

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

September 1, 2009 Regular Meeting

Name: Angelina Bailey		
Address: Nickelsville.		
City, State, Zip Code:		
Organization:	E-Mail:	Phone: 206-450-5268

Please note comments below.

When we first set out to come to Seattle we had the means to get our lives started here but we had broke down a couple of times and had to use the money we did have on repairs to our vehicle to get here. It was our idea to become homeless. Every place we went to was either full or wouldn't take my family as a whole. I am very grateful that we were able to go stay at Nickelsville and remain safe & together



Good afternoon Seattle Port Commissioners,

My name is Terry Bailey. I have lived at Nickelsville currently located at terminal 107 since the 10th of August.

I would like to ask the Port Commissioners to reconsider their decision to sweep our camp on the 30th of Sept.

My wife, two sons and myself came to Seattle in search of work opportunities along the way we experienced two major break downs and ended up spending our traveling money for repairs. We arrived here in Seattle with no money and very little gas. We tried several of the missions and the TC-4 camp and was turned away from all of them. There was no place for us with two children. There's an 18 year or older policy in most of these facilities.

Nickelsville with their "No Sexual Predator" rule allowed us to stay with our children in a safe place.

This has been a great help to us as a family. It allows me to job search without fear for my families safety. The rules in Nickelsville are strictly enforced with 24 hr. security, with the family atmosphere in the camp and the group

Setting allows for a nights sleep in safety.

If we cannot remain together who knows what will happen to my family. I am a very hard worker who just needs a helping hand. Only the people at Nickelsville have extended this to us.

I was told just yesterday that the housing program provided by the state has a 6 year waiting list. Most of us can't wait 6 years.

All we are asking for is a permanent location to place Nickelsville camp so other might have a chance for a safe place to live & rebuild our lives.

We are not a destructive group. We care for the environment we live in, we show respect for our camp by keeping our area and the areas around us clean. We contain all grey water and waste products in a proper manner, all trash is disposed of in a timely manner.

We need more time to find a location suitable for us all to live, together as a group we are safe. The streets are a dangerous place for an individual. Drugs, alcohol and crime is not tolerated at Nickelsville. When a problem arises, as a group vote on how it is handled, for extreme problems the solution is left to

Law enforcement as it would be in any  
at all neighborhood.

We are asking for 3 months to be  
able to find a place for our camp.

Please don't put my family back on  
the street.

Thank you for listening.

Topic: Nickelsville

September 1, 2009 Regular Meeting

Name: Crystal Cheairs		
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Please note comments below.

As a formerly homeless individual, I know how crucial a community like Nickelsville is. Shelters do offer safe space, but have restrictions in which families or couples cannot stay together. Whereas, encampments like Nickelsville offer a safe place where people can live together in responsibility. Family can stay together, people can keep their pets and leave their belongings while working or pursuing work. More importantly, Nickelsville is run and organized by residents. In being a part of rules and goals (unlike living at a shelter) residents are able to become confident in being part of something. Many of the residents do work, unlike the common public opinion that encampments house lazy drug addicts: this is false!

The homeless population is expanding. Nickelsville should be encouraged and supported as an alternative to living in unsafe homeless environments (ie. under freeway, etc). As people build community, they improve themselves and those around them.

I support Nickelsville and I ask that you do to. Please extend their stay as they propose, so that they can reach their goal of finding a permanent home together.

Topic: Don't Sweep Nickelsville<sup>on</sup> Sept 30, 2009

September 1, 2009 Regular Meeting

Name:	Marisa Laufer		
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Nickelsville supporter	organize@u <del>wa</del>	206-365-5164	

Please note comments below.

There are over 8,800 hundred homeless people in King County & not enough shelter beds to accommodate. Policies to end homelessness have only increased the numbers, not decreased. The jobs & housing market has shifted to where you need to work 2 or 3 jobs to cover your housing expenses. This is not practical. Enter Nickelsville: Let's embrace the model that gives homeless individuals safety, support, & stability.

~~Let~~ let them stay for 2 months with a possibility of a third month (if they are in the process of finding a permanent spot), ~~and~~ <sup>AND</sup> give them a chance to succeed and people can organize amongst themselves to respond to the INHUMANITY of homelessness.

Please don't evict or sweep their camp & please allow them enough time to find a permanent spot.

We know that all of us are at risk of becoming homeless. These folks are our brothers, our mothers, sisters and grandfathers.

Topic: Nickelsville

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Name:	Pamela Klimant		
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Please note comments below.

I did a 24 hour photo project at Nickelsville because of this I got to know many people who live there - watch their daily activities sleeping, cooking, cleaning, doing regular tasks at the camp such as securing buses blown away by the responsibility and optimism of the residents they manage their community and keep the most important things

- \* Safety
- \* Stability

without it - all campers would not be able to hold jobs as they do and ~~prepare~~ for live responsibly

I know that the Port has supported the Conservation Corps - that it built #107.

Please, please, please help N-ville find a permanent place to live

To paraphrase Communist Parolee Chelley about labor  
NICKELSVILLE WORKS



Topic: A location for Nickelsville

September 1, 2009 Regular Meeting

Name:		
DAVID McCracken		
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SEATTLE WA		
Organization:	E-Mail:	Phone:
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Please note comments below.

Dear Commissioners:

Please reconsider the proposal to host Nickelsville at their current location for a period of 2 to 3 months, beginning right away, so that they can devote the time and energy required to find a permanent location.

1. Note that this requires no, or an insignificant amount of, time or expense on the part of the Port. And I understand that any legal concerns can and will be abated by Rep. Chopp

2. Note, too, that this is a matter of survival for about 100 homeless people. I'm not exaggerating. In Nickelsville, they have an orderly, rule-driven community that is safe and secure for 24 hours each day, seven days a week. The alternative for most of them is living on the streets - a dangerous and stressful and life-endangering alternative.

Consider this wise statement: "A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization" (Samuel Johnson). No one believes that providing space for 3+ months for tents is a "decent provision" for 100 poor & homeless people. But it is a "provision" - and it will provide a way for them to move to something "decent." You have it in your power to <sup>make</sup> Seattle and the Port itself a more civilized place. Please do it! You will be thanked by members of Nickelsville, by hundreds of us in churches and synagogues and mosques who support them, and by all in Seattle who care about "a decent provision for the poor."

Thank you,  
David McCracken

Topic: Nickelville Comment

September 1, 2009 Regular Meeting

Name: <u>Douglas F. Risedorf</u>		
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City, State, Zip Code: <u>Tukwila, WA 98178</u>		
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Please note comments below.

I am an individual that provides material and/or financial assistance to the people of Nickelville when I'm able to. I was a homeless man for two years and have an understanding of homeless needs. Please bear in mind if you dismantle this group of approximately 50 their safety will be in jeopardy. Trust me... there is safety in numbers. They follow a strict guideline of rules that is attached to this sheet. If they must move may I suggest the area under the West Seattle bridge located on Harbour Island. If you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas please feel free to contact me. Please bear in mind I am a ~~Seattle~~ citizen who is concerned with the plight of our homeless.

**Public Comment to Seattle Port Commissioners Sept 1, 2009  
from Karen Morris [moe@msn.com](mailto:moe@msn.com) 425-957-0367**

**It has come to my attention that you will be hearing at today's meeting from those who support your allowing "Nickelsville" to stay on port land. As I mentioned in my previous comments there is far more below the surface of this iceberg than the polished up tip they will present to you. I want to reiterate that it is hard data you need to look for, not anecdotes. And you will have a very hard time trying to find it. Excuses for the lack of record keeping, data and accountability are just that, excuses. They tout their "self-governing" aspect, but a rational analysis of that will tell you it can also be used to cover up things and avoid the accountability that is necessary for the common good. I might wish to be "self-governing" on my own property, and not have to prove to anyone the efficacy of what I do there, but the many government entities I live under feel differently. For the public good and safety, I must abide by laws, codes, ordinances etc... and submit to oversight to assure that I do so. I ask only that they be held to the same standards.**

**I turned over to the Port's Chief of Police *some* of the information we have been able to gather on *some* residents of TC4. For reasons too complicated to explain quickly, this is only a small sampling and there is reason to believe it is the tip of the iceberg. I would also like to point out that TC4 is for many reasons likely to have the fewest of the problems we found of any of the tent cities. It is subject to more regulation by various cities' ordinances, and they do *claim* at least to consistently require ID to do checks for sex offenders and active extraditable warrants. Our information brings into serious question whether they actually do a very good job of this, as we found numerous examples of people getting in with warrants, staying there after committing crimes, etc... But TC3 and Nicklesville in particular have a history of reluctance and refusal to do even these checks. All these tent cities hold up their "Code of Conduct" as an assurance to the community of good behavior. But "rules" are hardly the same as enforcement. Again, if you look through the**

**reports I provided, (and more I could) you will see numerous instances of problematic and even criminal behavior occurring even though it is “prohibited” by this so-called Code and their other “rules”. This represents a considerable risk to any community.**

**Also very problematic is the notion that those supposedly enforcing their rules have the attitude and skills necessary to result in adequate enforcement. There have been many examples over the years of this problematic attitude, but I will give you some more recent ones that relate specifically to Nickelsville. Look at the articles in the Seattle Weekly written by Aimee Curl 8-2-2008 and 11-5-2008. On page 1 of the first article, when the Nickleodeon meeting leader and chairman Craig Corey is ask if the place is going to be built to code, he replies “Code is the farthest thing from our minds. Code rhymes with cold, and we’re against it”. The article says this elicits affirmative nods and knowing chuckles around the table. At the end of the same article Corey adds that Nicklesville will be open to everyone, even if that means accommodating some “rough characters”. He says “We are not talking about civilized people here. We’re going to have to come to terms with that at some point. But were not going to kick people out. This is the end of the road. People who will come to Nickelsville have no other place to go” “You can chase a dog from this yard to that yard, and sooner of later you’re going to corner this dog and he’s going to bite you”, he adds “We’ve been cornered.” In the November article this same Craig Cory has gone back with most of the original organizers to SHARE’s other tent cities, in his case TC4, then located on Mercer Island. He’s quoted as being disappointed with the restrictions Nicklesville adopted, namely the no drinking rule. The article also mentions Leo Rhodes as one of the only original Nickleodeons still living there. Those of us who have followed these tent cities for years are quite familiar with Leo. He has resided at the other tent cities run by SHARE for about a decade according to records we have gathered. I have been to meetings where Leo told us, speaking of TC4, that there “had to be someplace for those who can’t follow the rules at existing**

**shelters to go". He identified SHARE's tent cities as that place. He said this with a straight face at the same meetings where we were assured there would be no problems at all because they had a "Code of Conduct".**

**And who "enforces" the so-called security in these places? Why they do it themselves on a "rotating" basis we are told. So a fairly new "camper" with whatever abilities, biases and problems they come in with can with minimal training from another camper be the one enforcing whatever rules they have. Even if your common sense doesn't set off alarms, we have other information that does. In Bellevue, there was evidence of prospective campers with active warrants being warned off before the police could get there and melting into the residential neighborhoods surrounding these tent cities. In Redmond, a turn away set up his own camp a couple of blocks away and proceeded to burglarize neighborhood residents. There was even an instance in Bellevue of a TC4 Executive Committee member warning a camper who had committed felony crimes *while* living at TC4 that the police were looking for him in order to try and help him avoid arrest. And sadly, the host temple was made aware of this, but chose to cover up and conceal this information from neighbors even when the issue came up at a meeting the next time they hosted TC4. This also is part of a pattern. A Woodinville pastor was ask about a crime committed against an elderly church member and neighbor by a TC4 resident she had tried to help. She said "I wouldn't say this in public, but we really don't care unless it happens on church property". Other pastors of churches who support TC4 have suggested that the obvious problems that could and have happened don't matter and didn't happen, and that the concerns of the surrounding neighborhoods are so trumped by their opinions that they don't need to do anything substantive about them. So when the Church Council and the Lutheran group continue to lobby you on this issue, I hope you would remember this. They are used to operating on faith and trust, and seem to feel they answer to no one in this realm. As such they are sadly vulnerable to being seriously misled and used. But you are public officials, and you hopefully**

**operate based on history, facts, data, common sense and reasonable analysis. And you must be prudent with public resources and protective of the public safety. I remain hopeful you will stick to your original and correct decision.**