

Public Comment for Ordinance Regulating Camping on Public Property for City Council Meeting/Public Hearing on Monday, 4/15/24

Mark Shotwell [Redacted]

Thu 4/11/2024 6:56 PM

To: Distrib- City Clerk <city.clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>

Dear Mayor Kate and San Rafael City Council Members,

I want to express my gratitude and respect for the City’s commitment to develop modifications to the Ordinance Regulating Camping on Public Property. These sensible and compassionate modifications to the original ordinance balance and protect the safety and quality of life for both housed and unhoused San Rafael community members. The original ordinance is not achievable. If the City had not adapted the ordinance to the current version, the court would likely mandate something that would be far worse for the housed residents of San Rafael.

Homelessness is a tragedy for our neighbors who are unsheltered. Homelessness is also terrible for our community. But, there are no simple or easy solutions. We will not be successful in ending homelessness in Marin through attempts to criminalize people being homeless.

From our experience since 2017 here in Marin, we know: Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing end long-term homelessness. Rapid Rehousing ends short term homelessness. Rental Assistance Prevents Homelessness. Housing focused Shelters and Interim Housing get people off the streets immediately and put them on a path to permanent housing. We must be focused and tireless in our efforts to increase funding for these proven methods to end homelessness here in Marin. That is how we will end homeless encampments and street homelessness.

I appreciate your strong efforts to seek and incorporate input from housed residents of San Rafael, people experiencing homelessness, and Homeless Service Providers in the development of this modified ordinance. It is a significant step in the right direction.

Mark

Mark Shotwell
Chief Executive Officer
Ritter Center
[Redacted]

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Guest Speakers: Kate Colin, Mayor San Rafael & Cornell Barnard, ABC7

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