

# City Council Regular Meeting

August 15, 2024

## FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



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CITY OF FRESNO  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

### Public Comment Packet

#### ITEM(S)

**2-Y (ID 24-1045)** \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) -  
Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of  
the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public  
Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

**Contents of Supplement:** Public comment emails

#### Item(s)

##### **Supplemental Information:**

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

##### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:30 AM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Subject:** New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

**External Email: Use caution with links and attachments**

[City of Fresno](#)

## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Trent Anderson submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: You have access to experts in the fields of city planning, economics, and sociology and yet choose to make decisions that solve no problems for anyone in the city for the sake of making it look prettier. If you want to get something done, take action instead of trying to hide the problem. The zoning within the city is beyond reprehensible and every single time I show it to students of city planning or their teachers they mock us for it and point out how awful it is for people to be so cut off from amenities and work, and that such cutoffs and lengths required to travel only perpetuate these sorts of problems because the individual may be provided work but the commute may also make it difficult, unfeasible, or impossible to get to the workplace. Every single time I talk to anyone from any other city about how we lack shelters yet complain about the problem, they mock us for perpetuating our own problem and pretending we aren't the cause. You really think the homeless just don't want help? Go be put into their shoes. It doesn't take rocket science to determine most homeless people have mental health issues, went homeless due to mental health issues, and quite literally cannot consent to treatment due to not being in a mental capacity to do so. Address that problem, you morons. It's things like this that makes people want to leave Fresno and people like you are supposed to be listening to us.

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**Susan Mac**

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**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 4:01 PM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Subject:** New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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[City of Fresno](#)

## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Abby Miller submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: It is unfair and unkind to arrest a person who is sleeping in a public place. How could this be a crime? This will cause unnecessary hardships in the unhoused community. There is not enough affordable housing for our community. How can someone ever bounce back when the system makes it almost impossible to do so. I have a stable job and still struggle with housing insecurity due to the rent prices and inflation of costs. Furthermore not everyone has a support system to help guide them. Also have you ever accidentally fell asleep on the city bus, imagine going to jail or getting a ticket for this?

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**Susan Mac**

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**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 9:06 PM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Subject:** New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Brandon G submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: This ordinance violates the "equal protections of the law" clause of the 14th amendment since only those with full ownership of private property have "protections of the law" while those with mortgages and those who rent (both groups being propertyless workers, called "proletarians", and lumpen-bourgeoisie such as accountants or lawyers) don't have "equal protections of the law" since: those with the most property have the most access to lawmaking and law revising bodies, and those who have the least property are able to be jailed for owning or having no access to property. This ordinance also violates the 14th amendment's "equal protections under the law" clause due to disabled people being at risk of legally being charged for "violating" this ordinance since: type 1 diabetics, among other people with disabilities, may need to "sit down in public spaces or on public properties" to address diabetic health issues or they may end up "lying down in public spaces or on public properties" due to untreated diabetic issues which could then lead to them "sleeping in public spaces or on public properties" in the form of comas "all of which can lead to arrest instead of a preventable, if this ordinance isn't enacted, physical check up. This ordinance also violates the 1st amendment since the remaining lawful protest methods are suited for able bodied people; and the protest methods of sitting, lying, or sleeping are deprived.

**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 9:06 AM  
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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Kim Contreras submitted a new eComment.

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Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: We have heard from advocates, social workers, non profits that we do NOT have enough beds or housing for the homeless and yet, our city council continues to talk as if we do. It is like watching the king parade with no clothes and yet you are still loudly clamoring that he has some on. If you want to change this, let's get busy working on low income housing. Let's pass an ordinance that landlords can't leave there properties to sit and rot for years. Let's require they get them back on the market within 6 months or put it up for sale so someone else can. Our city and urban communities are full of JD homes that are allowed to sit, be a source of equity for their company while bringing blight to our community. We have empty lots that owners are allowed to sit for years. Currently living by one- a house burned down 20 years ago and this owner has done nothing with it. It collects trash our kids have to walk by on their way to school. Time to say NO MORE... Get busy making a difference in our city or sell the property to people who will. We need to be honest about the length of time it is taking for people who qualify for low income housing and have vouchers to find a place to live. We act as if getting a voucher means we get housing. No, often families vouchers expire before they can actually find a house. Let's stop blaming and start working to find nuanced multi layered solutions to a complex program.

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**Susan Mac**

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**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 11:38 AM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Subject:** [BULK] New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Rachel Johnson submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: Being without housing is not a crime. You are choosing to make it that way. Please act human & prioritize affordable housing & shelters instead.

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**Susan Mac**

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**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
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**To:** Clerk Agendas  
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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Casey Bishop submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2 -Y ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: This is not a solution to homelessness, this is erasing people's humanity and treating them as an ugly sight to be swept away. Fresno spends an astronomical amount of money on its police department instead of using tax dollars to actually target poverty by reigning in exploitative real estate owners that are charging rents that take the majority of a person's income. Homelessness is not a problem of hard work. Plenty of homeless people work, businesses refusing to pay living wages alongside landlords refusing to charge reasonable rents are two of the biggest factors that cause people to lose housing. Lacking the resources necessary to afford shelter should not be a crime.

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**Susan Mac**

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**To:** Clerk Agendas  
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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

James P submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: It should not be a crime if someone cannot afford housing. California has some of the highest housing costs in the country, not to mention the cost of living as a whole, so it is extremely unfair to expect everyone to be able to have access to housing. It seems clear that one main reason this is happening is that the systems of prisons and policing want more people jailed so the people at the top of those systems can make even more money than they already do. Also, many inmates are forced to work for an abysmal amount of pay, including for well-known corporations and even for fire departments during wildfire season. Is that what the goal of the Fresno City Council is? To make more money for people who profit off of suffering, and to practically enslave those who are struggling to survive? That's the only real conclusion that can be drawn from this. I can't imagine everyone on the council would support that (although there's one councilmember in mind who would), but will support it anyways because these people are not considered human to many. People want this "scourge" to be removed from society so they don't have to be reminded that this city, state, and country does not take care of their people like they say they do. But these people are human and need help, even further than just allowing them to live on the street. But rejecting this inhumane, and frankly evil item is a first step.

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**Susan Mac**

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**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:04 PM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Subject:** New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Anonymous Citizen submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: The claim that this prohibition is not criminalizing homelessness is willfully ignorant to the harms that it will create. This will only put people who are in need of help into custody for simply trying to live because as many have shared, they have nowhere else to go. My line of work is with victims of domestic violence, and I hear constantly that they are having to live on the streets due to their victimization and the subsequent rules of the court. There are long waiting lists for shelters and strict rules that victims cannot follow (eg. not being able to bring their son), and now they will be victimized again by the system if they are to be incarcerated for being homeless. Much research has been done to show that incarceration besets more incarceration when it is done without consideration of assistance. These are people already struggling, having a criminal record will only hurt them more and lead to more recidivism when they have no other options - if they can't find a home, they can't work, and if they can't work, they can't find a home. What else is one to do but whatever they can by any means necessary to live? The money funneled to the HART team and the like could be better used actually helping people find homes, get treatment and support. Please reconsider, listen to the advocates speaking to you, and actually help the citizens of Fresno.

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**Susan Mac**

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**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com  
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**To:** Clerk Agendas  
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## New eComment for City Council on 2024-08-15 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Trinity Moore submitted a new eComment.

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Item: 2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: Homelessness is not a problem, it's a symptom of the state of this country. Many individuals find themselves on the streets for situations out of their control, and it is completely unfair to criminalize them for it. Many individuals are struggling to stay afloat right now amongst inflation, housing costs, and insufficient wages. It's unrealistic and inhumane to expect someone to get themselves off of the street to avoid jail time and fines, of which most could not afford to pay with their money or time. Money and time that they could better use to improve their quality of life. All that our fellow humans ask for is kindness, compassion, and empathy when it can be spared. In criminalizing the homeless we are choosing to reinforce the idea that these people are on their own, that they are choosing to suffer and live as they do. Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep, a roof over their head, the promise of a meal, and the ability to guarantee themselves one. They are living in a world that actively deprives them of the ability to care for themselves, and being told by their city that they must or they face punishment. We must have kindness and compassion for everyone around us. I hope that if I was to ever lose my job or home and my ability to take care of myself, that I would not be judged for my circumstances, but understood for my situation.

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## Susan Mac

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**From:** Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 4:51 PM  
**To:** Clerk Agendas  
**Subject:** FW: City council meeting 8.15.24

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**From:** Abby Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 4:35 PM  
**To:** Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>  
**Subject:** City council meeting 8.15.24

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2.-Y. ID 24-1045 \*\*\*BILL-23 (Intro'd July 29, 2024) (For Adoption) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Camping in Public Places (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

I think this is garbage. Especially with everyone dancing around the true issues: affordable, safe housing, & the need for more permanent supportive/low income housing.

I myself have been homeless.

I myself have slept on the sidewalk out side of a store with no where else to go.

I myself have laid in the park to enjoy nature around me.

I myself have sat around with no purpose outside of the courthouse.

I myself have loitered around in public places to avoid certain weather & temperatures.

It deeply saddens my heart for the humanity of Fresno county to be so callused and cold towards another human being experiencing a hardship.

My dad doesn't take great care of his physical appearance. It worries me that if, he as an elderly man, has to sit or lay down for a minute; it may be misconstrued as malicious by the police and he could potentially end up in jail or with fines which he, nor I can afford. He is fortunately housed in a low income public housing unit, But for many years he was unhoused.

Please don't make it harder than it already is in our community.

Abby Miller