TO: MAYOR WOODARDS and CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE 28756: Use of Public Property

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The undersigned urge you to adopt (or, as a secondary alternative, adopt as an immediate emergency measure) the language set forth in proposed Ordinance- Unauthorized use of public property for camping and storage of personal property April 20, 2021.

We believe that the homeless situation is wreaking havoc with our safety, sanitation and economy. The costs associating with addressing the situations could better be spent in a compassionate manner to address the homeless crisis.

The steep banked green belts are under threat of further and quickened degradation as a result of the fires being set, the foot traffic, the trash, the heavy furniture, and the defecation.

The neighborhoods, the business owners and even the contractors working on our roads are spending and wasting hundreds of thousand dollars cleaning, removing graffiti, replacing destroyed port-a-potties, and repurchasing and repairing equipment lost to theft and destruction. Individuals are spending time and money cleaning up after the people living in unsanitary and unclean conditions. Defecation, needles, and debris greet us every day. Personal human safety is also a vital concern as many of the encampments contain sex offenders and people who are unstable/dangerous. Drug dealers are finding their way into the pockets and, if threatened, threaten back.

We are thankful for the efforts that are keeping Wright Park basically under control; however, every day new homeless visitors try to take advantage of the space. It is only a matter of time before a child, animal or adult is injured because of the needles, etc.

We urge our City leaders to use all resources to stop this pattern to provide compassionate assistance, temporary housing, counseling, rehabilitation and, if the people aren’t from here, a ticket back from whence they came. This situation will only worsen until affirmative action is taken. The costs to our City, our local residences and businesses will exceed the costs to take the affirmative steps to address this now.

Thank you

Barbara Headley
City Council

City of Tacoma
Municipal Building
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: ORDINANCE NO. 28756

My husband and I are writing to support passage of City Ordinance No. 28756 re camping on public property. It is a public health concern and a safety concern to those who live and work in the city limits. It has increased risk of disease and illness in the community.

We urge the City Council to pass this Ordinance and enforce the proper use of public property described in Exhibit “A” to the Ordinance. The Tacoma Police Department should enforce the Use of Public Property section of the Title.

Thank you for taking our comments.

Very truly yours,

Gregory H. Pratt

Susan C. Pratt
1 N Stadium Way, #16
Tacoma, WA 98403

Sent from my iPad
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We urge our City leaders to use all resources to stop this pattern to provide compassionate assistance, temporary housing, counseling, rehabilitation and, if the people aren’t from here, a ticket back from whence they came. This situation will only worsen until affirmative action is taken. The costs to our City, our local residences and businesses will exceed the costs to take the affirmative steps to address this now.

Thank you, Rickie Lee & Kurt Olson

Rickie Lee Olson Broker
ASP, GRI, MA, SRES
Better Properties STERLING
DIRECT: 253-226-5940
rickieo@nventure.com
www.BetterPropertiesSterling.com
August 31, 2021

TO: MAYOR WOODARDS and CITY COUNCIL

RE: ORDINANCE 28756: Use of Public Property

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I urge you to adopt (or, as a secondary alternative, adopt as an immediate emergency measure) the language set forth in proposed Ordinance - Unauthorized use of public property for camping and storage of personal property April 20, 2021.

The unauthorized use of public spaces for homeless encampments is having an unacceptable impact on the general safety and sanitation in my neighborhood not to mention affecting my enjoyment of the area I call home.

The steep banked green belts are under threat of further and quickened degradation from campfires, foot traffic, trash, heavy furniture, and simple human defecation. The neighborhoods, the business owners and even the contractors working on our roads are spending and wasting money in general cleaning, graffiti removal, replacing destroyed port-a-potties, and repurchasing and repairing equipment lost to theft and destruction.

Individuals are spending time and money cleaning up after the people living in unsanitary and unclean conditions. Defecation, needles, and debris greet us every day. Personal human safety is also a vital concern as many of the encampments contain sex offenders and people who are unstable/dangerous. Drug dealers are finding their way into the pockets and, if threatened, threaten back.

I am delighted with the City’s work keeping Wright Park basically under control; however, every day new homeless visitors try to take advantage of the space. It is only a matter of time before a child, animal or adult is injured because of the needles, etc.

I urge you to use appropriate resources to aggressively stop this pattern while providing compassionate assistance, temporary housing, counseling, and rehabilitation to those willing to accept it. At the same time, if people aren’t local and/or unwilling to accept assistance under the terms offered, let’s give them a ticket out of town. This situation will only worsen until affirmative action is taken. We cannot afford to become perceived as “camper friendly” with lovely, wooded spots available with a water view. The long-term cost to the City, local residents and businesses will exceed the costs to take the affirmative steps to address this now.

Thank you
Nicholas Malden
1 N Stadium Way
Tacoma, WA  98403