

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Eisele

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Comments for Public Posting: I support the right of the homeless to sleep on city streets when no other shelter is available. I believe, however, that certain requirements should exist to safeguard residents, schools, and public parks. I know some of those safeguards are already in place, but homeless encampments should not be allowed in, nor closely adjacent to, residential neighborhoods. Unfortunately, there are many homeless individuals with mental illness and/or drug addiction problems, living on our city streets. Residents in our neighborhood have reported harassment from homeless individuals that included physical threats, the hurling of human feces, and being awakened in the middle of the night by screaming and loud arguments. Thankfully, no one has been seriously injured. Hopefully, while working toward shelter for all, and allowing the homeless to sleep in commercial areas and on city property, we can also work toward enforceable codes/rules to keep residential neighborhoods off limits. I do not support criminalizing the homeless with new laws, but I am asking for an enforceable code that allows law enforcement or homeless advocates to legally move encampments out of residential neighborhoods, without jailing the homeless. Finally, no one should get lost in the legal system because they are sleeping on the streets. I'm asking for both enforceable safeguards and compassion. We must never lose sight of the latter.