

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

PRIOR TO THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SESSION

ON

THURSDAY, March 9, 2023

AT

10:00 A.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed  
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

[BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us)

## Carolina Rook

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**From:** Mary Starrett  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:04 PM  
**To:** BOC Info  
**Subject:** FW: Emergency Declaration - STAY THE COURSE!! Public Comment

*Mary Starrett*  
Yamhill County Commissioner  
Phone: 503.434.7501

**From:** Steve & Anita Sommerfeld <nuttyravenfarm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 3:04 PM  
**To:** Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us>; Lindsay Berschauer <berschauerl@co.yamhill.or.us>; Kit Johnston <JohnstonK@co.yamhill.or.us>  
**Subject:** Emergency Declaration - STAY THE COURSE!!

**Caution:** This email originated outside of the Yamhill County email system

Dear Commissioners:

First, I would like to thank you for the thankless job that you do for this county. I am writing in support of your stance to decline to issue a "homeless emergency." In my opinion, if such a declaration would be issued, it would be a clarion call to those that choose this life style to flock to our county in anticipation of additional free benefits. It would also send a signal to all drug dealers that the "market" is now open in Yamhill County (not that it isn't open already.) We don't need an emergency declaration especially since the rules or parameters aren't clear. I disagree with Mayor Drabkin when she says, "I understand the frustration that the rules are not clear, but I think that's a part of business; it's not unusual."

Firm guidelines need to be in place in order to prevent an influx of additional homeless:

- The county should register/ID all homeless and send all drifters and non-residents packing.

- A work/benefit program should be instituted. You don't work, you don't eat. (It's Biblical)
- Screening program to identify those with mental health issues, separating them from those who like the life style as well as those who are addicted to drugs.
- NGO's and "Non-profits" should be required to submit an operating statement prior to receiving any funding from the county, city, or state.

That's just a start of a list. I could go on. The county's approach should be lean and austere. The homeless community should be made aware that this county and it's residents are not here to offer a hand out. There need to be clear rules that point to personal responsibility in order to receive any kind of benefits (which should include free food.) With some basic parameters in place it would be the basis of putting together a meaningful budget, with measurable metrics (I hate that term).

Throwing more money at the problem is not the answer. We've been doing that for years. Look at how successful our schools have been just throwing more money at education. Deplorable!

Again, I appreciate all that you have done for this county in spite all the slings and arrows that have been thrown at you in the past. If you require additional comment, have questions, concerns, or need a volunteer for whatever, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cheers!

--  
Steve Sommerfeld

-Sometimes you feel like a nut!

## Carolina Rook

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**From:** Cathy Navarra <cathynavarra40@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:11 PM  
**To:** BOC Info  
**Cc:** Lindsay Berschauer; Mary Starrett; Kit Johnston  
**Subject:** Emergency Declaration on Homelessness

Caution: This email originated outside of the Yamhill County email system

I'm writing to encourage you to declare a state of emergency regarding homelessness in Yamhill County. By doing so, you open the County to the state funding to help that is available to help with this crisis. Commissioner Starrett, since you sit on the board of YCAP, I know you are well aware of the homeless issue here in our County, and the complexity of this issue. Homelessness is not just occurring here in McMinnville; it is occurring throughout Yamhill County. What an opportunity this is for our county. I believe that everyone who works with the homeless can see the benefit of additional resources to help combat homelessness. It is also a chance for some of our state tax dollars to return to our county.

Please declare a state of emergency for the sake of our homeless citizens. It will benefit Yamhill County.

Cathy Navarra  
McMinnville