

Proposed changes to Tent City Ordinance (as proposed by The City of Olympia)

1. **Current Ordinance** → Limits # of permitted encampments in Olympia to 1 at a time
Proposed Change → No cap for # of permitted encampments in Olympia at a time

2. **Current Ordinance** → Bans alcohol & all weapons (illegal and legal)
Proposed Change → Does not ban alcohol and only bans illegal weapons. Allows each Host Agency to determine rules and guidelines for each individual camp, allowing for both low-barrier and high-barrier encampments.

3. **Current Ordinance** → Requires food & security tent as a pre-requisite for site to be approved
Proposed Change → Does not require food & security tent

4. **Current Ordinance** → Does not ban "loud disturbances"
Proposed Change → Does ban "loud disturbances"

5. **Current Ordinance** → Limits an encampment to remain in the same place for no more than 180 days
Proposed Change → Allows for an encampment to remain in the same place for longer than 1 year, as long as crime at encampment is not more significant than crime in the surrounding areas.

6. **Current Ordinance** → Bans a new encampment from being created on the same property as a previous encampment for 12 months after the creation of the previous encampment.
Proposed Change → Does not ban the creation of a new encampment on the same property of previous encampment

Things not changed in proposed ordinance amendments

- Cap on # of people living at each encampment (40)
- Requires background check for applying residents based on ID
- Requires that people with active warrants & any sex offender status be denied entry
- Requires Host Agency/Sponsoring agency to report people with active warrants to law enforcement
- Only allows encampments on property owned/leased by a religious organization. Encampments are still not permitted on private or public property.

How do the proposed changes compare with Just Housing's proposed changes?

Suggested change included in city's proposal =

Suggested change not included in city's proposal =

Suggested change sort of included in proposed changes =

Suggested edits to Homeless Encampment Ordinance presented to city Oct 16, '17

1. As many "different locations for different situations" as possible.

- ✓ Our advice is that there be no limit on the number of camps. If there is the need for more, the ability to run more, land available, and the acceptance of neighbors then the creation of another camp should not be barred.
- ✓ If there must be a limit, then the goal should be having as many camps as possible with less people rather than fewer camps with more people.
- ✓ Goal of variety: High-barrier and low-barrier, camps for families, youth, adults, people transitioning out of facilities, clean and sober, harm reduction focused etc.

2. Any barriers or requirements that are not necessary should be stricken. The need is having a safe place to sleep and keep belongings-anything that unnecessarily limits that should be considered for removal.

- X Adopt IFWEOS background check policy. No 10 requirements, sex offender search based on name given, sex offenders should only be barred from certain camps, people with warrants should not be barred, and there should be no requirement for the camp to report people with warrants.
- X Requirements for heat, bathrooms, and electricity should be as minimal as possible or non-existent. We understand that these building codes are well-intentioned and all of these things would be ideal. However, there are already hundreds of people living without this and so this should not be a barrier to having more safe, legal places for people to sleep. [**Proposal strikes requirement for food & security tent, but still requires bathrooms, dumpsters, parking spaces**].
- X Any type of property should be able to host a tent city (non-profit, religious, private), as long as it is okay with the owner and the neighbors.
- ✓ 180 day requirement to move & not being able to return to the same spot for 12 months should be stricken.
- ✓ Marijuana and alcohol should be permitted. If one or the other becomes an issue with a specific person, residents can work through it on a case by case basis.

3. Self-governance. If something can be managed/facilitated by camp residents, then it should be. [**Level of self-governance is not detailed by ordinance; however the new ordinance uses language encouraging self-governance**].

- Example; drug, alcohol, safety concerns with individual residents should be attempted to be resolved by other residents first- before outside agencies.
- Example; residents should have significant decision making power when it comes to who can move into the camp, who must leave the camp.

X Need to be protections for people with disabilities, disability language should be emphasized in this ordinance. Having a place to sleep, rest, and keep belongings is, in itself, a protection for people with disabilities. [**Old & Proposed Ordinance require encampment to be close to a bus stop, however there is no additional language emphasizing protections for people with disabilities or requiring encampment to be accessible to people with disabilities**]

- Camps should be as close to downtown as possible so people can access the life-saving resources that people depend on.
- Locations should be accessible for people with disabilities (close to bus stops)