

Dear Rodrigo and Carly,

Thank you for this important information and update. It is my sincere hope that City Council passes this Public Space Use Bylaw. This is a very serious matter that poses a significant health and safety concern to everyone involved: those in the encampment, the general public, local business operators and employees, etc. It is my great fear that something very tragic could happen including a serious fire, a violent outbreak, overdoses, or death. Some of these tragedies have likely already occurred because we continue to facilitate the conditions in which it becomes inevitable.

As there is space in the shelter system, it seems unfathomable to me that we would allow this to take place and continue to perpetuate the problems that this is causing (open air drug use, petty crime, economic damages to small businesses, and on and on). If the end goal is to assist the homeless to become functioning members of society, allowing public drug use, squatting, and no consequences for theft and other petty crimes will not achieve this.

Thank you,

Jenny Jayavel