Good evening!

My name is CJ Kahler. I live at 21911 SE 20th St, Sammamish.

RCW 35A.21.360 requires that a city may not enact an ordinance or take any other action that imposes conditions other than those necessary to protect public health and safety; and that do not substantially burden the decisions or actions of a religious organization.

I am here tonight to offer observations on the burdens that this ordinance would place.

So, what is the definition of a “substantial burden”? Congress has made a deliberate choice not to define it. However, Judge Richard Posner has written that he thinks that “substantial burden” “is a relative term. He would argue that well-funded religious organizations are expected to comply with land use regulations because their resources will allow them to create other alternatives, while religious organizations that are not as well-funded may more readily seek relief under RLUIPA. In my sampling of staff sizes in Sammamish, total paid staffs range from 2 to 18. Is it right for our City to adopt this ordinance that would apply to all given the disparity in organizational staff size and financial resources?

Further, will the level of burdens of this ordinance appear so insurmountable to our smaller staffed organizations that they may decide that they do not have the resources to proceed regardless of the fact that they feel they should respond to their moral calling and religious mission.

In this light, I think that these sections of our draft need to be changed as follows:

-Paragraph (4)(a) (iii) Permit process requirements; and Paragraph (19)(b)(iii) and (iv) Neighborhood meeting details.
Delete all occurrences of the words “all comments“ because once the ordinance is adopted with all its terms and conditions, there is no rationale to justify the cost or time to capture and copy these comments. If for some reason, you determine “comments” to be essential for cause, amend the words to read “copies of all previously submitted written comments”. The transcription and copying of “all comments” is extremely burdensome with respect to staff time and cost.
Thanks for all the work that you do for our City. Most of the time, I agree and
support your actions. However, in this case, I think that there are some
important administrative issues that need to be made. Due to the severe lack of affordable
infill housing opportunities in my area, residents of these encampments seek shelter, safety, and a
sense of community in them. Housing is a human right, and deserves to be met at
all levels. Sammamish should do its part.

Of course, if this is all too complicated, change the process to follow one similar
to Resolve the detail administratively as a Special Use Permit.

conditions. The components of this site plan should be limited to RCW allowed
possibilities. In addition to the general costs and variety of site plans
designed to be hand drawn due to the production costs and variety of site plans
I suggest that the types of site plan needed to be defined and should be at a minimum
paragraph (19)(b) Site Plan

paragraph (14) Required Services

paragraph (5)(c) Access to Public Transportation

to perform these functions.

Resident Log

(d) Warrant and sex offender checks and paragraph (15)