

Submitter: Kimberly Glover

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I've been asked to comment on this particular subject, and although this seems common sense, apparently it's not.

I'm opposed to people camping wherever they want, especially in the parks we worked to beautify over the past decade to get people outside and make our communities more active. It's totally counter intuitive. However, we absolutely DO NOT have appropriate camping grounds around the city, even in originally recreational areas. Schroeder Park for example: We all remember it becoming the destination for the less fortunate, more police calls in the area, etc...but we also had people paying to camp, park hosts dealing with riff raff, and patrols in the area. Today, we've torn Schroeder Park apart for "upgrades" and meanwhile built an immediately defunct racing and gambling building, but can't somehow make a glorified parking lot livable for the less fortunate or travelers, or even mildly expand it in that very same time frame. So, we've chosen to dig our heels in the ground because of old city management's terrible politics instead of move forward with making manageable campgrounds along the river. It's ridiculous. We have resources for permanent housing via DHS and UCAN if you actually do the work, if you want to camp, do it at a campground...but we should have affordable campgrounds available as often as rest stops. I'm pro humanity, let's get real here.