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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am a runner and the best running is when you can run outdoors. I run through public parks and trails that are meant to be enjoyed by all people. When homeless camps start setting up along the running/bike path, sometimes within a couple of feet of the path, I no longer feel safe. There have been instances of loose dogs owned by the homeless population biting people on the path, there is open drug use, extreme littering, and biohazards that make the path unusable. Because of this, I am relieved every time the city comes in and clears out the camps so that everyone can enjoy the parks and paths again safely. I am all for designated camping areas within public places, but there needs to be stipulations for such designated areas. For example, camping cannot be within 200 ft of a public path or public waterway. I think there is a compromise that can be achieved here, but I don't believe giving the homeless population free reign of our public places at the detriment of everyone else who wants to enjoy the same spaces is the answer.