Dear Council members,

I know vast majority people live in the surrounding neighborhood are totally for a fair, more thorough background check, a terms similar as our neighboring cities like Mercer Island.

An online petition has been setup yesterday, more than 100 Sammamish residents already signed in support the proposal within 24 hours.

[Petition Link]

City of Sammamish should make decision based on its own citizens’ concerns, not the interests from outsiders.

Pastor from Mary Queen Church and other Tent City 4 supporters claim that more than 90% of people in the communities are in favor of hosting the homeless camp and wanting to have less restricted ordinance for temporary homeless encampment for city of Sammamish. This claim is at best totally misleading, and at worst it’s a deliberate lie. The survey they conducted was within their church or Tent City 4 supporters, possibly none of them live in the immediate neighborhoods near Mary Queen Church.

With regards to the above mentioned concerns we would like the City of Sammamish make following amendments to the proposed ordinance:

1. The city should consider changing the time period mentioned in item#6 under Section C-General Conditions from 12 months period to 18 months period. The 12 month period is too short and has the risk of putting un-due burden on the same residents very frequently and the 12 month frequency is much shorter than the average duration limit other neighboring cities impose.

2. The city should consider adding requirements for random warrant checks for people residing in the temporary encampment during their stay covered in item# 20 under Section C – General Conditions. Such strict rules are already part of other more responsible homeless encampments on the eastside such as Camp Unity. Also these requirements are must to ensure the safety of our kids first and foremost.

In addition we would like to ensure that the city doesn’t further lax the following restrictions already mentioned in the ordinance:

1. We request the city should maintain the proposed 90 day max encampment duration mentioned in item#5 under Section C – General Conditions and not extend it to 120 days as suggested by the other party.
(2) We request city council to stick to the current proposal of not granting permission to the homeless encampment on a lot or lots within one-half mile of any lot that contained a homeless encampment. This is covered in item#6 of section C – General Comments.

(3) We request the city council to stick to the current proposal of the application process for temporary encampment permits as outlined under Section E – General conditions section and not relax any of the requirements.

Sincerely,

Yucheng Zheng

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Sammamish, WA