

Our country and region are dominated by the oppressive effects of Covid-19 which has produced more homeless people, limited employment possibilities and created high stress levels for many people. This is a time when we must be more permissive to people in need of public space use. It's a delicate balancing act in terms of respecting the universal need to rest and sleep, and at the same time, confront the resulting litter, contamination of soil and plants by human waste and see disagreeable poorly dressed unhoused neighbors.

I think the basic proposals of the bill are correct but how they will or should be applied requires experimentation and education of said population and enforcers. We all need to get involved to a certain level with these neighbors, and not just give them a cold shoulder or worse. I recommend passage of this or a similar bill, and more conversation on how to work with this population to discover who could be restored with a little TLC and economic opportunity, which I observe being advertised by many businesses. Some need much more or professional help from agencies. Getting a person over the hump of escaping homelessness requires some extra effort by institutions and us. It's better to try something new rather than the same old restrictive laws that haven't even considered getting to the root of the problem. Thank You