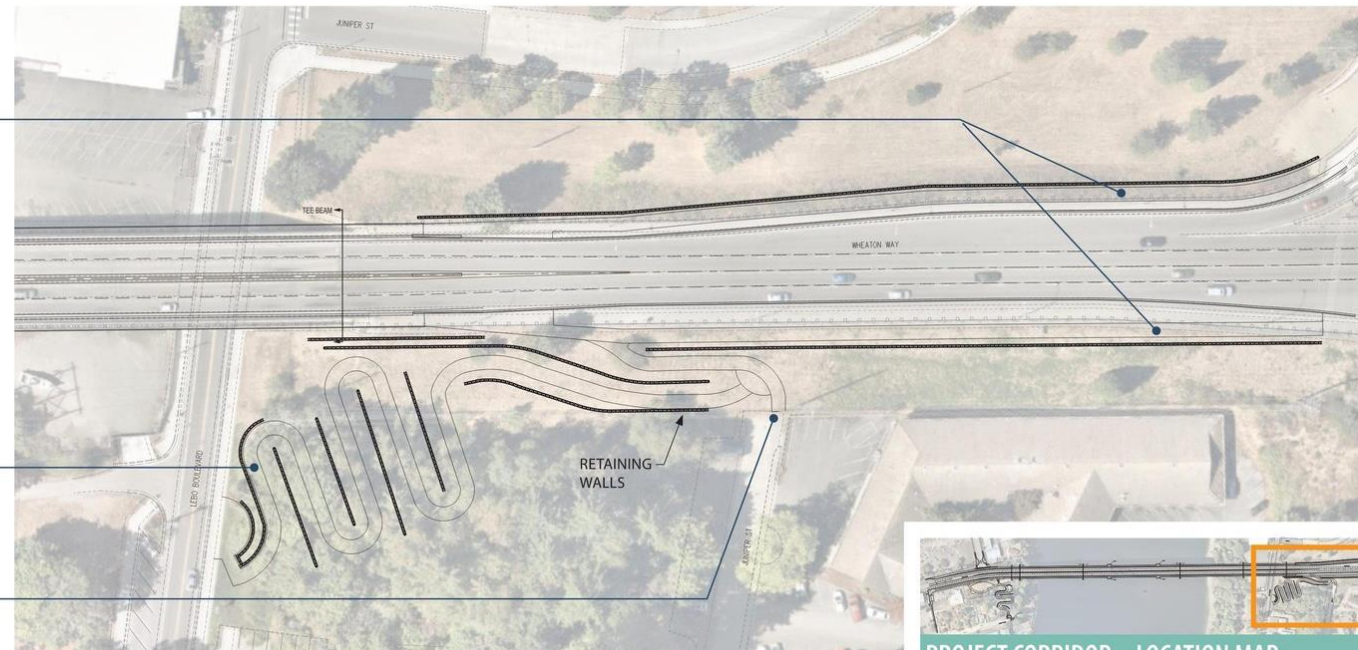


PROJECT CORRIDOR – LOCATION MAP

SIDEWALK EXTENSION ALONG WHEATON WAY

LEBO BOULEVARD PATHWAY

JUNIPER STREET CONNECTION



PROJECT CORRIDOR – LOCATION MAP

# 12' is the Minimum Safe, Modern Option

- Bremerton Port Washington Trail Master Plan references the Kitsap County Bicycle Facilities Plan, which says, "The minimum recommended width for a 2-way combined bicycle and pedestrian (multi-mode) use is 12 feet minimum for areas of high volume usage."
- WSDOT Shared-Use Path Design Manual states, "The desirable paved width of a shared-use path, excluding the shoulders on either side, is 12 feet."
- SR 303 Corridor Study states clear preference to have bicycle facilities on bridge connecting to bridge-to-bridge trail, i.e., a shared-use path.
  - The alternative (#2, Multimodal) that the final preferred alternative was based on has a wide, one-sided option bridge shared-used path.

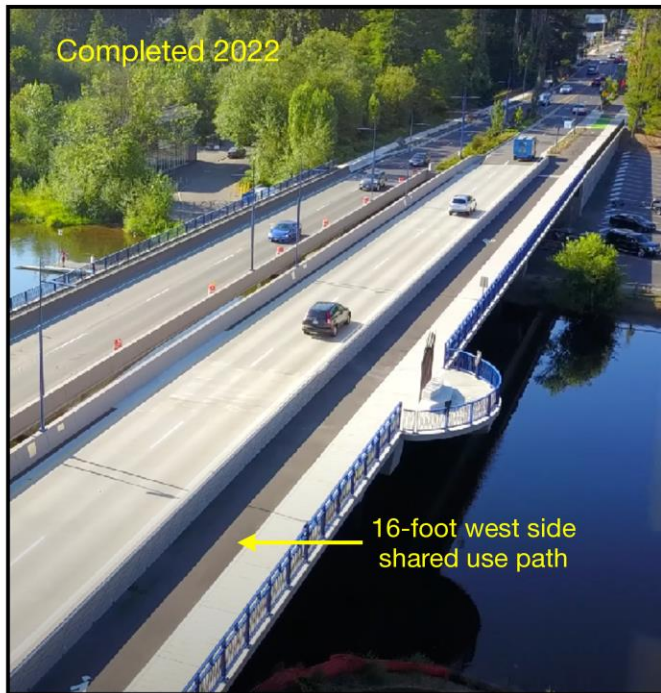


# Bridge Shared Use Paths on only One Side are Commonplace

At right: The planned **White Salmon, WA - Hood River, OR** bridge replacement will have a 12-foot shared use path on only the west side of the bridge. It will provide an additional 10 feet at overlooks.



**Kenmore's 68th street bridge** has a new multimodal 16-ft shared use path on the west side, the east side was left unchanged at 5 feet, primarily for pedestrian use.



**SR-520 Floating Bridge** 14-ft shared use path connects Medina to Seattle



**Johnson Street Bridge** in Victoria (2018) features a 14 to 16 foot multimodal path on one side and a pedestrian-only pathway on the other.



This shared use path, *on one side* of the I-90 floating bridge across Lake Washington, was built in 1993.



This shared use path, *on one side* of the SR 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington, was completed in 2017. Safety issues with the 10-foot width of the I-90 shared use path influenced WSDOT to widen this shared use path to 14 feet. The curvature of the hand rails gives additional room for handlebars. Pedestrians and cyclists can safely share this space.



# Public Online and Open House Takeaways

- Twice as many online survey respondents said a 12' (108) or 14' (88) width should be the minimum safe width compared to those that said 10' (94).
- Only 21% (59) of survey respondents that use the existing sidewalks (283) prefer to use the West side.
- Several bicycling experts from different groups have stated 12' is the minimum safe width, with many advocating for 14'.
  - 14' especially important considering rise of e-bikes and scooters.
- Public Open House Written Comments:
  - 73% (8) of comments mentioning width (11) advocate for 12' or greater.
  - 50% (8) of comments mentioning 1 vs 2 sides (16) advocate for expanding just 1 side.

# Conclusion and Options

- Alternatives 7 and 8 are the only viable alternatives that meet the project objectives, ensure safety, and match majority public preference.
  - Also ensures Bremerton is adopting modern design standards with a wide, attractive side for residents and visitors as part of the bridge-to-bridge trail.
- Option A: Council approves Alt 8 (14' East side and 5' West side) with any additional funds to go towards expanding West side.
  - Provides widest, most modern multimodal path for Bridge-to-Bridge trail.
- Option B: Council approves Alt 7 (12' East side and 5' West side) with any additional funds to go towards expanding West side.
  - 8' on West side is already in-budget if WSDOT doesn't request \$1.0 M for inspection.



**From:** [jane Rebelowski](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [dianne iverson](#); [Thomas Knuckey](#); [Greg Wheeler](#); [Vicki Grover](#)  
**Subject:** Warren Ave Bridge multi model project PLEASE SEND TO ALL COUNCIL  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2023 10:31:43 PM

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CAUTION: This email 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 member of the City of Bremerton's ADA committee for several years. Prior to my retirement I was a long time member of the City of Seattle's ADA committee. I trained all employees of the Seattle Department of Transportation Maintenance crews on not only how to properly construct ADA facilities but also how to install safe work zones for all persons of various abilities to navigate work zones. I attended numerous national training sessions to gain my knowledge and experience in ADA issues.

Bremerton City staff presented options for the Warren Ave multi-modal project without providing information discussed in stakeholder meetings. We were unaware that the cycling community had proposed keeping the majority of cyclists on a 12' or 14' east side route. Resident committee members thought that cyclists would be overwhelming both sides of bridge and therefore voted for both sides of bridge improvements to be a minimum 10' each side. I believe if we had all the information our vote may have been different. I know mine would have been.

I propose that both sides meet ADA requirements of a minimum of 5' walkway on west side of bridge and east side be 12' or 14' ( 14' being my preference). I hope in the future ALL information be given to volunteer committees prior to asking for an opinion.

Jane Rebelowski  
1445 17th St  
98337  
360-479-7179

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Paul Dutky <pdutky@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 9:54 PM

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

**Subject:** Warren Avenue Bridge Multi-modal Upgrades/Complete Streets Committee

President Coughlin, Council-members Goodnow, Frey, Chamberlin, Mockler, Dennehy, and Younger,

I am Dianne Iverson, a member of the Bremerton Complete Streets Committee representing West Sound Cycling Club.

I am writing to you today about the Multi-modal Improvements that are being planned for the Warren Avenue Bridge. In 2021 the Complete Streets Committee participated in **early on** discussions concerning our vision for the Warren Avenue Bridge multi-modal improvements. We were excited at the time to be a part of the process so that the best preferred alternative for Bremerton would be chosen. Our participation was very limited as a committee.

In December of 2022, WSDOT sent a letter to the Mayor, the Council and to staff that increased the possibilities for choosing a safer alternative than what staff was recommending at the November 30th, 2022 stakeholders meeting. The Complete Streets Committee would have been a valuable source of input for evaluating the latest viable preferred alternatives.

As of July 25th, 2023 the Complete Streets Committee has met twice this year, but has not had an opportunity to review alternatives based on the latest information sent to the city by WSDOT in December. As a member of the committee, it was my understanding that we would be able to participate in reviewing and advising on the "preferred alternatives".

Several alternatives are feasible and within budget. Some alternatives are safer than others. Many members of the Complete Streets Committee may not even know this and they certainly have not had the opportunity to review the handful of existing feasible projects.

As an individual member of the Complete Streets Committee, I urge the city council to review and support Alternative 8 as it is the safest alternative for all ages and abilities. Alternative 8 is also within budget. Alternative 8 provides a safe multimodal path on the east side of the bridge and a pedestrian preferred path on the west side of the bridge.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Dianne Iverson

[diverson1950@gmail.com](mailto:diverson1950@gmail.com)

**From:** dianne iverson <[diverson1950@gmail.com](mailto:diverson1950@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** Greg Wheeler <[Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jeff Coughlin <[Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jeff.Coughlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Eric Younger <[eric.younger@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:eric.younger@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Michael Goodnow <[Michael.Goodnow@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Michael.Goodnow@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Anna Mockler <[Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Anna.Mockler@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Denise Frey <[Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Denise.Frey@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Jennifer Chamberlin <[Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Chamberlin@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>; Quinn Dennehy <[Quinn.Dennehy@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Quinn.Dennehy@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** dianne iverson <[diverson1950@gmail.com](mailto:diverson1950@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Letter and attached pdf of Warren Avenue Bridge upgrades

Mayor Wheeler, President Coughlin, and Bremerton City Council members,

I have been a member of the Warren Avenue Bridge Stakeholder Advisory Group representing West Sound Cycling Club. Attached to this email is a summary of West Sound Cycling Club's recommendation based on the information learned during the past two years of planning. Common sense and research support WSCC's position that wider paths are safer, and connectivity of the bridge to neighborhoods is essential for a multi-modal bridge upgrade to be a good investment.

### Bridge Options

As a resident of Bremerton, I am excited about future improvements to the Warren Avenue Bridge, and I am especially happy that the public and the council have the opportunity to view more than one viable option. You now have the most difficult task of choosing a safe option for all ages and abilities and living within a budget. At no time did the public or the stakeholder advisory group have to wrestle with prioritizing alternatives *based on monies available*. You have been given that task.

Since many current council members were not on council in 2021 when the stakeholder advisory group was formed, I'd like to take this opportunity to summarize the last 27 months from the eyes of this particular committee member.

In March of 2021 the city's public works department recommended the Council endorse 8-foot sidewalks on both sides of the Warren Avenue Bridge. Since an 8-foot sidewalk is not "multimodal", bikes would, supposedly, use the bridge deck, except, of course, they wouldn't. The bridge deck is extremely dangerous for cyclists. This staff recommendation to Council was made with **no community input**. Thankfully, the Bremerton City Council intervened to keep consideration of other viable alternatives alive.

On April 7, 2021 the Council voted 7 to 0 to approve funding for a design study but amended the motion to include consideration of WSCC's recommendation of a 12- to 14-foot path on one side of the bridge. Cost and structural feasibility were key issues the city and the state needed to explore. Now after more than two years there are *several* viable alternatives for the Council to consider.

### Width of bridge shared use paths:

The state of Washington recommends 12- and 14-foot paths on bridges when possible. Cycling throughout Puget Sound our bike club members have experienced cycling on bridges with 8-, 10-, 12-, 14- and 16-foot paths. Wider paths are safer and attract more users of all ages and abilities.

After more than 24 months of planning we now know that a 12- or 14-foot path on the Warren Avenue Bridge is structurally feasible. This is great news! Based on survey results from the community, 12- and 14-foot paths are strongly preferred. We encourage the City Council to choose a 12 or 14 foot path on at least one side of the bridge in order to make it safer for all of us. The Community wants it and research supports it. Wider paths are safer.

### Inspection of bridge:

After attending the November 30th, 2022 stakeholders committee meeting, I wrote WSDOT a letter describing my frustration that their mandates were a barrier to Bremerton choosing a safe multi-modal design for our bridge. A reply was received within 10 days addressed to me, the Mayor, the Council, and the staff. WSDOT is no longer the problem. There are UBITs (Under bridge inspection trucks) that can accommodate our bridge as well as future bridge upgrades throughout the state of Washington in communities far and wide - contrary to statements made earlier in the planning process. The UBIT barrier to inspecting the Warren Avenue Bridge is no longer a **fatal flaw** as described by Public Works during Warren Avenue Bridge stakeholders' meetings.



## Budget:

How are multimodal improvements to the Warren Avenue Bridge being funded?

At this time \$25,000,000 was allocated by the legislature through Move Ahead Washington in order to upgrade the Warren Avenue Bridge. This is in addition to the \$1.5M the legislature allocated for the design. Additional resources will be needed to establish connectivity between the bridge and surrounding neighborhoods - *without which improvements to the bridge are meaningless*. The six connectors are: NE at Sheridan Park, SE at Roto Vista Park, NW at Clare Avenue, SW through Olympic College, east-west connectivity under Warren Avenue at the north end of the bridge at Callahan, and east-west connectivity through a tunnel under Warren Avenue at the south end of the bridge. All six connectors are in current transportation plans.

WSCC recommends applying for additional resources **now** to fund a wide bridge path and its connectors. Since the Move Ahead Washington funds for the Warren Avenue Bridge are not available until 2029, the city has time to get our bridge and its connections to adjacent neighborhoods shovel ready by applying for additional funds to build the important connectors and associated park improvements as soon as possible. **The Move Ahead Washington commitment of resources will entice others to fund the needed gaps that will provide connectivity to our non-motorized plan.** Many funding sources prefer filling in the gaps after initial commitments have been made. Let's use this opportunity now to get "gap" funding.

We request that Bremerton City Council prioritize grant funding for the important connectors through Roto Vista Park, the tunnel under Warren Avenue connecting to Upper Roto Vista Park, and Sheridan Park. Park improvements are essential for the Bridge to Bridge Loop Trail, and for non-motorized north-south travel. These improvements will be funded by transportation dollars - improvements Bremerton's Parks and Recreation Department cannot accomplish on its own.

Waiting until 2029 to invest in them is not strategic. Applying for grants now will show the state legislature that Bremerton is committed to upgrading the Warren Avenue Bridge. It should improve our "shovel readiness" status and future legislatures might choose to move Warren Avenue Bridge improvements to an earlier date.

## Lessons learned:

Communities throughout Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest have been leading the way on multi-modal improvements. Let's learn from them. Bridges are safer when the shared use path meets current standards. Here's a short list of bridges we have cycled in our state recently that meet the state's recommended shared use path width of 12 to 14 feet:

- SR 520 Evergreen Floating Bridge: Completed 2017. 14-foot wide path, Medina to U of Washington
- West Sammamish River Bridge, Completed 2022. 16-foot wide path, 68th avenue in Kenmore, WA
- Dungeness Railroad bridge, Completed 2023. 12-foot path over Dungeness River in Sequim, WA.
- Main Street Bridge, Completed 2022. A 12.5-foot path and an 8-foot path in Bellevue, WA over SR 405

WSCC supports a 12- or 14-foot path on one side of the bridge at a minimum. Bridge Alternatives 7, 8 and X all have a path of at least 12 feet on one side. Given current funding constraints, WSCC prefers option X with 8 feet on the west side and 12 feet on the east side. (See attached document)

Thank you for your time and leadership on behalf of the citizens of Bremerton. We, like you, are excited about these future investments in Bremerton.

Many thanks to the leadership of key stakeholders. First of all, we thank the Bremerton City Council on their vote of March 2021, especially Council members Younger and Goodnow. We also thank Council President Coughlin for joining WSCC on a ride to learn about cycling 8-, 10-, 12 and 14-foot shared use paths on Seattle's floating bridges. We thank State Senator Emily Randall for cycling with us on the same route in order to understand these same issues. And, we thank WSDOT for being part of the solution so that our community can choose a safer, connected multi-modal bridge. Most of all we thank the Washington state legislature for the allocation of \$26.5m to initiate the planning, design, and construction of multi-modal improvements to Bremerton's Warren Avenue Bridge.

WSCC is excited to be part of this endeavor. If anyone on Council or staff wants to cycle the Lake Washington floating bridges this summer, we are happy to lead another bike ride to show you bridges that have 8, 10 and 14 foot wide shared use paths on them.

Dianne Iverson

360 990 4445

[diverson1950@gmail.com](mailto:diverson1950@gmail.com)

West Sound Cycling Club board member

Warren Avenue Bridge stakeholders committee member

# Warren Avenue Bridge and its Connectors

WSSC recommendations, Summer of 2023

- Overview
- NE Connector
- SE Connector
- Tunnel under SR 303

# Warren Avenue Bridge Multi-modal Improvements and their connectors

## WSCC Position Paper

### Summer of 2023

#### 1. Warren Avenue Bridge Multimodal Improvements: Bridge only

Alternatives to bridge

#2. 10 feet on both sides. (Absolutely NO)

#7. 12 feet on east side and 5 feet on west side.

#8. 14 feet on east side and 5 feet on west side

#X. 12 feet on east side and 8 feet on west side. (Preferred by WSCC)

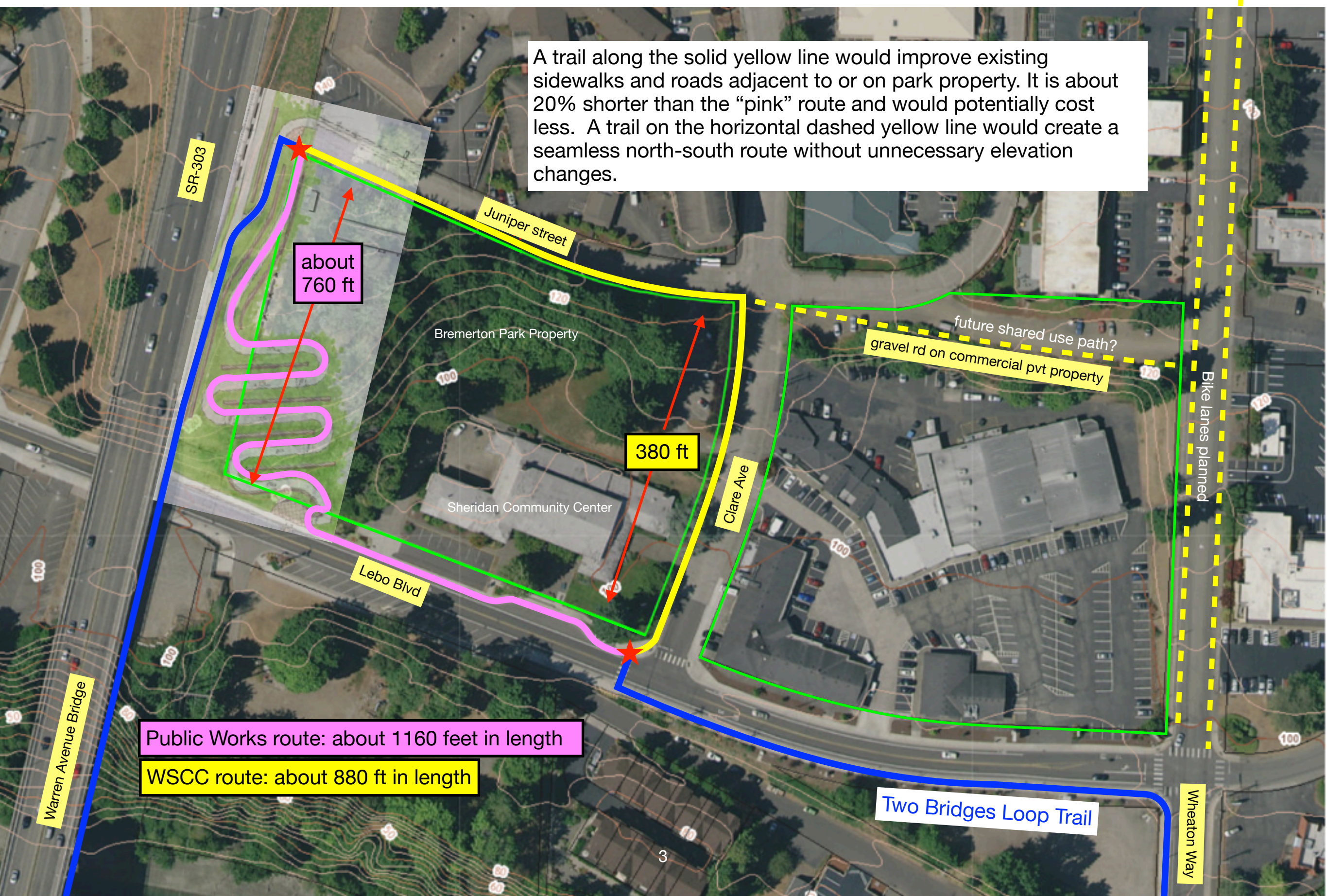
#### 2. Connection between NE corner of bridge and Lebo Blvd

WSCC supports a multi-modal shared use path connection on the NE corner of the Warren Avenue Bridge at Juniper Street in place of the switchback trail as described in slide 4. This multi-modal route would be about 20% shorter and would dramatically improve the walkability of Juniper street for residents of the adjacent assisted living facility. See photographs taken in December of 2022 on slide 5.

**See a graphic of these routes on the next page**



# A Comparison of two possible Lebo-Bridge routes



A trail along the solid yellow line would improve existing sidewalks and roads adjacent to or on park property. It is about 20% shorter than the “pink” route and would potentially cost less. A trail on the horizontal dashed yellow line would create a seamless north-south route without unnecessary elevation changes.

about 760 ft

380 ft

Public Works route: about 1160 feet in length

WSSC route: about 880 ft in length

Two Bridges Loop Trail

Warren Avenue Bridge

SR-303

Juniper street

Bremerton Park Property

Sheridan Community Center

Lebo Blvd

Clare Ave

future shared use path?  
gravel rd on commercial pvt property

Bike lanes planned

Wheaton Way



## A Comparison of two possible Lebo-Bridge routes

A switchbacked or markedly curved trail may be more difficult for bikes to negotiate safely, and walkers will be tempted to cut corners. People walking or in wheelchairs may find it easier to take the shorter route via Juniper St. and Clare Ave.



Juniper Street is between 2 and 3 degrees of incline, bike, walk, and roll friendly, and has very low traffic volume and speeds. A shared use path along Juniper St could be extended eastward toward Wheaton Way, becoming part of the proposed East Bremerton Bike and Pedestrian Corridor that will connect downtown to the Illahee Preserve. A shared use path on a private gravel road may require an easement (dashed yellow line).



**WSCC suggestion**  
**Juniper Street: candidate for a shared use path**



Park property

Looking from SR 303 toward Juniper Street



**NE Connector continued:** Sheridan Park has the potential to be dramatically improved by a trail through the forested west side of the property by “cleaning up” neglected stands of trees and developing a simple trail network through the forest. We should support further study on how to improve multi-modal connections using the park as a nature corridor from Juniper to Lebo.

Our first priority is to build a multi-modal transportation corridor by building wider paths on the bridge and a connection from the NE corner of the bridge to the west end of Juniper street. Park trail development could be phased in as resources become available.

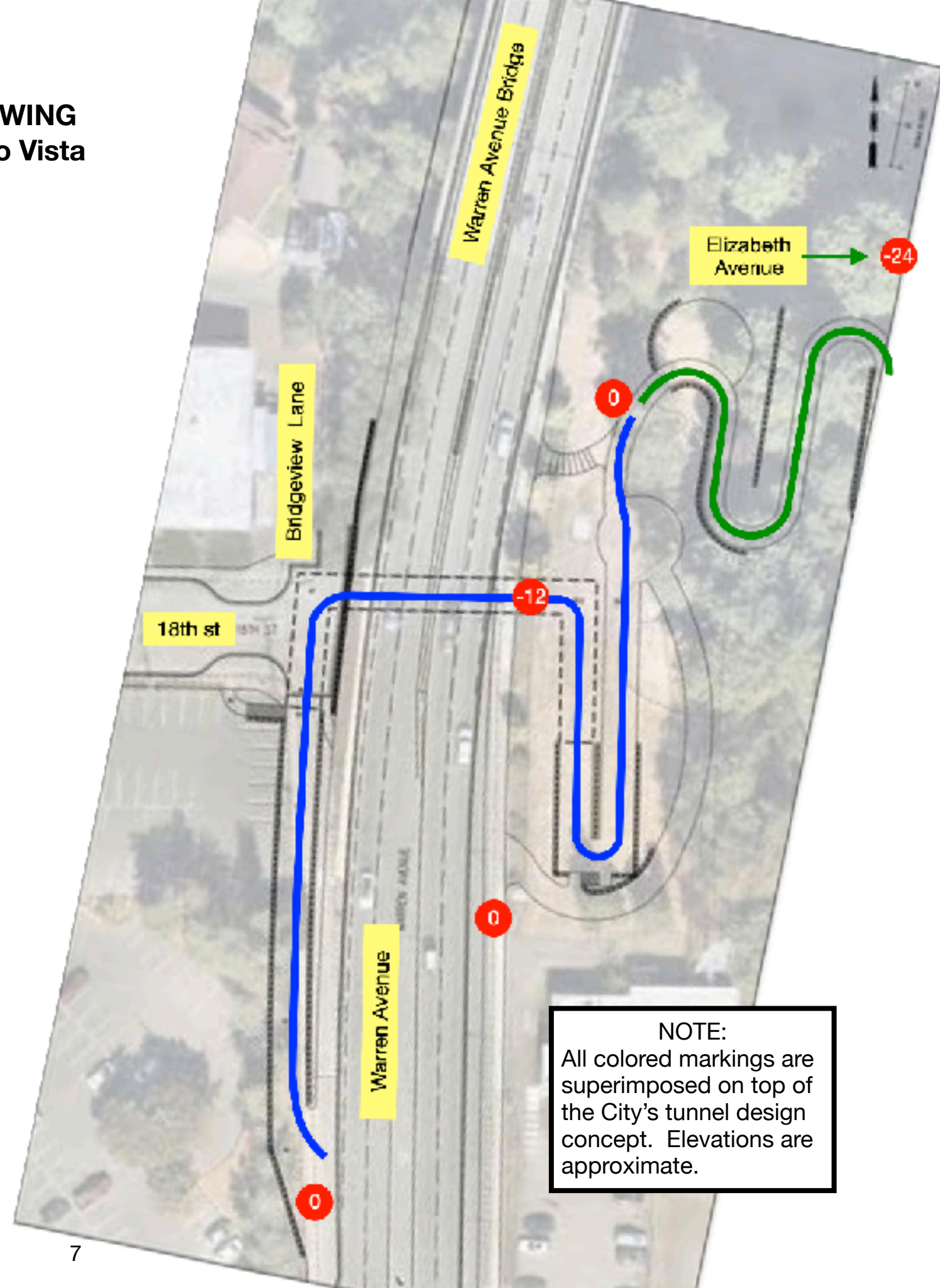
### **3. Tunnel under Warren Avenue at south end**

Bremerton adopted a tunnel under Warren Avenue as its solution to safe multimodal connectivity between the east and west sides of busy Warren Avenue at the south end of the bridge by Olympic College. This tunnel is a preferred alternative in the SR-303 Corridor Study and the Joint Compatibility Transportation Plan - two planning processes the city has facilitated over the last 3 years. A typical bike and pedestrian friendly tunnel would allow safe east-west and north south travel by users on either side of an upgraded Warren Avenue Bridge. A tunnel would decrease traffic interruptions by pedestrians crossing at the 16th street traffic light, and significantly improve safe multimodal connectivity across Warren Avenue and the bridge.

Bremerton staff revealed their design for the tunnel at the Warren Avenue Bridge stakeholders committee in November of 2022. It is shown on the next page. It has two 90 degree turns underground in the tunnel - a design we feel is unsafe, and would be unattractive to the public. Therefore WSCC, with the help of two retired engineers, created an alternative design which has no underground turns and conforms better to modern design standards. The Bremerton Public Works design and the WSCC design are shown on the next two pages.

## BREMERTON PUBLIC WORKS CONCEPT DRAWING for a tunnel under Warren Avenue at Upper Roto Vista

Someone wanting to travel from the west side of Warren Avenue through the tunnel to Elizabeth Ave using the city's tunnel design would have to descend to -12 feet, climb back to street level and then descend 24 feet on the planned new path through Upper Roto Vista park. Compare this concept to the WSCC tunnel concept that follows.

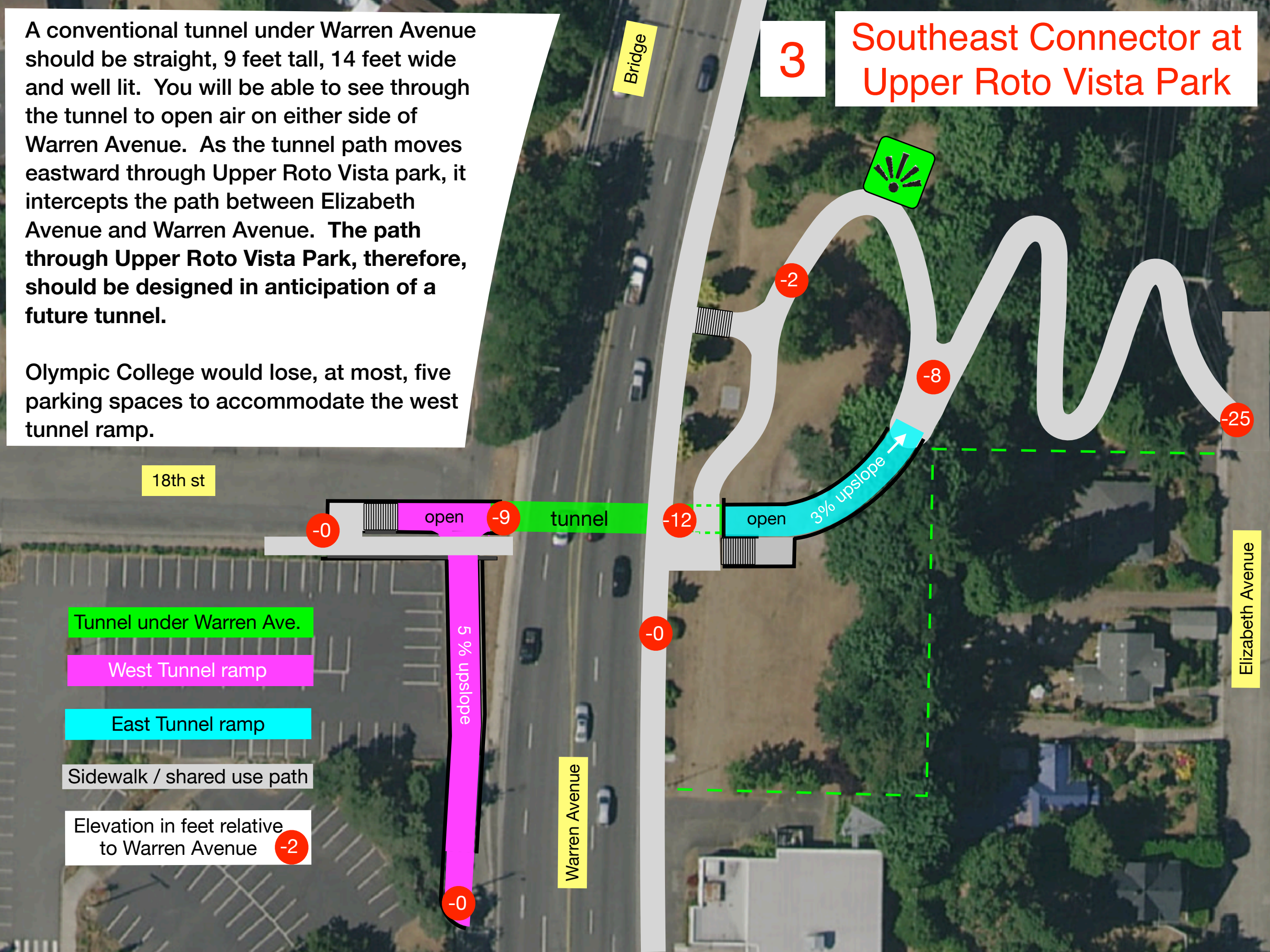




A conventional tunnel under Warren Avenue should be straight, 9 feet tall, 14 feet wide and well lit. You will be able to see through the tunnel to open air on either side of Warren Avenue. As the tunnel path moves eastward through Upper Roto Vista park, it intercepts the path between Elizabeth Avenue and Warren Avenue. The path through Upper Roto Vista Park, therefore, should be designed in anticipation of a future tunnel.

Olympic College would lose, at most, five parking spaces to accommodate the west tunnel ramp.

### 3 Southeast Connector at Upper Roto Vista Park



18th st

-0 open -9 tunnel

-12 open 3% upslope

Elizabeth Avenue

Warren Avenue

Tunnel under Warren Ave.

West Tunnel ramp

East Tunnel ramp

Sidewalk / shared use path

Elevation in feet relative to Warren Avenue -2

5% upslope

-0

3



-2

-8

-25

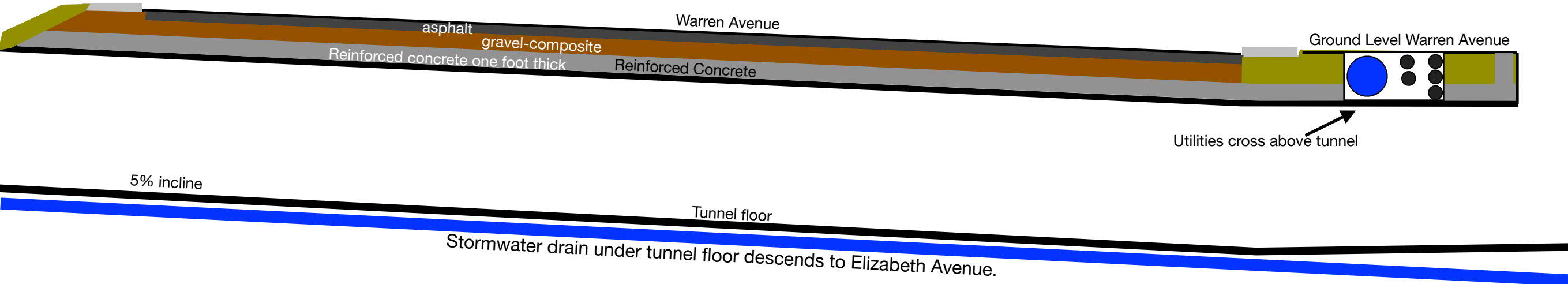
-0



← Olympic College / 18th st.

# WSSC Warren Avenue Tunnel Cross-section (looking north)

Upper Roto Vista Park →



This WSSC tunnel is 9 feet tall and 14 feet wide. The floor of the tunnel descends about 3 feet from 18th street to the edge of Roto Vista Park

Elizabeth Ave Street Level

This 9-foot high tunnel shown at right was recently constructed in Boulder, Colorado. It would look similar to the WSSC tunnel design for Warren Avenue except the width of the WSSC tunnel is 14 feet, whereas the Boulder tunnel is 16 feet wide.



**One of 13 tunnels for bikes and pedestrians along Boise, Idaho's 25 mile paved, shared use path named the Boise River Greenbelt.**





# Poulsbo Comprehensive Budget Map for tunnel, path, and roundabout



## JOHNSON PARKWAY

### FUNDING SUMMARY EXHIBIT

**TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$18.5M**

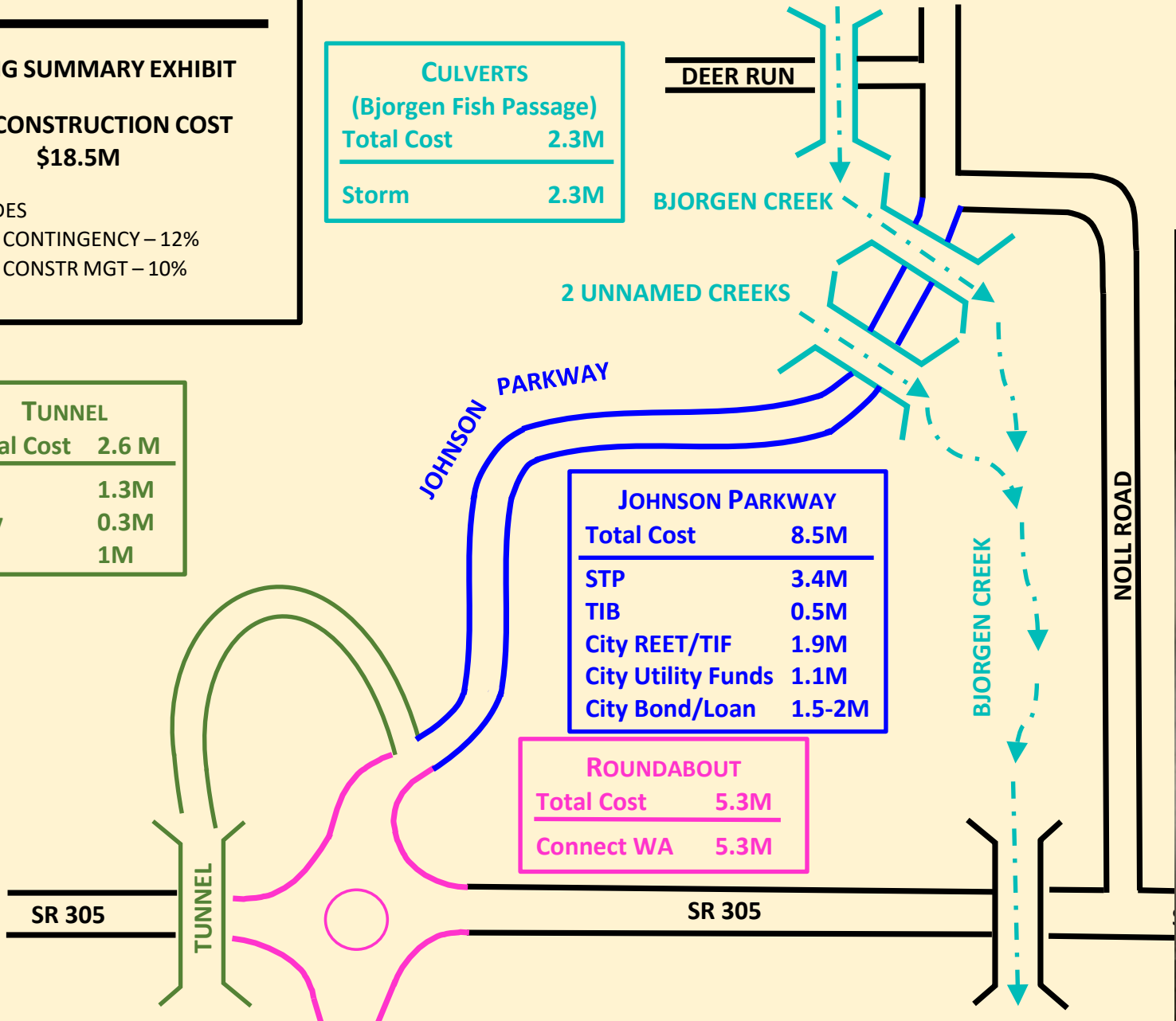
- INCLUDES
- CONTINGENCY – 12%
  - CONSTR MGT – 10%

CULVERTS (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

ROUNDBABOUT	
Total Cost	5.3M
Connect WA	5.3M



**New Poulsbo shared use  
path through a tunnel  
under SR 305.**



10/28/2020

## **The WSCC Advocacy Committee supports this tunnel design.**

We realize that bridge improvements may have to be funded in stages due to money at hand. The tunnel may get funded after construction of one or two cantilevered paths on the bridge and the Elizabeth Ave - Warren Avenue path. However, since the east tunnel ramp joins the planned path in mid slope, these projects should be designed in tandem so incompatibilities don't have to be corrected later. A rational connected trail system depends upon seamlessly integrating the tunnel ramp and the path through Upper Roto Vista park.



**Vancouver, Washington 14 foot shared use path along the Columbia River.**



**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**A3**

---

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance to amend BMC Chapter 9.32  
entitled "Unauthorized Camping"

Study Session Date:	<u>July 26, 2023</u>
COUNCIL MEETING Date:	<u>August 2, 2023</u>
Department:	<u>Legal</u>
Presenter:	<u>City Attorney Kylie Finnell, Assistant City Attorney Mychael Raya</u>
Phone:	<u>(360) 473-2345</u>

**SUMMARY:**

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 Session on June 26<sup>th</sup>, received public comment at the Council Meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>, and discussed this issue again at Study Session on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional public comments on this issue were made during Public Recognition at the Council Meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Council has also received numerous written comments related to this issue.

The July 26<sup>th</sup> Study Session will focus on how the Council would like to amend the ordinance.

Questions for consideration:

Does the Council want any limitations on camping on public property even when there is no shelter space available? If not, then an amendment to the code to restrict enforcement of the existing code to times when shelter space is available is all that is required.

If the Council wants some limitations even if there is no shelter space is available, what limitations does the Council want?

Location limitations enacted by other cities include public places such as environmentally sensitive areas, areas around schools and childcare centers, right-of-way, streets and sidewalks, buildings, parking lots and garages, and parks.

Time limitations have also been established by some cities such as prohibiting camping during certain hours.

Manner limitations have included restrictions on what is used for camping such as prohibition on use of propane and building structures.

**ATTACHMENTS:** We have attached a draft ordinance like the ordinance passed by the Lakewood, WA City Council. "Whereas" statements not applicable to Bremerton were removed and Bremerton specific statements would be added to a final draft. Lakewood always prohibits camping near "Protected Waters", even if there is no shelter space available. Other cities have designated other areas where camping is always prohibited. We have also attached a table and notes summarizing ordinances showing how other cities have drafted their ordinances.

The Lakewood based draft ordinance is as an example only. It is not meant to be a final draft of what Bremerton's camping ordinance is going to be, and again, it is provided only as an example while Council deliberations on this issue continue.

*Continued on next page...*

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

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

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to pass Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.”

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI, Section 11 of the Washington Constitution and RCW 35A.11.020, the City of Bremerton is authorized to regulate public property; and

WHEREAS, public property is intended to be used by the public for public purposes, including daily City operations, park recreational use, pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular transportation and other public uses; and

WHEREAS, there is an awareness that when the unhoused population does not have available overnight shelter, public property can be unavailable to the general public for its intended purposes; 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 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* 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 constitution; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance makes it unlawful to occupy and store personal property on public property overnight, but suspends enforcement against those experiencing homelessness if overnight shelter is not available; 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; 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      PURPOSE.**

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote public health, safety, and welfare by preserving for public use public spaces. People camping and storing personal property on public property and on public rights-of-way, such as streets, sidewalks and alleys, are engaged in conduct which creates a public health and safety hazard due to interference with use of the rights-of-way. Use of public property for camping purposes or storage of personal property on public property that is not designated as an area for camping creates dangerous public health and safety concerns for those experiencing homelessness, the general public, city employees, and first responders. These activities foster unsanitary conditions, damage the natural environment, and interfere with the rights of others to use public property for the purposes for which they were intended. It is the purpose of this chapter to prevent harm to the health and safety of the public and to promote the public health, safety and general welfare by keeping public streets and other public property readily accessible to the public.

### **9.32.0120      DEFINITIONS.**

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

(a) “Available overnight shelter” means a public or private facility, with an available overnight space, open to person(s) experiencing homelessness at no charge, which must be located within a 15-mile radius with the starting point of Bremerton City Hall, and to which the city facilitates transport.

“Available overnight shelter” means a public or private shelter, with an overnight space available and open to the individual experiencing homelessness at no charge. Overnight shelter is not considered “available” if the individual experiencing homelessness is required to participate in religious instruction in exchange for shelter.

(~~ab~~) "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 for the purpose of temporary or permanent habitation or housing. This definition is not intended to apply to individuals using a park for the limited time such park is open to the public.

(~~bc~~) "Camping facilities" include, but are not limited to, recreational vehicles, motor vehicles, trailers, tents, huts, ~~or~~ temporary shelters, or other structures that evidence an intent to function as a temporary or permanent place of residence. .

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

(~~de~~) "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 his or her designee.

(f) “Occupy” means to evidence an intent to remain in a place, at least overnight. Intent can be evidenced by setting up tents, shelter, or bedding, for example.

(eg) "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.

(h) “Personal property” means an item(s) recognizable as belonging to a person, has apparent utility or value in its current condition, and is not hazardous.



(i) “Public entity” is the state, county, any municipal corporation, or other taxing district and includes any and all divisions and subdivisions thereof, including but not limited to entities referred to throughout state law as follows: agency, district, general purpose government, governmental entity, governmental body, instrumentality, local agency, local government, local governmental entity, local public agency, local public body, municipal corporation, municipality, political subdivision, public agency, public body, public body corporate and politic, public corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, special district, special purpose district, taxing district, and units of government.

~~(fj) “Public place/property” 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.all parks, streets, rights-of-way, sidewalks, and any other property in which a public entity has a property interest.~~

~~(gk) -“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.~~

~~(hl) “Store” means to put aside or accumulate for use when needed, to put for safekeeping, or to place or leave in a location regardless of the length of time; the defining characteristic is that the items are not in use and not discarded; they are on public property for future use by the owner.~~

~~(im) “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.~~

~~(n) “Wetland” or “wetlands” means areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands. Wetlands are specifically protected under the City’s Shoreline Management Program and Critical Areas Ordinance.~~

~~“Critical Area” means an area that possesses important natural functions and embodies a variety of important natural and community values. Such areas include wetlands, streams, fish and wildlife habitat, steep slopes, geologic hazard areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, flood hazard areas as well as the buffers which serve to protect the aforementioned areas, watershed areas, or any area included within BMC 20.14.~~

### **9.32.0230 UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING IN PUBLIC PLACES UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

~~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.~~ (a) During the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., except as permitted by permit pursuant to BMC 9.32.060 or as otherwise provided by City Code or ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to camp in any park or other publicly owned or maintained land, parking lot, city street, or other publicly owned or maintained area, whether improved or unimproved.

(b) During the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., except as permitted by permit pursuant to BMC 9.32.060 or as otherwise provided by City Code or ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to occupy a vehicle for the purpose of camping while that vehicle is parked in any city street, or any other publicly owned or maintained land, parking lot, or other publicly owned or maintained area, whether improved or unimproved.

**9.32.0340 UNAUTHORIZED STORAGE ~~IN-OF~~ PERSONAL PROPERTY ON PUBLIC PLACES PROPERTY.**

(a) During the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., except as permitted by permit pursuant to BMC 9.32.060 or as otherwise provided by City Code or ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to store personal property, or to store, pitch or park camping facilities or to store or pitch camping paraphernalia in any park or other publicly owned or maintained land, parking lot, city street, or other publicly owned or maintained area, whether improved or unimproved. 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 store, pitch or park camping facilities or to store or pitch camping paraphernalia in any park or other public place. Recreational vehicles may be parked in authorized parking spaces within City public rights-of-way subject to the provisions of Chapter 10.10+ BMC.

(b) Removal of Personal Property. The city may remove unlawfully stored personal property after the city provides necessary notice and an opportunity to be heard. The city shall facilitate their storage of personal property if required by law.

**9.32.050 PROTECTION AGAINST HARM TO PROTECTED WATERS.**

No person may cause harm to any Protected Waters in the City of Bremerton or the natural areas that buffer these Protected Waters. No person may do any of the following on any public property abutting Protected Waters:

(1) Build or erect a structure of any type along the Protected Waters or drive a nail or other object into any tree or other natural vegetation for the purpose of building a shelter or any other structure, or for affixing an object to any tree or other natural vegetation.

(2) Dig on the banks of any Protected Waters.

(3) Move boulders, destroy vegetation, pave roads or paths, or otherwise reconfigure the natural landscape or other City-approved development on the banks of any Protected Waters.

(4) Drive, park or bring any vehicle onto any portion of the banks of any Protected Waters that is not designated for vehicle traffic and/or parking.

(5) Discharge garbage, refuse, or human or animal waste along the banks or into any Protected Waters.

**9.32.0460 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 he or she finds appropriate for the conditions considering the use and impacts of such use.

### **9.32.070 ENFORCEMENT.**

The city shall not enforce the provisions of Bremerton Municipal Code 9.32.030 or 9.32.040 against persons experiencing homelessness if there is no available overnight shelter that can be used by that particular person. If overnight shelter is available, the shelter space must be offered to the person(s) experiencing homelessness, along with other available human services. Only if the shelter space is refused can the provisions of Bremerton Municipal Code 9.32.030 and 9.32.040 be enforced against persons experiencing homelessness. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the enforcement of any person camping or storing property on any of the properties set forth in BMC 9.32.050 at all times, regardless of the availability of shelter. Any person camping or storing property on any of the properties set forth in BMC 9.32.050 shall be required to immediately remove the camp, its associated camp facilities, and any personal property upon request of a peace officer or other public officer.

### **9.32.0580 PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.**

~~(a) 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.~~

~~(a) Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is a misdemeanor, and shall be punished as follows:~~

~~(1) First Offense. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction of such violation, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.~~

~~(2) Second Offense. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter, upon conviction of such violation, a second time within a five-year period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment not to~~

exceed 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. One hundred dollars of the fine and one day of imprisonment shall not be suspended or deferred.

(3) Third or Subsequent Offense. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter, upon conviction of such violation, a third or more times within a five-year period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Five hundred dollars of the fine and five days' imprisonment shall not be suspended or deferred.

(4) Prior to imposing any fine for violation of this chapter, the court shall make an inquiry as to a person's ability to pay. If a person is unable to pay the monetary penalty set forth in subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section, the court is explicitly authorized to order performance of community service or work crew in lieu of a monetary penalty.

**9.32.060 RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

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

The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to adopt rules, regulations, administrative policies, and procedures for implementing the provisions of this chapter.

**SECTION 2.** The implementation of this ordinance shall be applied to any individuals who occupy public property illegally. The offer of assistance, including food and available shelter shall be documented.

**SECTION 3. 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 4. 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 5. 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\BMC 9.32 - Unauthorized Camping\2023.07.13 Ordinance - BMC 9.32 - Unauthorized  
Camping.docx



Notes re: camping ordinances in other WA jurisdictions: What public property locations various jurisdictions restrict versus what is sometimes (or at all times) ok. Answer is often dependent on availability of shelter space.

What is prohibited at all times (always off limits):

**Redmond** – Any park (ordinance seems to indicate any area of the park rather than developed or improved park areas), publicly-owned property to which the public is not allowed access (e.g. public buildings, water storage tank sites, well sites, storm water ponds, other secured facilities), portion of street/sidewalk expressly reserved for vehicular or pedestrian travel, publicly-owned parking lot or publicly-owned property, improved or unimproved.

**SeaTac** – Any street located within 1,000 feet east or west of International Blvd S right-of-way. At all times at Angle Lake Park, Angle Lake Trail, City Hall.

**Sunnyside** – Nothing prohibited at all times.

**Spokane** – If camping activity is a “substantial danger to any person, an immediate threat to public health or safety, disruption to vital government services.” OR underneath or within 50 feet of any railroad viaduct located within the Spokane PD’s Downtown Precinct boundary OR within 3 blocks of any congregate shelter (provided signs are posted prohibiting camping).

**Kent** – “Sensitive” or “incompatible” areas such as developed parks (play fields, recreational structures, maintained grassy areas), water supply properties (e.g. watershed), city-owned buildings, appurtenances and parking lots used to conduct city business, streets and sidewalks.

**Port Orchard** – None. Camping only prohibited in parks when no overnight shelter available.

**Poulsbo** – All enforcement of camping ordinance suspended when no “alternative accommodations” are available.

**Auburn** – Auburn Municipal Airport, city utility property.

**Vancouver** – Prohibited at all times on/at environmentally sensitive areas such as within 200 feet of edge of Columbia River, Vancouver Lake, other waterways OR on wastewater/stormwater facility land and public water station (as well as drainage area from Vancouver Lake to 4<sup>th</sup> Plain). Map depicting prohibited area(s) can be found within Code.

**Longview** – City Hall grounds and parking lots “closed to public” during certain hours but practical effect is a ban on camping on these areas altogether. No “temporary or permanent structure” allowed to be erected in right-of-way or on public property.

**Lakewood** – Various waterways and critical areas.

What is prohibited only sometimes – in other words it is “sometimes ok” to camp in these locations:

**Redmond** – Portions of street right-of-way that is not expressly reserved for vehicular or pedestrian travel (enforcement suspended when “no available overnight shelter”).

**SeaTac** – Park, street, public property (improved or unimproved). Enforcement suspended if no “available overnight shelter.”

**Sunnyside** – Any right-of-way, any trail, park, or park facility, any publicly owned parking lot or publicly owned area, any public area where camping obstructs or interferes with intended use of property. Enforcement suspended when “there is no space or beds available in reasonably accessible homeless shelters.”

**Spokane** – Any public property, conservation lands and natural areas abutting Spokane River or Latah Creek. Suspended when no available overnight shelter. If person causing harm to Spokane River or Latah Creek, may enforce even if no shelter space.

**Kent** – All public property. Enforcement suspended when there is no “available overnight shelter.”

**Port Orchard** – Camping unlawful in parks unless there is no available overnight shelter.

**Poulsbo** – Camping prohibited in any park or playfield, sidewalk, street, alley, lane, public right-of-way, under any bridge or viaduct, or any other public place the general public has access to. Essentially an outright camping ban but suspended if no “available alternatives” e.g. shelter space available.

**Auburn** – Camping prohibited on all other city property but enforcement suspended when no overnight shelter is available.

**Vancouver** – Other than exceptions above, camping is allowed on most publicly-owned property between 9:30 pm and 6:30 am but that does not include public parks which close nightly from 10 pm to 5 am.

**Longview** – Camping allowed between 9:30 pm and 6:30 am at parks, publicly owned or maintained land, parking lots, publicly owned or maintained area. Streets/rights-of-way designed for pedestrian travel cannot be blocked.

**Lakewood** – Camping prohibited on all public property but enforcement suspended when “no available overnight shelter that can be used by that particular person.”

Definition of “available overnight shelter” varies by jurisdiction.

PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES								
	Parks	Right-of-Way	Parking Lots	Streets/Sidewalks - Reserved for Vehicular or Pedestrian Travel	Certain Publicly Owned Property	Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Public Health/Safety Issue	None
Auburn					X			
Kent	X		X	X	X	X		
Longview			X		X			
Port Orchard								X
Poulsbo								X
Redmond	X		X	X	X	X		
Seatac	Angle Lake Park & Trail Only			Prohibited within 1000 feet of International Blvd	X			
Spokane							X	
Sunnyside								X
Vancouver	Prohibited from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. only				X	X		
Lakewood					X	X	X	

KEY	
Publicly Owned Property	
Airport	X
City Hall	X
Public Buildings	X
Water	X

PROHIBITED WHEN SHELTER SPACE IS AVAILABLE *					
<i>(See chart above for exceptions)</i>					
	All Public Property	Parking Lots	Streets/Sidewalks - Not Reserved for Vehicular or Pedestrian Travel	Parks	Camping ALLOWED between 9:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.
Auburn	X				
Kent	X				
Longview					X
Port Orchard				X	
Poulsbo	X				
Redmond			X		
Seatac	X				
Spokane	X				
Sunnyside	X				
Vancouver					X
Lakewood	X				

\* Subject to shelter space available. The specific definition of "available shelter space" varies by jurisdiction.



- critical areas & Parks

- Designate Spaces Only when No Shelter ✓

- X feet from ~~Buildings~~ Schools, rooms, <sup>rooms, by</sup> <sup>center</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>building</sup> <sup>or</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>structure</sup> ✓  
at all times ✓

~~Time? Law view~~

- Manner / Structure ✓

- Definition of Available Shelter ✓

- Distance



**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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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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

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**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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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:** [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:** [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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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.

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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:** [Judy Arbogast](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Stop attacking the homeless - provide solutions NOW  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 2:07:06 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email 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:** [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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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:** [Ed & Maureen Heuss](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Eric Younger Council District 7  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 1:48:36 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email 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:** 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

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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

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**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

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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.

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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

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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.

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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:** 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:** 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

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**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

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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](#)

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Attn: Council Members

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

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**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).*

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**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)

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**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.













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



**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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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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](#)

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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](mailto:shoretel@ci.bremerton.wa.us)>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:37 PM  
To: Lori Smith <[Lori.Smith@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto: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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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CAUTION: This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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CAUTION: This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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CAUTION: This email 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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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**From:** [Patricia Morris](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Anti-camping Letters  
**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023 4:31:39 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email 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

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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

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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

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Patricia Morris

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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

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**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>

**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

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**CAUTION:** This email 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



**AGENDA BILL**  
CITY OF BREMERTON  
CITY COUNCIL

**A4**

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution to repeal Resolution No. 3349;  
and adopt updated Council Rules &  
Procedures

Study Session Dates: July 12 & 26, 2023  
June 28, 2023

COUNCIL MEETING Date: August 2, 2023

Department: City Council

Presenter: Council President  
Jeff Coughlin

Phone: (360) 473-5280

**SUMMARY:**

The Council Rules & Procedures were last updated by Resolution No. 3349 on May 18, 2022.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ with Exhibit A Council Rules & Procedures;
- 2) Proposed updates

**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 Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ to repeal Resolution No. 3349; and adopt new Bremerton City Council Rules & Procedures.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

Approve       Deny       Table       Continue       No Action

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington, repealing Resolution No. 3349 and adopting new Rules & Procedures for the City Council to conduct its business.

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 3349 on May 18, 2022, which adopted Rules & Procedures for the City Council to conduct its business; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to update the Rules & Procedures for the City Council;  
NOW THEREFORE,

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

**SECTION 1.** Resolution No. 3349 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

**SECTION 2.** The Bremerton City Council Rules & Procedures attached hereto as Exhibit A are hereby adopted and shall become effective upon passage of this resolution.

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

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

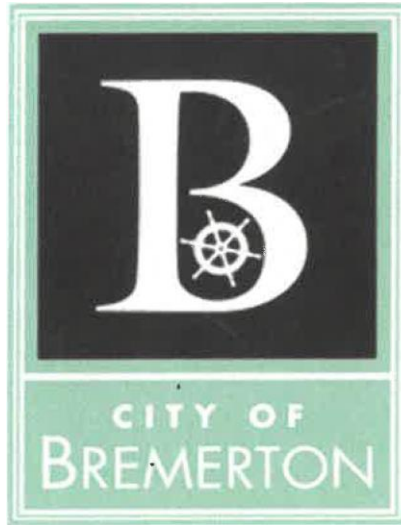
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KYLIE FINNELL, City Attorney

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

# Bremerton City Council

## Rules & Procedures



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## **RULE 1 - MEETINGS**

**1. Regular Meetings:** The City Council shall meet in accordance with Rule 5, except as follows:

- (a) There shall be no regular meeting of the City Council during the week of Thanksgiving.
- (b) If at any time any regular meeting of the City Council falls on a legal holiday, then pursuant to RCW 42.30.070 such regular meeting shall be held on the next business day.
  - i. Upon a motion, and majority vote, the Council may recess from a meeting to a certain time and place set forth in the motion.
  - ii. Meetings may be relocated to accommodate special needs or circumstances.

**2. Special Meetings:** Special Meetings or any change in the time or location of a regular meeting shall be called by the Council President, or a majority of the members of the City Council, by delivering personally or by mail or e-mail, written notice to each member of the Council; and to each local newspaper of general circulation, and to each local radio or television station which has on file with the City a written request to be notified of such Special Meeting or of all Special Meetings. The notice must be delivered personally or by mail, or e-mail at least twenty-four hours before the time of the meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the Special Meeting and the business to be transacted. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at such meetings. Written notice may be dispensed with:

- (a) If a member, prior to the convening of the meeting, files waiver of notice with the City Clerk, either written or by e-mail; or
- (b) If a member is actually present at the time the meeting convenes; or
- (c) If the Special Meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property, or the likelihood of such, where these requirements would increase the likelihood of such injury or damage. (RCW 42.30.080).

**3. Quorum:** Four Council Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and in the absence of a quorum the members present may adjourn the meeting to a later date.

**4. Open Public Meetings Act:** All Council meetings shall be conducted in conformity with the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).

**5. Appearance of Fairness/Conflict of Interest:** In all its dealings, the Council and its individual members shall be governed by RCW 42.36 (Appearance of Fairness Doctrine); RCW 42.20 (Misconduct of Public Officers) and RCW 42.52 (Ethics in Public Service) and Chapter 2.96 BMC (Code of Ethics).

**6. Executive Sessions:** The Council may hold Executive Sessions during a regular or Special Meeting to consider matters allowed under RCW 42.30.110 as it now exists or is hereafter amended including:



- (a) consideration of acquisition or sale of real property if public knowledge would adversely affect the price;
- (b) discussion with legal counsel of City enforcement actions or potential or pending litigation in which the City is, or is likely to become, a party;
- (c) to receive and evaluate complaints against a public employee, unless the employee requests the consideration to be held in an open meeting;
- (d) evaluate the performance of an employee or qualifications of an applicant for City employment, so long *as* the final decision to hire and terms of employment, and decisions to terminate or discipline, are taken in an open meeting;
- (e) to review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased costs; and
- (f) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.

See RCW 42.30.110 for complete itemization of Executive Session topics.

Before convening in Executive Session, the presiding officer shall announce the purpose of the session and the anticipated length of such session, and whether further action is anticipated. Should the session require more time, a public announcement shall be made that the session will be extended. The Council will return to the open meeting, as applicable, for Adjournment of the meeting. Confidential discussions during Executive Sessions shall not be disclosed by any Council Member or City official in attendance to any person unless confidentiality is waived by a majority of the Council. Violation of confidentiality may result in a censure motion by the Council during a regular meeting.

**7. Remote Appearance:** Council Members may appear remotely at a Council Meeting under limited circumstances. Remote appearances are for the benefit of the City of Bremerton and not for the benefit of an individual Council Member. Remote appearances may occur as follows:

- (a) The Council President may approve a Council Member's remote appearance at a Council Meeting when one or more of the following circumstances exists:
  - i. Due to fire, flood, earthquake, or other emergency, there is a need for action by a governing body to meet the emergency; or
  - ii. A vote of the council of the whole is required for action; or
  - iii. A unanimous vote of the whole council is required for passage of a measure; or
  - iv. On a case-by-case basis.

(b) In the event that subsection 7(a) of Rule 1 of the Bremerton City Council Rules & Procedures has been satisfied and more than one Council Member is absent, reasonable efforts shall be given to provide all absent members an opportunity to appear remotely. In no event shall the Council President approve a Council Member's remote appearance unless satisfactory equipment is available. Satisfactory equipment shall at a minimum, mean equipment that allows all participants and attendees to hear each other simultaneously and allows the remote Council Members to participate to the same extent as if they were present.

(c) During any meeting that a Council Member is attending remotely, the Council President or presiding Council Member shall state for the record that a particular Council Member is attending remotely and the reasons for such attendance.

(d) Council members appearing remotely may participate and vote during the meeting as if they were physically present at the meeting.

(e) Council Members appearing remotely shall comply with all rules and procedures as if they were physically present at the meeting.

## **RULE 2 - PRESIDING OFFICER - DUTIES**

**1. Conduct of Meeting:** The presiding officer at all meetings of the Council will be the President of the Council, or in the absence of the President, the Vice President of the Council, who shall conduct the business and deliberations of the Council under these rules. Reference herein to Council President shall also apply to the Council Member acting in the Council President's place as presiding officer. The *President/mayor pro tempore* and Vice President shall be elected by a majority of the Council Members at the start of the first meeting of each year, or at the next Council Meeting following a vacancy. If both the President and Vice President are absent and a quorum is present, the Chair of the **Finance, Investment, & Parking Committee** shall act as Presiding Officer. If the Chair of that Committee is unavailable, the Chair of the **Public Works Committee** shall act as presiding officer.

The Council President shall:

(a) Preserve order and decorum during meetings; and

(b) Observe and enforce all rules adopted by the Council for its government; and

(c) Decide all questions on order, in accordance with these rules, subject to a challenge as provided in Rule 6 Subsection 4, below; and

(d) Recognize members of the Council in the order in which they request the floor except priority may be given to Committee Chairs to which the item under discussion originated. No member shall be recognized and given the floor to speak on the same matter more than once until all other members of the Council have had an opportunity to be recognized and be heard; and

(e) The presiding officer, as a member of the Council, shall have only those rights, and shall be governed in all matters and issues by the same rules and restrictions as other Council Members.

**2. Check Register:** The Council President shall be assigned the responsibility for signing off on the Check Register, following Council approval.

**3. Council Committees:** The Council President shall make all committee assignments, as well as Intergovernmental Representative assignments. To the degree possible, assignments will be consistent with special skills, interests, and time constraints. Assignments will be made to the following:

(a) Standing Committees:

~~i. Committee of the Whole consisting of the full council membership, with the Council President as chair, to serve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday as a regularly scheduled Study Session in the Council Conference Room, or other times and locations as designated, to hear matters to be placed on the regular Council Meeting agendas and other council business; and~~

~~ii. Finance, Investment & Parking Committee to serve as directed by~~

the Council President; and

~~iii~~.ii. Public Works Committee to serve as directed by the Council President; and

~~iv~~.iii. Public Safety Committee to serve as directed by the Council President; and

~~v~~.iv. Audit Committee per the City Charter and Chapter 2.18 BMC; and

~~vi~~.v. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee per Chapter 67.28 RCW and Chapter 3.64 BMC.

The above listed standing committees may be restructured or reorganized as authorized and approved by the City Council without formal amendment of these rules and procedures.

(b) *Special and Ad Hoc Committees* - May be established for a specific purpose or a specific time frame to serve as authorized by the Council President.

(c) *Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, and Boards* - Established committees, e.g., Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council.

### RULE 3 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

- 1. Comments:** Council members shall address all comments to the Council President, except when a member moves to adopt a resolution, or when a member seconds a motion.
- 2. Leaving Place:** No member shall leave his or her place while a question is being put or a count is being taken.
- 3. Voting:** A vote on any matter shall be taken by roll call and any member may abstain from voting.
- 4. Questioning:** Any member of the Council, including the Council President, shall have the right to question any individual, or staff member, on matters germane to the issue before the Council. Such questioning shall not be conducted so as to ridicule or denigrate the individual being questioned.
- 5. Information Requests:** A Council member may seek clarification or additional information before voting on an issue. If such request delays consideration to another date, approval of a majority of the Council is required.

### RULE 4 - AGENDA CONTROL

**1. Agenda Control:** Consideration of any subject, matter, or communication by the Council may be initiated by the Mayor, Judge, or any Council Member in accordance with the Agenda Bill Policy. ~~All written materials supplementing an agenda bill should be filed with the City Clerk and presented to the Council Legislative Office Manager for distribution to the Council Members.~~ The Council President may

reject any agenda item not complying with this procedure, or allow items to be added to Study Session or Regular Business meetings with exceptions granted on a case-by-case basis. Upon presentation at a Study Session, the Council as a whole may (a) decline further consideration, ~~or~~ (b) request information or changes before further consideration, or (c) place the item on a Regular Business meeting Consent Agenda, or under Public Hearing or General Business.

**2. Removing Items:** At the Briefing, or at any time prior to the start of a meeting, any item may be removed from the Agenda for any reason upon the request of any Council Member. However, two Council Members may demand the item be reinstated to the Agenda. The item shall be brought before the Council as regular business on the Agenda and only tabled, continued, or rejected by majority vote.

## **RULE 5 - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS - ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**1. Regular Business Meeting:** A Council Briefing to discuss the Agenda and/or General Council Business may be held at 5:00 PM in the Council Conference Room unless a different location is designated. The Council Meeting shall meet in the designated First Floor Meeting Chambers, unless a different location is so designated, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM or at such other day and time as designated by ordinance. The Council Meeting may consist of the following items with the sequence and any other items added or removed as determined by the Council President:

- (a) Call to Order  
-Pledge of Allegiance (*for special occasions*)
- (b) Mayor's Report (per §19(5) of City Charter)
- (c) Consent Agenda
- (d) Public Recognition (30 minutes max; may continue after General Business)
- ~~(d)(e)~~ Response to Public Recognition (2 minutes max per Councilmember)
- ~~(e)(f)~~ Public Hearings
- (g) General Business
- ~~(f)(h)~~ Continuation of Public Recognition (if needed and as time allows)
- ~~(g)(i)~~ Council Member Reports (5 minutes max per Councilmember)
- ~~(h)(j)~~ Adjournment

**2. Study Session:** The Study Session shall meet in the designated Council Conference Room, unless a different location is so designated, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM or at such other day and time as designated by ordinance. The Study Session shall consist of the following items with the sequence and any other added items as determined by the Council President:

- (a) Briefings on Agenda Items
- (b) Other General Council Business as authorized by the Council President
- (c) Adjournment

**3. Executive Session/Recess:** The agenda may be interrupted for a stated time to adjourn to Executive Session or recess at the prerogative of the Council President, unless overruled by Council majority.

4. **Consent Agenda Items:** Any Council member may request a Consent Agenda Item be moved to the regular agenda, for which no second is required.
5. **Agenda Rearrangement:** The Council President may rearrange, change the sequence, or add to or remove items from the Agendas outlined in Rule 5, Subsections (1) and (2) above.
6. **Regular Council Meetings Televised:** The Regular Council meetings shall be televised unless otherwise directed by Council.

## **RULE 6 - DEBATES**

1. **Interruption:** No member, including the Council President, shall interrupt or argue with any other member while such member has the floor.
2. **Courtesy:** All speakers, including Council Members, during comments, discussion, or debate of any issue, shall address their comments to the Council President with courtesy and proper deportment. Comments shall not contain personalities, derogatory remarks, or insinuations toward any member of the Council, Staff, or ~~and~~ Public, but shall be confined to facts that are germane and relevant to the issue.
3. **Transgression:** Upon transgression of these rules, the Council President shall call such person to order, in which case that person shall be silent except to continue in order. If the Council President transgresses these rules, or fails to call a transgressor to order, any other member of the Council may, under a point of order, call the transgressor to order.
4. **Challenge to Ruling:** Any member of the Council shall have the right to challenge any action or ruling of the Council President, or member, as the case may be, in which case the decision of the majority of the members of the Council present, including the Council President, shall govern.

## **RULE 7 - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

**Procedure Guide:** Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a guide to govern the conduct of business of the City Council while in Legislative session. However, the Council President shall have the authority to make a final ruling on all issues of procedure, subject to Rule 6, Subsection 4 of these Rules.

## **RULE 8 - ORDINANCES - RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Actions:** Any action of the Council shall be by ordinance, resolution or motion and shall be conducted only in open public meetings unless otherwise provided by law. Such action shall be deemed approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of those Council members present, unless



otherwise provided by law. Any such action shall contain only a single subject matter and may not be amended to include a different subject.

- 2. Submittal:** No ordinance shall be submitted to the Council for consideration until approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney and copies have been furnished to Council Members and the City Clerk. No such ordinance shall contain any interlineations or marginal notes.
- 3. Presentations:** Reading of ordinances and resolutions at all Council meetings shall be deemed sufficient by the reading of a brief synopsis of the title of the ordinance or the purpose of the resolution. The full text of an ordinance or resolution under consideration by the Council will be provided to any member of the public upon request.
- 4. Reading of Ordinances:** Every ordinance shall have one reading except that, upon a request of a Council Member, an ordinance shall have two or more readings unless otherwise directed by the Council.

## **RULE 9 - MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. Agenda:** By direction of the Council President, the Legislative Office Manager shall prepare the Agenda for each session of the Council in regular order in accordance with these rules, which order shall not be departed from, except as provided in these rules. Such Agenda shall include all resolutions, ordinances and matters requested by any Council Member, or the Mayor, with no items deleted from the Agenda except as provided in Rule 4 of these rules.
- 2. Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Any person is provided an opportunity to comment on any Agenda-Public Hearing or General Business item at the time the item is discussed and prior to a vote by the Council. Public Comment may also be accepted when an amending motion is made by a member of Council and seconded, at the discretion of the Council President. Such remarks must be confined to those that are germane and relevant to the item being discussed and shall be subject to a time limit. If numerous speakers are addressing the issue, the Council President may further restrict speaker time. Written comments shall, to all intents and purposes, be considered the same as oral comments. Comments on Consent Agenda items must be submitted in writing and received by noon on the day of the meeting.
- 3. Public Recognition:** Any member of the public is provided an opportunity to address the Council and the Mayor on issues not on the Agenda. No member of the public shall engage in discussion or comment which a) is obscene, indecent, or libelous; b) promotes the sale of products or services; c) promotes any lottery or contest which offers prizes dependent in whole or in part upon lot or chance. It is suggested that questions from the public posed to the Council that cannot be answered at the Council meeting should be put in writing in order to receive a written response from the appropriate party or parties within a reasonable time. Letters addressed to City officials will not be read in Public Recognition unless an exception is granted by Council President based upon exceptional circumstances. Argumentative Rebuttal is not permitted during Public Recognition.

**4. Ballot Issues:** During the election period, beginning on the deadline for elective office or ballot issues, or from the time an individual announces candidacy, whichever comes first, through the November General Election, all announcements or advertising concerning candidates are prohibited. Discussion of ballot issues is prohibited after the issue has qualified for the ballot. Meetings for political parties may be announced, with the exception of fundraising events (e.g., dinners, drawings, etc.) or meetings where the title of the function expresses support or opposition for any candidate, political party, or issue.

**5. Public Hearings:** The Council President may allocate the time allotted to Public Hearing equally among the members of the public who wish to speak.

**6. Complaints:** Personal complaints, especially those of a derogatory nature against any official or employee of the City shall not be discussed at a Council meeting. Citizens wishing to make such complaints shall be instructed that the same should be first processed and handled through the Mayor's office. Then, if the citizen feels appropriate action has not been taken, it shall be proper for the complaint to be communicated in writing to the members of the Council. Complaints against a Council Member shall be submitted to the Council President. If the complaint is against the Council President, the complaint shall be submitted to the Vice-President. Acceptance by the Council of a written complaint shall not, however, give rise to public discussion thereon. The City Attorney should be consulted regarding confidentiality, rights to privacy and other legal concerns.

**7. Amendments to Rules & Procedures:** Amendments to these rules shall be made by resolution of the Council.

**8. The City Clerk:** The City Clerk, or duly authorized representative, shall attend all business meetings of the City Council and maintain a permanent journal of its proceedings. All votes shall be recorded by calling the names of each member on a positional rotation basis with Council President's vote called last.

**9. Maintain Record:** All of the regular and special meetings of the City Council and each and every part thereof shall be recorded electronically. These records shall be maintained for a period in conformance with Chapter 40.14 RCW.

**10. Prepare Minutes:** Subsequent to each meeting, the Legislative Office Manager shall prepare brief and concise action minutes of all Council meetings and submit the same to the Council for approval. Such minutes shall contain an accurate resume of official Council actions, with reference to all matters before it.

**11. Verbatim Transcript:** No member of the Council, nor any member of the administrative staff of the City, shall be empowered or authorized to require the Legislative Office Manager to insert in said official minutes any verbatim transcript of all or any part of the proceedings. Verbatim transcripts shall be made a part of the minutes only when authorized by a majority vote of the entire Council, made at the meeting wherein such verbatim request is made.

**12. Non-Compliance with rules and Waiver:** Failure of a Council member to challenge the non-compliance of Council proceedings with any rule or procedure herein, prior to the vote or other action taken on the item under consideration, shall constitute a waiver and such non-compliance shall not affect the outcome of any action taken by the Council unless such compliance is required by law.

**13. Council Comments:** No Council Member may advertise or promote a private business or enterprise during Council meetings except that Council Members may make announcements to welcome a new business or announce special events regarding a private business or enterprise.

## **RULE 10 - COUNCIL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Members of the City Council shall observe the Expense Reimbursement Claim Policies that have been established by ordinance or resolution. Reimbursement for travel by any member of the Council outside the State of Washington shall be made only with the prior approval of the majority of the Council. All Council Member expenses shall be subject to approval by the Council President.

## **RULE 11 - QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS**

**1. Quasi-Judicial Body:** In hearing matters requiring application of law and determination of facts which predominantly affect particular parties rather than the public generally or a class or group, the Council sits as a Quasi-Judicial body. It will conduct the hearing in accordance with Rule 11 and 12.

- (a) Council President convenes hearing.
- (b) Item is introduced by City Clerk.
- (c) Council President inquires:

i. "All Council Members should now give consideration as to whether they have: 1) a demonstrated bias or prejudice for or against any party to the proceedings; 2) a direct or indirect monetary interest in the outcome of the proceedings; 3) a prejudgment of the issue prior to hearing the facts on the record; or 4) *ex parte* contact with any individual, excluding administrative staff, with regard to an issue prior to the hearing. If any Council member should answer in the affirmative, then the Council member should state the reason for their answer at this time so that the Chair may inquire of the City Attorney as to whether a violation of the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine or a Conflict of Interest exists."

ii. "If any member of the public believes any Council member should excuse themselves due to a conflict with the Appearance of Fairness doctrine, or for another concern, please state the reasons now."

(d) Council President calls upon Administrative Staff to present the recommendation or decision of the Administrative Hearing Examiner, or other applicable commission or board, to provide a general background and to answer Council questions.

(e\*) Council President designates the length of argument to afford a fair hearing of the issues. Correspondence is read and testimony taken from proponents, then opponents and those neutral. Council may ask questions of those testifying.

(f\*) Limited questioning of opposing witnesses on technical matters by either side may be allowed in the discretion of the Council President. The City Attorney will advise the Council President when such questioning may be a lawful requirement of the hearing.

(g\*) President closes the public testimony portion of the hearing. Council deliberates and may ask questions of the presenters.

(h) A decision by motion is made. The Council may accept, reject, or modify a recommendation or decision based upon its application of code criteria and appropriate findings.

(i) No motion to rescind or reconsider the initial quasi-judicial decision may be brought by any Council member following close of the meeting.

\* Not applicable to closed record hearing.

## **RULE 12 - CLOSED RECORD HEARINGS**

### **1. Hearing Procedure:**

(a) Closed record hearings on land use applications shall be conducted in accordance with this rule. The provisions of Rule 11 are applicable to closed record hearings except as otherwise noted therein. After the appearance of fairness inquiry, the President or staff will announce that the decision will be based on materials received in evidence at the previous open record hearing of the Administrative Hearing Examiner or other applicable commission or board; minutes of the prior hearing; and the recommendation or decision from the open record hearing.

(b) The Council may consider the following limited evidence not set forth in the record:

i. The Council may take official notice of information such as any law, ordinance, resolution, rule or other fact generally known and verifiable from reliable sources.

ii. Council Members may view the area in dispute, but shall note the time, manner and circumstances of such view on the record.

iii. Council deliberates and may ask questions of the staff.

iv. A motion incorporating the decision is made. The Council may accept, reject, or modify the Administrative Hearing Examiner's recommendation based upon its application of code criteria and appropriate findings.

Dated this ~~XX~~18<sup>th</sup> day of ~~May~~July, ~~2022~~2023

~~Michael Goodnow~~Jeff Coughlin  
~~2022-2023~~ City Council President

# Proposed Council Rules & Procedures Update

- Update Public Recognition to be 30 minutes with additional time allocated, if needed, before Council Reports.
- Add 2-minute response to Public Comment.
- Update for Consent Agenda Public Comment to be written only.
  - Allows for Council to get comments ahead of time and pull any item to General Business if desired.
- Update to allow public comment on amending motions, at CP's discretion, per Robert's Rules and OPMA.



# Proposed Council Rules & Procedures Update

- Clarify use of Agenda Setting Process for Mayor, Judge, or Council Members to all use same Agenda Bill Policy.
  - Same requirements and procedure to put an item on the Study Session Agenda.
- Clarifying language that CP may authorize exceptions to Agenda Bill Policy (but still only deny an item if it violates policy.)
- Clarifying language of actions that Council may take at Study Session regarding an item.
- Removed confusing language regarding "Committee of the Whole".

# For consideration, but not yet included

- Members may abstain only for specific conflict. Poulsbo Example:
  - "VOTES ON MOTIONS: Each member present shall vote on all questions put to the Council except on matters in which he or she has been disqualified for a conflict of interest or under the appearance of fairness doctrine, or in which he or she has been granted leave to abstain by the City Council in advance and for a stated reason. Such member shall disqualify himself or herself prior to any discussion of the matter and shall leave the Council Chambers."
  - "FAILURE TO VOTE ON A MOTION: Any Councilmember present who fails to vote without a valid disqualification or without having otherwise received the Council's permission to abstain shall be declared to have voted in the affirmative on the question."
- Require a second to move an item from Consent Agenda to General Business.

**Published for  
July 12, 2023  
Study Session**

**Item B6 – Public Comments**

**From:** [Jeff Coughlin](#)  
**To:** [Robin Henderson](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Kylie Finnell](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Limiting public comments  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 2:10:11 PM

---

Hi Robin,

That is not accurate.

Study sessions have been and will continue to be available to the public to attend in-person or view remotely via Zoom or the recording. I have not heard nor seen any proposal to change this. While not legally required, Council and IT staff worked hard this past year to set up Zoom/remote capability in our conference room because the Council wanted to expand access and transparency.

Public comment is not only continually encouraged, but legally required via the WA Open Public Meetings Act, on any action the Council considers during general meetings.

The only possibly related proposals up for discussion are:

- 1) To add clarifying language (it's already allowed) that in the rare case we have a large number of folks who want to speak at Public Recognition --- which are comments on things not on the agenda --- we can take a break after say 30 minutes and then continue it at the end of the meeting, to ensure we are able to get to the items on the agenda in a timely manner.
- 2) Make public comments to items on the consent agenda (routine, non-controversial items that have unanimous Council support at a Study Session) due by Noon the day of the general meeting they are to be voted on. This would be to ensure that if there is any substantial public comment on any consent agenda item, Council has the ability to pull it to general business for extra discussion and public input.

Thanks for checking in and helping combat misinformation.

I'm CC-ing Councilmembers and our City Attorney for awareness.

Cheers,  
Jeff

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**Jeff Coughlin, PhD**  
**Councilmember, Dist. 3**  
**2023 Council President**

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**From:** Robin Henderson

**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 1:21 PM

**To:** Jeff Coughlin

**Subject:** Limiting public comments

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Jeff,

I just watched a Facebook video from Kimmy Siebens where she references a letter from city Council and says that you intend to propose changes to council rules limiting remote access to study sessions and public comment during meetings. Is this accurate?

Robin

Sent from my iPhone