

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Leslie Seaver <lrvlseaver@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 2:32 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** SAY NO TO HOMELESS CAMP!!!!

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June 16, 2023

To the City of Stayton Council Members;

Let me begin by saying I am a long-time resident of Stayton. I have compassion for homeless folks. There needs to be a logical and rational solution to giving them adequate living arrangements. However not at the expense and safety of me, my family and my community.

It has come to my attention that there is a proposal on the agenda of the upcoming council meeting regarding the homeless and a suggested solution is to offer a sanctioned homeless camp at the end of Kindle Way. I have family that lives in that neighborhood. I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSAL!

1. Many if not most homeless people have mental/drug issues and are unstable. They also have no respect for property. Therefore...
2. Why would there be any consideration to place a homeless camp anywhere near neighborhoods with small children and seniors?
3. Why would there be any consideration to place a homeless camp behind a middle school?
4. Why would there be any consideration to place a homeless camp near a teen center?
5. Why would there be any consideration to place a homeless camp whereby those homeless individuals would have to pass through neighborhoods, by the teen center and school to go toward town?
6. Would you want them that close to your neighborhood?
7. I don't understand why Stayton residents are finding out about this proposal just days before the council meeting...scheduled by the way on a federal holiday?

Again. I OBJECT 1000 PERCENT!

Best regards,



I am writing this to give my opinion and point of view. This is in response to you considering the safe place for homeless near the middle school and the Youth Center in Stayton.

I live in Sublimity, but I am a retired teacher and grandmother of 2 students that attend that school (one in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, one in 6<sup>th</sup>). As a retired teacher, when I read that you were considering this property for a safe place for a homeless camp, I was appalled. Of all the places that are available, why would this property even be considered. You cannot have it so close to the school and the youth center. While I know that there is a growing issue of homelessness in Stayton, you need to be practical and very careful where you choose to allow them to settle.

I know that not all the homeless have drug, alcohol, mental illness issues, but I believe a great majority of them do. This is NOT what we want to expose our children to. Who will be responsible to clean up feces and body excrement? Who will be there to clean up all the needles and other drug & alcohol paraphernalia? Who will be responsible to clean up all the garbage and crap left behind? They most certainly will not, so that means city workers will have to do that, or it will be left behind for animals, children, people walking, etc. to run across and be exposed to. Not good!

As a grandmother of 3 children that live in Stayton – and 2 at the Intermediate/Middle school – I am frightened and cannot figure out how people who are in leadership of the City of Stayton would even bring this up as a considered area to put the homeless camp. My grandkids are involved with sports, participate in PE, and spend time fishing back in the woods with their friends. My daughter takes their four year-old on walks along the path that goes through the forested area. I know the property that you are looking at is not the school property, but it is adjacent to this property. How will you protect the kids and families that currently use the school property from the homeless people? They will not respect signs, fencing, being told to stay out. They will move into the school property and put my family and many more at risk.

Please do the cautious, prudent, and show good judgement when you choose the area to locate the homeless safe area. Don't put it anywhere close to ANY schools or places that children frequent.

Thank you for letting me state my opinion.

Sincerely,

Chris Williams

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Kristel Gabriel <jkgabrielfam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 11:58 AM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** City council comment for June 19

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Concerns about the possible homeless camp site near the teen center and middle school.

While the proposed homeless camp site may be 1475 ft from the Stayton Intermediate/Middle School, that distance is not taking into account school grounds. The field, play structure and back 40 where the kids practice for cross country and other sports are all school grounds. The location is entirely too close to our children. The proposed homeless campsite will be right next to the back 40 area and that is still school grounds and owned by NSSD. At least where the other camp site is planned, downtown by the river, there are fewer established neighborhoods and schools nearby.

The back 40 is heavily wooded and to have an unregulated site near this could be extremely dangerous. Just a few years ago one of our neighbors had to call in to the fire department an unattended campfire from an unregulated camper in the back 40.

While the proposed homeless camp site may be 440 ft from the Santiam Teen Center it is entirely too close to our already vulnerable youth. These kids walk independently from school to the teen center and would undoubtedly come into contact with the homeless residing near the center. Access to the camp site will only be through active neighborhoods and down Kindle Ave. Due to the sites being unregulated there will be mental health episodes, nudity, trash, feces, drugs and other paraphernalia that would be very traumatizing and dangerous for our children to be around, witness & see.

We also have very active neighborhoods with families, children and seniors in this area in addition to a park (Quail Run) with regular youth sporting events occurring there.

There has been a lack of transparency in location and plans (for this homeless camp). The meeting information from the homeless task force was not updated until this past week (when I asked for the information to be posted). The prior information was only available up to February. This all seems very rushed. Also, this new proposed homeless camp site was supposed to be a city park with a playground and ball fields. This seems to have been forgotten about and instead what was promised is now significantly changing.

I urge you to take more time, research what other comparable towns are doing like Sweet Home which has managed and regulated sites, and figure out how to support and provide the services these people need. Do not just throw an unregulated site out near a school and teen center and call it good. It appears that there is a blatant lack of regard for protecting our youth and instead this task force is more concerned with their own businesses downtown.

I'll leave you with a story that occurred just last week in Salem. A homeless man wandered onto school grounds at an elementary school. He started attacking staff who were with children. He just wanted a bed and food and planned on being arrested.

Thank you and we will be in touch,

Kristel Gabriel

Mom, school support staff, Stayton homeowner, taxpayer

Tammy Bennett

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**From:** mysticalcutie226 <mysticalcutie226@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 12:16 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** Homeless population

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I am not sure if I will be at the meeting tonight yet. I do not agree with letting them camp behind the Middle School because of the threat to the kids there. I also want to address the city property where Evergreen, Maple, and Norblad meet. This is ABSOLUTELY not an option! We have quite a few young boys that play close by and ride their bikes near there. We live at 520 W Water St and our 6 year old son Lucas always plays with his neighborhood friends and rides bikes around there. We have had things stolen and vandalized by the homeless population. We did attend a meeting in the past about the vandalism of my son Sebastian's library boxes. I have already lost a daughter due to leukemia 11 years ago and I am constantly on edge about any threat to Lucas now. I am just putting this out there that the property is NOT an option!

Wendy Baker

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** jamie brautigam <jamie2u@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 1:20 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting June 19th Written Statement

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear City Council Members,

I just wanted to voice my opinion about the "Safe Place" for the homeless being considered behind the middle/intermediate schools and teen center. I know you care about this community and the people in it so this is why I believe this is a horrible idea for our homeless problem in Stayton. Most homeless individuals are drug addicts, alcoholics, have mental illness and/or are sex offenders. I do not approve of this being around our children. Children are to be protected and given the chance to be the best they can be. If this is around our schools it will be introducing these children to the evil of the world much sooner they should be.

Bringing this to the area where the two newest subdivisions were built will also cause a problem in the value of our houses. We've paid a lot of hard earned money for these houses and pay a lot in property taxes to live in a nice and safe place. This will no longer be the case if this is approved.

If Stayton has to have a "Safe Place" there has to be a better spot than where you are considering tonight.

So I do not approve of this "Safe Place" to be in the woods behind the middle/intermediate schools and teen center.

Thank you for listening,

Jamie Borregard

**From:** [Steve and Cindy Higginbotham](#)  
**To:** [City Government](#)  
**Subject:** June 19 Stayton City Council  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2023 1:49:58 PM

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June 19, 2023

To the City of Stayton City Council Members, The Homeless Task Force, and to whom it may concern,

I cannot believe I even have to write this letter. This letter is to address several issues. We moved to Stayton 25 years ago to offer our children better education opportunities. The Detroit High School students were transported to Santiam High School, and the elementary students would follow soon after. We wanted our students transported only a short distance around the dams and on Highway 22.

We decided on Stayton schools and the city of Stayton because it still had a smaller town feel, and my grandparents and family have lived here for years. My grandparents lived just up the street from where we live now and used to own a farm as you come into Stayton. This property is still in the family. Stayton is a beautiful and safe community. The teachers and staff were great with the boys and their education.

However, we are concerned about the proposed homeless camps. Over the last several years, we have noticed more people walking through our neighborhood like they are scoping it out. Our neighbors have had cars stolen, and one was destroyed. My husband was walking at Pioneer Park and said homeless people were there. We used to go there with our boys and friends and felt safe. I don't even walk by the river now because it feels unsafe. We want to keep Stayton beautiful, livable, and safe and believe that these camps would be a detriment to our city. The other aspect is how inhumane it is for people to live in tents. It would be more beneficial to help the homeless residents (of Stayton only) to be placed in the standing vacant buildings and offer the services they need to get them back on their feet. We understand that homelessness stems from economics, mental health, substance abuse, and many other reasons.

The first issue to address is the proposed homeless camps like Portland and some areas of Salem. This would increase the problems of vandalism, crime, drugs, violence, and public safety and take away from our town's beauty, livability, and property values. The second issue is the apartment buildings being built in high-traffic areas, which will cause more congestion and accidents. The third issue is the cannery was shut down, which took jobs away from the community. Several companies went out of business, which has caused unemployment and made the economy worse. They want to bring in the chicken farms that would be detrimental to our health and the environment and, from what I understand, wouldn't provide many, if any, jobs. The fourth issue is that the resources for the community of Stayton need to be stretched thin. The cost of everything keeps increasing, and the streets are full of potholes. What's next?

We understand that there are many layers to these problems. We have elected the city council members who would do the best for our beautiful town and the citizens. Please carefully consider the issues we have addressed, and do what is best for our town, the citizens, and people experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your service.

Steve and Cindy Higginbotham  
1189 N 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Stayton, OR 97383



Concerned Citizens



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Kimberly Crawford <KCrawford@jeldwen.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** FW: AGAISNT HOMELESS AROUND OUR SCHOOL! OUR CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO SEE THAT!!!

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am very worried about the homeless moving into the back forty. I fear for our children. Our children must grow up fast enough and by witnessing the excessive trash, human waste, drug paraphernalia and the pose risks to public health and safety and to the water quality, it will not get any better. It is going to bring, hypodermic needles, feces, blood, urine, vomit, pest and rodent, fleas, cockroaches. Our children run back there for cross country. Where are they going to go. Also, we worked hard to get our home. By them going back there, it will bring the property value down significantly. We need to find a place for them, I agree, but not by a school. So many of them are sex offenders, how is that going to work away from school. When something happens with homeless, we call the police officers and there isn't much they can do. What does that teach our children. Please, please do not bring them there, for the sake of our children! Our children are our future, and they do not need to see this. We need better for them!

Thank You,

**KIMBERLY CRAWFORD**

Please consider the environment before printing this email

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Lou-Lou Lock <hotmama1109@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:17 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** Homeless

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I've been reading about where you might be thinking of placing them, not a good idea, please take into consideration to keep our kids safe, I see them at the SHS at 530 am when I'm getting to work, it's kinda scary. I'm worried about the crime, drug use & them sleeping on the city sidewalks. LouLou Lock Sent from my iPhone

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Miranda Ruiz <mirandajruiz30@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:20 PM  
**To:** City Government

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Hi my names Miranda an I live on Regis st in Stayton. I can't make the meeting but would like to voice my opinion about the homeless camp possible being next to out school! I think its a really ridiculous idea! Not only unsanitary but also not safe for our children! Lots but not every homeless person has an addiction of some kind or maybe mental health issues! Soon will be as bad as Portland with homeless taking over our town!!! No one wants to see the garbage and filth they wi leave all over like they have in Salem an Portland! I am just one person but I'm positive I won't be the last email on this matter! Thank you

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Melinda Kierce <melindakierce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:27 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** Homeless camp

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I have heard rumors of a honeless camp being put near the intermediate/middle school. This concerns me so much because I have kids that attend both of those schools. My kids also like to ride bikes/fish on those trails. Stayton is a small community which I feel is such a great thing. It feels safe for my kids to do those things. If you use that location for a camp I/my kids will no longer feel safe using those areas which is so unfortunate. The homeless camps I've seen are full of trash/ needles/ feces. This is an awful location right in the middle of town near kids and nice neighborhoods. Please consider a different location that is away from families.  
Thank you

**Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** Steph Hatfield <hatfields1023@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:49 PM  
**To:** City Government  
**Subject:** City meeting comments

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Sadly, I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight.

As a parent and substitute teacher, having homeless in the "back 40" of the middle school is very concerning.

I know that there is a large community of house less people and agree there needs to be somewhere for them to go. I feel like an area that is often used by children is NOT the place. The houseless tend to leave behind less of garbage, and drug paraphernalia which doesn't belong anywhere near a school or teen center.

Thank you,

Steph Hatfield

- concerned parent