I am a Sammamish resident and I am totally FOR putting in strict restrictions on the Temporary Homeless Encampments.

1. You know there is an old Chinese saying that if you want to feed a man for a day give him fish, but if you want to feed him for a lifetime, teach him how to fish. The temporary encampments are merely being used as a convenience by the residents. There are residents who have stayed in these camps for years and nothing has been done by people who support these camps to enable these residents to learn skills, find jobs and move out and live on their own. Rather the residents have got used to these camps as a safe haven to live and spend the time doing illegal activities.

2. There are people who are commenting that having these camps gives an avenue for their children to help people and experience a different aspect of life. For those people, I say, this is a great thought. There are such camps in Bellevue which is only a short 15 minute drive from Sammamish where you can take your children and have them help out. Further, these same people may also choose to sponsor a homeless family or individual and provide for them in their own homes.

3. I have seen the Mary Queen of Peace say that 90% of Sammamish residents are happy with these camps. However, I would call out that statement. In fact, there is currently an online petition calling for stricter restrictions and that petition has overwhelming support. The people supporting this petition are residents of Sammamish.

So in summary, I would call on the city of Sammamish to think about the residents and their children’s security and well being and put in place stricter restrictions on the homeless encampments.

thank you,
Mazahir Poonawala
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