



CITY OF BEND

Camping Code: Community Input

October 5, 2022

Agenda

- Overview of community education and outreach
- Recommended response from Mayor Goodman-Campbell
- Options for Council to consider
- Next steps

Overview of Community Education and Outreach



Council **direction** on code development & community outreach process



Camping Code **webpage** launched with introduction video, materials, timeline



Community provides **feedback to Council** through emails and at public meetings



Informational **open house** sessions on the process



Surveys to engage individuals sleeping outdoors



Draft **code published**



Roundtable discussions with identified stakeholders



Council **discusses feedback**



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Themes from emails to City Council

- Concerns about **safety**: the community needs clarity on what is allowable and will be enforced
- Concerns that **public places** are available for camping at all, and about the **impacts** of camping in public places (trash, sanitation, etc.)
- People need to have other, **safer options for sleeping and living** - support for houseless community members is necessary. Not healthy for anyone to sleep/live in streets, sidewalks, public places
- Concerns related to **enforcement**: what does this look like, when will it be enacted, who will carry out engagements, what are the penalties
- **Vehicle rules**:
 - Some community members don't want vehicles used for overnight stays, especially in **residential neighborhoods**
 - Difficult for unhoused community to know **where to safely park** overnight
- Concerns about **support/resources**: what type of resources are needed, what will be provided, who will provide them
- Offered **specific suggestions/ideas**: types of shelters and locations, other cities' models, land/property locations for outdoor camp(s)



Themes from informational open houses

- **Safety** for all community members – especially for children, those with disabilities, elderly, and medical fragile
- Concerns about **unregulated camping** in public places
- How will **enforcement** be carried out
- **Input needed** from community members sleeping outdoors
- **Resources** requested:
 - More and varied **camping spots, bathrooms, hand washing** stations, and **mental health options**
 - Strategies and resources for how people can keep their **property safe and accessible**



Themes from roundtables

- Clarify what is **allowed** rather than just what is not allowed
- Consider challenges of **overnight only** time restriction for houseless people
- **Enforcement:** how will you enforce with shelter bed assessment, who will enforce, and what are penalties for non-compliance, how can enforcement be unbiased
- **Resources** needed before/to support of code:
 - More and variety of shelter beds/designated camping spots, bathrooms, hand washing stations, and mental health options
 - Strategies and resources for how people can keep their property safe and accessible (multiple storage options)
- Requests for changes to **buffer zones**
- How and when will you **review and revise code** and related materials?
- **Listen** to those who are experiencing houselessness and engage them in solutions
- Consider **regional impacts** of code



Recommendations for Council Consideration

Create a 'Houselessness Response' title in the Code

- Add context to the totality of the City's efforts
 - Joint office, shelter acquisition, shelter code, safe parking, etc.
 - Clarify City intent to participate in regional framework and response, including seeking solutions at federal and state level
- Include Safe Parking in new Code Title

Add clarity for enforcement, emphasizing existing City practice of seeking voluntary compliance first including:

- Prioritization criteria aligned with response resource
- Coordinated response to minimize law enforcement involvement whenever possible

Delay implementation (March 2023 at the earliest) to develop coordinated implementation plan and response (City, Coordinated Homeless Response Office/ County, etc.)



Recommendations for Council Consideration

Include 1,000-foot buffer for all permitted shelters

Commit to a periodic review process

Add 'survival sheltering' as part of the definition of 'camping'

Adopt a companion Resolution to further commit to support services:

- Resource mapping and a gap analysis for basic needs (restrooms, drinking water, charging/internet, storage, trash removal, warming/cooling centers)
- Storage options (could be connected to implementation of time restrictions)
- Require coordination with Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) during removal process for larger camps
- Explore one stop referral center



Time

- Consider the challenge of overnight only time restrictions
- Should not require individuals to remove camp/materials in the coldest part of the morning. Especially those experiencing disabilities and/or with multiple family members (children)
- The stress of moving back and forth with all belongings within specific time restrictions
- Resources for where to store items when required to move every day
- Consider individualized needs



Option 1- Changes to 'Time' but retain basic code structure

Maintain Current timeline

- Keep code structure as-is with camping prohibition, individualized assessment of shelter availability, and time, place, and manner restrictions
- Consider adjusting time restrictions to allow more time overnight to camp, such as until 9 a.m.
- Include a companion resolution to explore/commit to storage options
- Additional revisions for clarity and intent to resolve issues at the lowest level and seek voluntary compliance, and increased clarity on enforcement, but retain basic overall structure



Option 2- Additional 'Time' to Camp

Additional time allocated for the process

- Retain camping prohibition, individualized assessment
- Increase time to 24 hours (which means 96 hour minimum prior to enforcement)
 - *NOTE: this creates an established campsite and creates questions of*
 - Movement
 - Prioritization
 - Enforcement
- Require second outdoor shelter as a condition of implementation for time regulations



Option 3- Remove Time, add Manner regulations

Would require additional time and adoption by new Council (2023)

- Remove references to time limits
- Consider additional manner regulations that limit campsite density or spacing or other regulations
- Develop priority-based system like existing administrative policy (similar to Portland)
- Provide clarity on when camps would be removed for violations of manner regulations, including potential Council action (similar Los Angeles)



Next steps

October

Council reviews input from community members to date

Council discusses possible revisions to the draft camping code

November

Council discusses possible revisions to the draft camping code

Public hearing on camping code draft

December

Council may have first reading of camping code and vote

Council may have second reading of camping code

Direct community input to City Council via email, public comments at City Council meetings



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Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities



To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Shelly Smith at shsmith@bendoregon.gov or 541-388-5535; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

