From: Mike Perry [mailto:mperry@dimensionsarch.com]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 1:25 PM
To: Homeless Encampment Code
Subject: Homeless Encampment

Dear Council,

I wish to comment on two points on the upcoming Homeless Encampment Ordinance;

1) Section 21A.70.195.1 I would like to see the city remove the restriction of homeless encampments only being hosted by Religious organizations. The message here is clear this City doesn’t want to dirty its hands with being involved with the social issues of its community and would rather pawn off the responsibility to care for its less fortunate citizens to only religious organizations. **Here is an opportunity to lead this community by example take advantage of it!** Also there maybe individuals, schools or corporations who have the leadership, funds, property and ability to help stage an encampment but their hands become tied by overzealous restrictions. When I reviewed the map of where religious properties are located it strikes me as tantamount to redlining that banks once did for loans in certain areas or the restrictive covenants that used to bar Jews and blacks from neighborhoods. Is Sammamish an economically bigoted city?

2) Section 21A.70.195 2c and d, As the potential for this city to grow (Klahanie annexation for example) more real estate becomes under city governance and which pushes the encampments further to find a new location when they have maximized the allotted number of visits in the given time frame. Were Klahanie to stay in King County or become another jurisdiction the encampment may have an opportunity to move there but if part of Sammamish they opportunity is lost if they must comply with this section. I would propose the city be divided into sections/zones (N,S, E and W perhaps) so that these areas are treated individually under the restrictions set forth. I do not buy into the claim that having an encampment within the city is a strain on city services.

Finally it does bother me that the proposed ordinance requires more of from the tenants of the encampment than it does of other citizens and visitors in the City who either rent, own or stay temporarily. There is an inherent bias tantamount to the treatment of blacks prior to the civil rights movement, Jews in Nazi occupied Europe, woman prior to the suffrage movement and more recently those who are gay. Change is coming and so must the perceptions.
Best of luck leading this city.

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