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I am a downtown San Jose resident that has seen an explosion of camps, litter and crime over the past several years. The high rise that I reside in has spent over \$100,000 on theft, and vandalism to our building. Our largest retailer, Safeway is vacating after 10 years, rumored that the cost of theft made them not profitable. First and foremost, I think that it is imperative that anyone involved in finding a solution to the ever growing homeless problem should start by watching the YouTube documentary Seattle is Dying. It clearly identifies the problem as one of drug addiction and not simply of providing housing. It is impossible to solve a problem that has not been clearly identified. This issue is complex with many levels. The level that I am speaking of is the very visible, hoarding type street dwellers. As their numbers have increased so has crime. This documentary offers a solution.

No one jurisdiction can tackle this problem on their own. It will require a countywide effort of Law Enforcement, County Health Services, and the District Attorneys office. This plan must be supported by the city politicians elected to represent their constituents. It is not fair or reasonable to allow a select group to violate laws that the rest of us are expected to adhere to. I want to be clear that the goal is to help these individuals with their addiction, not simply continue to sweep them from place to place. Their life as it is, is inhumane and problematic to those that live and work around them. I implore you to reach out to places that have had success with their programs. You must be willing to think outside the box. Have the courage to change the everyday way of doing business and strive for real solutions. Wouldn't you rather be a part of the team that spearheaded an effective program that actually made a difference? You could lead the state in tackling one of its most difficult problems.

Sincerely,

Sheri Kerr