



Memorandum

Date: June 13, 2023
To: Mayor Vinis and City Council
From: Ellie Harwell, 541-682-8497
Subject: Testimony Submitted

Attached is testimony submitted at the Public Forum on June 12, 2023.

TO: Sarah Mackay

DATE: 9/12/23

FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykren, ward 7, gerilynv@gmail.com, 831-332-4476

(Please email and let me know if this proposal can be a part of a project with the City of Eugene for the unhoused in TENTS ☺)

COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES – CITY OF EUGENE PROPOSAL

(The Missing Link the CITY NEEDS to Provide ASAP)

THE PROBLEM:

- 1) Unhoused individuals in TENTS do not have a place to go for BASIC NEEDS.
- 2) The FORCED REMOVAL of homeless people in tents from parks, private property and along railroads is that, that is their ONLY SHELTER and the CITY NEEDS to provide TENT SAFE SITES.
 - a) The police do the best on monitoring, but have NO PLACE to send the homeless who are by the parks, on private property, by railroads and all around town.
 - b) Some of the laws (HB 350) for the rights of homeless being proposed, also doesn't make sense, homeless would be able to sue \$1,000 for harassment, because we have NOT CREATED A TENT SITE PLACE for them to go to.
 - c) Also the Union Pacific Problems with Garbage and Homeless Encampments along the Railroads would be decreased - less patrolling or major clean ups, etc. (less patrolling & clean up = city will save \$)
 - d) poop, toilet paper, garbage, tents, etc down by the river from the unhoused (survival) because they have NO TENT PLACE (again, less clean ups would mean city saves \$)
 - e) Save money for the city so Public Works doesn't need to clean up after them so much
 - f) Not all unhoused want to be in a Conestoga Hut or in an Apartment and we need TENT SAFE SITES.
 - g) As well, travelers, the unhoused, coming through and leaving need a SAFE TENT SITE place to stop, empty their garbage, go to the bathroom and take a shower.
 - h) There is a three month waiting list to get into housing with (CSS) Community Supported Sheltered Safe Spots and they are overwhelmed already, and funding has been cut. They can not do this project, the city needs to take charge!

SOLUTION:

1) CITY TO CREATE COMMUNITY TENT SITES

2) That will NOT COST MUCH to set up eventually with COMMUNITY involvement

SET UP A TOUR (for those supervisors, assistants and volunteers who are working on this project of re-imagining homelessness and creating tent safe sites) with COMMUNITY SHELTERED SAFE SPOTS. They have been ranked one of the highest efficient non-profits for the homeless community in Eugene and can be used as a blueprint for ideas for creating COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES.

Idea is to CREATE simple tent campgrounds areas with garbage bins, porta potty toilets and water spickets (and maybe a Little Library and Drop off Food Pantry area) for those in need of the basics. This wouldn't take much, a city supervisor and city assistants, and a couple of capable hosts from the unhoused community.

SIMPLE STEP by STEP PROCESS FOR "COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES" SET-UP

- 1) See where the unhoused are setting up their tents as they are usually near other places, stores, bus stops and non-profit organizations that support their survival. FIND a SMALL PIECE OF LAND NEARBY where they already are. Here are some places in Eugene that this could be done.

***TENT SITE READY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH:**

- a) Homeless Encampments are along the Railroad up against the fence across from Railroad Blvd
a large encampment of homeless and garbage strewn about

- b) Land for sale across from Railroad on corner of **CROSS AVE/RAILROAD Ave** for TENT SITE.
- c) Call Susan Edward Campbell at 541-484-2214, to buy, rent or maybe they'll donate.

***ANOTHER TENT SITE READY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH:**

- a) Along Railroad near Van Buren and 1st St are also a lot of homeless individuals trying to survive
- b) Land for sale on corner of **VAN BUREN/2ND ST** for TENT SITE.
- c) Call Reed Investment at 541 338 3002, buy, lease, or maybe they'll donate.
- d) (There is also an empty lot on the corner of NW Expressway and River Road)

- 2) Put a FENCE around TENT SITE and a gate to enter.
- 3) Put PORTA-POTTYS in it
- 4) Put large GARBAGE cans in it
- 5) Create individual tent sites, 10-16 per site
- 6) WATER SPICKET at every tent site
- 7) HOSTS at every tent site, which could be some of the unhoused themselves who are capable. There are many unhoused who would love a job like that to stay in a safe site with their basic needs are met.
- 8) Have a LITTLE LIBRARY outside of fence or next to it
- 9) Possibilities: Have a FOOD PANTRY (like "Alluviums" on 3rd and Monroe)
- 10) Have a BULLETIN BOARD with activities outside of it (like "Alluviums")
- 11) City would also need a SUPERVISOR and STAFF to oversee this project.
- 12) Rules similar to Community Supported Shelter Safe Spots: Some of their rules: a) Tent Guests must leave during the day. b) No Violence or drugs inside Safe Site c) Three strikes and you're out d) Once a month community activity (such as cleaning up garbage) e) Keep area around tent clean and tidy.

\$\$\$FINANCES: it would actually NOT COST MUCH AT ALL.

- City would save \$ as police wouldn't be wasting their time relocating unhoused.
- Public Works would save \$ as they wouldn't be cleaning up messes where homeless are trying to survive on streets and rivers; this money could pay for supervisor and assistants of this project.
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- Another possibility is, city could also ask for some \$ from those who are on disability and are living there, say \$100 a month, or a 1/3 of what they are taking in.
- Ask for land to be donated, or real cheap as, the location is next to homeless tents and not selling.
- As well there are many volunteers that would be interested in helping this project take shape!

I think the Mayor, and Councilmen members of the City of Eugene should adopt the motto "No EUGENIAN left behind!" **Everyone should have access to the basics; nothing fancy, just the basic needs. We shouldn't see ANYONE on the streets in Eugene or next to the Railroads trying to survive, when we have so much wealth here in our community. Eugene would be a much more joyful and safer place for all of us to live, if we met the basic needs of all of our people. It's time we make this a priority and clean up our city and make it a beautiful place to live for ALL of us!**

P.S. We could also use this same BLUEPRINT for "Community RV Safe Sites!" But let's get Tent Sites started first.

Gerilyn VanPykeren, Retired Teacher
 831 332 4476 / 80 Briarcliff Dr./ Eugene, OR 97404 / Ward
7/gerilynv@awakenyourinnerphysician.com

Great Meeting You.
Friday at CSSS Tour

A group of us are starting
a campaign for this, would you
be willing to join us? *Heulen*

TO: Emily Sample Ward 1

DATE: 9/12/23

FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykeren, ward 7, gerilynvvan@gmail.com, 831-332-4476

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2 hr sweep of tents —
NO PLACE TO GO!

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7/gerilynvane@gmail.com/awakenyourinnerphysician.com

2 Hr Sweep 00 tents - NO place to go

TO:

Mike Clark

DATE: 9/12/23

FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykeren, ward 7, gerilynv@gmail.com, 831-332-4476

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Please let me know what you think of this.
TO: Greg Evans
FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykeren, ward 7, gerilynv@gmail.com, 831-332-4476
(Please email and let me know if this proposal can be a part of a project with the City of Eugene for the unhoused in TENTS ☺)

2 hr sweep of tents - No place to go!
DATE: 9/12/23

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Matt Keating ward 2

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- 1) See where the unhoused are setting up their tents as they are usually near other places, stores, bus stops and non-profit organizations that support their survival. FIND a SMALL PIECE OF LAND NEARBY where they already are. Here are some places in Eugene that this could be done.

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- a) Homeless Encampments are along the Railroad up against the fence across from Railroad Blvd a large encampment of homeless and garbage strewn about

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- a) Along Railroad near Van Buren and 1st St are also a lot of homeless individuals trying to survive
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Gerilyn VanPykeren, Retired Teacher
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2 hr sweep of tents - NO PLACE TO GO!

TO: Alan Zelenka

DATE: 9/12/23

FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykeren, ward 7, gerilynv@gmail.com, 831-332-4476

(Please email and let me know if this proposal can be a part of a project with the City of Eugene for the unhoused in TENTS ☺)

COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES - CITY OF EUGENE PROPOSAL

(The Missing Link the CITY NEEDS to Provide ASAP)

THE PROBLEM:

- 1) Unhoused individuals in TENTS do not have a place to go for BASIC NEEDS.
- 2) The FORCED REMOVAL of homeless people in tents from parks, private property and along railroads is that, that is their ONLY SHELTER and the CITY NEEDS to provide TENT SAFE SITES.
 - a) The police do the best on monitoring, but have NO PLACE to send the homeless who are by the parks, on private property, by railroads and all around town.
 - b) Some of the laws (HB 350) for the rights of homeless being proposed, also doesn't make sense, homeless would be able to sue \$1,000 for harassment, because we have NOT CREATED A TENT SITE PLACE for them to go to.
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SOLUTION:

1) CITY TO CREATE COMMUNITY TENT SITES

2) That will NOT COST MUCH to set up eventually with COMMUNITY involvement

SET UP A TOUR (for those supervisors, assistants and volunteers who are working on this project of re-imagining homelessness and creating tent safe sites) with COMMUNITY SHELTERED SAFE SPOTS. They have been ranked one of the highest efficient non-profits for the homeless community in Eugene and can be used as a blueprint for ideas for creating COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES.

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Thank you for your support in this ~~synapse~~ ^{yes it needs to be readdressed. The fear from WJ park in 2020 ~~doesn't~~ make is addressed}
TO: Dyndie Leech with 1) smaller size 10-12 people
FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykeren, ward 7, gerilynv@gmail.com, 831-332-4476
DATE: 9/12/23
2) Supervised clients have roles & can be kicked out w/ 3 sun

(Please email and let me know if this proposal can be a part of a project with the City of Eugene for the unhoused in TENTS ☺)

COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES – CITY OF EUGENE PROPOSAL

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TO: *Randy Groves*

DATE: 9/12/23

FROM: Gerilyn Vanpykeren, ward 7, gerilynv@gmail.com, 831-332-4476

(Please email and let me know if this proposal can be a part of a project with the City of Eugene for the unhoused in TENTS ☺)

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(The Missing Link the CITY NEEDS to Provide ASAP)

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TO: Jennifer Yeh

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- Another possibility is, city could also ask for some \$ from those who are on disability and are living there, say \$100 a month, or a 1/3 of what they are taking in.
- Ask for land to be donated, or real cheap as, the location is next to homeless tents and not selling.
- As well there are many volunteers that would be interested in helping this project take shape!

I think the Mayor, and Councilmen members of the City of Eugene should adopt the motto "No EUGENIAN left behind!" **Everyone should have access to the basics; nothing fancy, just the basic needs. We shouldn't see ANYONE on the streets in Eugene or next to the Railroads trying to survive, when we have so much wealth here in our community. Eugene would be a much more joyful and safer place for all of us to live, if we met the basic needs of all of our people. It's time we make this a priority and clean up our city and make it a beautiful place to live for ALL of us!**

P.S. We could also use this same BLUEPRINT for "Community RV Safe Sites!" But let's get Tent Sites started first.

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