I understand the Sammamish City Council is discussing and deciding on the codes to put in place regarding future homeless camps in Sammamish. I would like the City Council to adopt the following codes in addition to those outlined in the draft ‘Homeless Encampment Use Permit’.

1. No encampment will be within 500 feet of a library, park, daycare center, or school.
2. The hosting church will maintain an insurance liability policy to cover potential damages and loss.
3. An 18-month restriction prohibiting a camp from staying within ½ mile of the same location.
4. Mandatory random warrant and background checks of the camp residents.
5. An independent security force must be used to ensure enforcement of the encampment’s rules of conduct.

The health and safety of our residents, and particularly our children, should be the city council’s top priority.

The managers of Tent City 4 have a habit of waiting until the last minute to find a new location thus increasing the urgency of their need. It comes across as a calculated and heavy-handed approach to negotiating with cities, churches, and neighborhoods and plays on the heart-strings of our leaders. The support of tent cities should be spread throughout the region and should be planned in advance. Adopting the codes outlined above and in the draft ‘Homeless Encampment Use Permit’ will provide our city with that ability while keeping the health and safety of our children as the top priority.

Kind Regards,

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Sammamish