

Since retirement three years ago I have been working with our unsheltered neighbors to help improve their well-being. I have served meals, organized 40 sandwich makers, distributed clothes and candles, and helped form an organization called The Way Home. The City response to camps and the harm caused during evictions is seared as horror on my compassionate heart. I urge you to end all sweeps, this legislation is a small step in the right direction, but still supports forced removal. In the last week I have talked with three people who were evicted from their homes of three years, tents tucked away and not bothering anyone, because a new camper moved in nearby who produced lots of garbage. Everyone was forced to move by 15 police officers and 25 city staff. Imagine the cost!!!! Now imagine a kind approach that told folks the site needed to be cleaned, perhaps even paid the campers to clean it up. Or imagine if only the messy person had to leave. Or imagine that everyone was told they had to leave and were told a decent place to move to and were paid \$200 to move, with support from volunteers. Think of the different experience of the person living in poverty, what the difference a kind, supportive engagement would feel like. Start with this, but don't stop.