Dear Friends of TC4 and King County's Unsheltered Homeless People;

Tent City4 Speakers will be attending the Sammamish City Council Meeting Tuesday June 3rd speaking to the points within the new encampment ordinance that we wish to challenge and hopefully change.

Please join us in standing up for common sense and helping presently homeless people survive and solve homelessness.

It is our opinion that fear, misinformation and a biased and selective sampling of TC4's history are leading well-meaning City Leaders to consider very restrictive and biased encampment ordinance.

Here are some of the points we will be sharing with the Sammamish City Council.

• Temporary homeless encampments should not be restricted to just Religious Organizations. Homelessness is a public problem. It is unwise in the extreme to deny private individuals or community governments the opportunity to address homelessness by hosting an encampment as Religious Institutions.

• Many governments - Seattle, Woodinville, Olympia, and the State of Washington to name a few - have hosted encampments, as have many, many private property owners.

• There should be no limit to the number of encampments in the City of Sammamish during any time frame or period. The opportunity to host safe places by all who wish to address the growing public issue of homelessness is tantamount, for people die without shelter.

• Since every religious organization has the right to practice hospitality to the poor if it is part of their calling, it would be unconstitutional to deny the Catholic Parish the opportunity to shelter people just because the Lutherans had recently done so.
• There should be no limit to frequency of hosting temporary homeless encampments. Homelessness is not a seasonal problem but a year round issue for many in need of safe shelter. The opportunity to host safe places is crucial for people die without shelter.

• The permit process should not be longer than 30 days in it’s entirety - unless the City of Sammamish intends to dramatically lengthen the amount of time encampments can stay in one place. Concurrent activities, notifications and meetings with other city officials should happen within the community notification process to maintain a responsive process that will allow encampments to work effectively with Hosts, City and Neighbors.

One solution to this is making the notice of the neighborhood meeting mailed be at least 10 days (not 15 days) prior to the neighborhood meeting. The permit application process should be at least 10 days before the move-in but flexible enough to offer at the discretion of the City oppportunities to quicken the process if needed. (Not just in case of a titanic catastrophic event.)

• No government in the US has the right to solely target one group or class of people for something as discriminatory as a warrant check. Tent City4 has chosen to do this as an answer to unreasonable fear but to make it a demand is demeaning, and discriminatory.

The fact that no one else in Sammamish is forced to do this - as a class - before moving to Sammamish. Singling out homeless people in this way is wrong.

• The maximum occupancy for TC4 is 100 participants. The camp provides safe shelter for all in need, however once the camp is at capacity the people seeking safety are sheltered for one night only and given a bus pass the next morning to seek available shelter. This has been the operating protocol and practice at TC4 for over a decade. Hence, notification of each and every time this occurs is redundant and unnecessary for we keep our word and do as we state.

• The TC4 Code of Conduct is enforced by the participants residing at TC4. The former participants of TC4 have over the years developed the Code of Conduct that we at TC4 live by today. SHARE/WHEEL TC4 is a self-managed group of homeless people managing to stay together and safe with dignity and respect. We at TC4 better understand the need for security for we have no walls or doors to protect us. TC4 has never needed an outside agency and/or Sponsor to
monitor our activities or determine our accountabilities; we have successfully
done that for ourselves over and over again since our inception.

Thanks you for taking the time to review our concerns. We would appreciate hearing
your opinions about the proposed Sammamish Ordinance, and would like to hear any
suggestions you may have for us.

Please contact us via email at tc4@sharewheel.org

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

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