



**CAMPING CODE  
CHANGES**

**Addressing Common Myths**

<b>MYTH</b>	<b>FACT</b>
West Linn can choose not to allow camping if we really wanted to.	New state legislation requires ALL cities in Oregon that prohibit camping to make these code changes by July 1, 2023. If West Linn doesn't comply, we can be sued.
State legislators and other elected officials could choose not to allow camping if they really wanted to.	The State is responding to federal court case rulings from 2019 that raised constitutional questions. The new legislation helps prevent cities in Oregon from potentially violating constitutional rights of individuals experiencing homelessness.
More people experiencing homelessness will move here if we allow camping.	West Linn is unlikely to attract houseless individuals because we lack critical social services available in other cities. Our most recent estimate of the number of houseless people living here is fewer than 5 individuals.
As soon as we stop enforcing camping prohibitions, everything will change.	WLPD has not enforced camping prohibitions since 2019 (when the first federal ruling happened). We still need to remove camping prohibitions from the books, but our officers will continue helping individuals voluntarily relocate to areas that can better meet their needs.
Allowing camping means we have to allow littering, drugs & alcohol, and other dangerous public nuisances.	The new law only indicates that people cannot be punished for sleeping, sitting, laying, or protecting themselves from weather in public spaces. Illegal behaviors remain punishable by law, as they are for anyone who commits a crime.
My concern isn't addressed here.	<p>Check out our full FAQ:</p>  <p><a href="https://bit.ly/42mAuIR">https://bit.ly/42mAuIR</a></p>