

Submitter: Tim Dickinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Decriminalizing Public camping wouldn't fix any problems as rules against it aren't enforced anyways. The sweeps that have occurred are the only reason parents and their children feel safe in laurelhurst again. Instead of decriminalizing public camping, let's actually get to work on creating a public housing option. It would have an initial setup cost of less than 10% of our annual police budget to house 100 people. That includes not only food, utilities (even internet!) for that year, but also the cost of security for 24hr availability and the salary for therapists that can help these folks deal with the trauma they've experienced on the streets. Housing 100 people might not sound like much, but it's so much better than the cops getting new toys instead.