

My name is Karen Morris, and I reside at 15788 NE 4th St. Bellevue Wa., across from a 4 time site of TC4.

I am here to speak to you this morning, even though I just found out that this issue was on the agenda last Friday.

This constitutes an unfortunate repeat of a serious flaw in the way input on this issue has traditionally been gathered. I am talking about the lack of timely and substantive input from the residents of the neighborhoods that these encampments have repeatedly located in and impacted.

We have direct knowledge of how well the existing regulations have worked to maintain commitments to neighbors, and in what specific ways they have not worked. Some of us have gathered a lot of pertinent documentation. And yet we have not had a chance to provide any of that information until now, even though King County Staff members have known how to contact some of us.

King County Staff, the Committee to End Homelessness and others have been involved in this process much earlier. A Checklist of Criteria dated 7-31-14 claims under “Interested Parties” that adequate collaboration has occurred with all those affected by the proposed regulation. I strongly disagree.

This is the 2nd report to the Committee of the Whole , and there has already been a “1st reading” at the September 29th County Council meeting.

If this process is meant to be fair and result in regulations that address all substantive concerns adequately for the next decade, this process flaw needs to change now. Council members and staff need to make outreach efforts and take the time to really listen to the suggestions of representatives of the affected neighbors and members of the public. And also look at the documentation that supports what we think is necessary to have included if these regulations are to be fair and effective in maintaining the public health and safety of all, and the commitments repeatedly made to these neighborhoods, but often not kept.