



## Oppose San Diego's "Unauthorized Camping Ordinance"

Please write to your City Councilmember and the Mayor voicing your concerns about this unnecessary, impractical and cruel ordinance.

Pick one or two of the talking points below to make your letter short, sweet, and to the point.

**Make sure to include your address, showing that you are a San Diego City resident.**

**Suggested recipients:**

- [Your San Diego City Councilmember](#)
- [Mayor Todd Gloria](#)

### TALKING POINTS

#### **The ordinance isn't practical**

- The ordinance makes it impossible for homeless people to comply with it, since it relies on being able to know when shelter space is available. Since this can change from one day to the next, how is a homeless person supposed to know where they can camp?
- [Alliance San Diego has released maps](#) which show that the ban would almost entirely shut out unhoused people from the city. Where are they supposed to go?
- [Criminalization increases homelessness](#), rather than the other way around, as recent studies have shown.

#### **The ordinance does nothing to decrease homelessness**

- This ordinance will cost the City money in the form of incarceration and police involvement and will make the problem worse, rather than better. It is a waste of the taxpayers money.
- The city has [far more homeless residents than it does shelter spots](#), but this ordinance does not include any expansion of shelters, or safe

camping locations. The result will be to shuffle homeless people from one location to another, doing nothing to solve the problem.

- Arresting and jailing homeless people is counterproductive. and can lead to a cycle of repeat homelessness and incarceration. Instead, governments should focus on providing homeless people with the support they need to address the underlying causes of their homelessness.

### **The ordinance is probably illegal**

- The City already has an ordinance against homeless encampments on public lands. Why do we need another one?
- This ordinance violates the Supreme Court's [Martin v. Boise ruling](#), which states that homeless people cannot be punished for sleeping in encampments in the absence of alternatives.

### **The ordinance is immoral**

- Housing is a human right, according to the [San Diego City Council's January, 2023 unanimous vote](#). These rights are at risk in the proposed encampment ban.
- The ordinance [makes it a crime to be homeless](#) in San Diego. If a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens, how will San Diego be judged?

### **There are proven solutions to homelessness, none of which are included in the ordinance**

- This ordinance criminalizes homelessness which is costly, ineffective and cruel. [Experts agree that there are proven solutions](#). including permanent supportive housing, affordable housing, high quality street outreach, more shelter beds, and more safe camping locations, to name a few.

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