

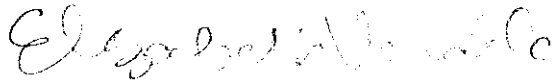
CITIZEN PETITION

City Council Formal Meeting

"Right to Sleep; Right to Survive"

March 6, 2019

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled on September 4th, 2018, in Martin v. City of Boise, that it is cruel and unusual punishment to criminalize sleeping and camping under the 8th Amendment. However, the city continues to wake up sleeping people, harassing them and making them move, leading to sleep deprivation and lowered quality of life. Like most homeless people, many have been up on their feet since the break of dawn, it is a half a day ordeal to get a shower. It leaves you exhausted. It leads to warrants and charges which further make it difficult to get out of homelessness, as barriers to employment and housing. It is unconstitutional and unjust. There are insufficient shelter beds, and not all shelters are appropriate for everyone. Sitting and sleeping should not be crimes. Most of your homeless police enforcement programs are prefaced on making sure that people who are homeless are not seen. Whereas corporations and homeowners have interests, their interests do not override basic human rights. It is discrimination based on class status. The poorest of the poor suffer. This is cruel and unusual punishment, and enforcement of laws against camping and sleeping needs to be ended. Repeal the urban camping laws and end enforcement of trespassing for sleeping. Homeless people are not less human because they are on the streets. The City of Phoenix needs to respect the ruling and behave appropriately. Please respect the courts and the Constitution of the United States.



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