

Submitter: Adrienne Stone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

A lot of good people have become houseless, especially over the pandemic, and they should have our full support to get back into housing and the job market.

But let me tell you about some others in my neighborhood:

There was the man who would chase people with a machete down Stark St. It took weeks for him to move on.

There is the couple by Taco Bell that have caused serious bodily harm to at least 2 people I know personally, because they camp on a bike path nearby and don't want anyone to come near them.

There is the group that smokes and shoots up drugs in the 7-11 parking lot a lot of nights.

My apartment complex on Stark and 105th constantly has garbage thrown everywhere and used needles on the group near our dumpsters almost every night. Our Manager, maintenance and garbage disposal team literally can't clean it up every time it happens.

Where I work, there is a schizophrenic man that like to stand outside the building, sometimes sitting on the steps outside the door. He will often have episodes where he screams obscenities to himself and scares anyone trying to enter or exit our building; we lose business any time he is there. Do you really want businesses to be sued because they ask someone to stop screaming at their customers? Or for refusing to leave their property?

How will you square private property rights of individuals and businesses with this new right to camp? Those rights will come into direct opposition at times, so who gets their rights discarded in those situations?

I understand wanting to get people help, but a lot of the folks I just mentioned have been offered help, multiple times, and they don't take it due to not liking the "rules" or due to not being mentally capable of realizing they need help.

And now you want to make it so that, when these people who are dangerous show up near where you live or work, you can't even ask them to leave?? Are any of you going to come clean up the needles at my apartment complex? Are any of you going to convince the schizophrenic man to get help, when his own family can't make him? Or, like the man with the dog that has attacked multiple people recently and cannot

be found by police to be held accountable because he is houseless.

Aside from the dangerous people, how will you clean up after campers that aren't even being dangerous? The city removed most of the public honey-pot toilets that were put up over the pandemic. What will the city do about all the garbage and human waste that will accumulate anywhere there are campers?? How will they have access to basic hygiene supplies or assistance if they're spread out all over the city with no one keeping track of who goes where?

The city is already in crisis over clashes with campers and housed people and businesses, this will only make tensions worse by forcing these groups into more direct conflicts and opposition.