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**From:** Kai  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:48 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** MY - mayorsoffice@cob.org; Rud Browne; Lilliquist, Michael W.;  
eoconnor@lydiaplace.org; jasonm@nwys.org  
**Subject:** HSWG Comment: Houseless Support and Camp 210

Good Evening, Whatcom County Homeless Strategies Workgroup, and some stakeholders of this group,

If the legislative analyst could share this with the rest of the members of HWSG and for the record, please, and thank you:

The letter I write today relates to past and potential sweeps of Camp 210 and houseless across Bellingham.

Of Camp 210, I share some of the photos that are not shared by the city of the resilience and community working together to support Camp 210, and in contrast to the impacts of the Camp 210 sweep.





# How much did Bellingham spend on removal of a downtown homeless encampment?

BY DENVER PRATT

FEBRUARY 08, 2021 02:56 PM



Police and city crews prepare to remove the Camp 210 homeless encampment from the lawns on Lottie Street in downtown Bellingham, Wash., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021.

BY WARREN STERLING | DREW PERINE



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February 4, 2021

Thank you for your letter dated February 2, 2021. Per your request, below is our cost associated with the Bellingham City Hall homeless encampment cleanup.

Estimated cost includes:

Number of Personnel:	57
Total Hours (Regular and Overtime):	657.33
Personnel Cost:	\$52,000
Subsistence:	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$53,000</b>

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Batiste".

CHIEF JOHN R. BATISTE

I speak to you as a community member, not a representative of Camp 210.

The letter I share is modified from the one I sent to Bellingham City Council.

I understand many of you may have paid attention to last Bellingham City Council Meeting, where two similar moratoriums on encampment removal policies have been suggested, brought forward by council members, but drafted by community members.

Will members of this group individually or as a group commit to these bans on sweeps/camp cleanups, when it is snowing, winter, freezing?

Additionally, I imagine by now you now know that protestors were targeted (and arrested) and continue to be targeted by our police department, extending the long term impact of the militarized sweep/camp cleanup that occurred on Jan 28 on Camp210.

Will you advocate to drop the charges on protestors who were helping buy time for campers to leave from the Jan 28 sweep, charges that disproportionately were felt by people of color?

Also, by now, I am sure you are aware the ongoing demand by many people involved by Camp 210 about no barrier shelters-

Will you commit to no barrier shelter options? If not, what is the lowest barrier shelter expectations you would have?

I share again, the photo of the gunman you had posted the day of the sweep, when Mayor Fleetwood as you have heard in our last council meeting, said there were no one with guns on roofs.

Will any of you at the sweep of Camp 210? If so, are we going to trust the narrative that homeless people were not resisting the sweep? Because there were definitely homeless people that did not want to leave and were resisting. There was no contingent of outside agitators.

Your response to the 200k likely that was spent on the sweep which could have housed them?

Your thoughts on the city's access to FEMA relief funds for hotel/motels?

I have since spoken at several HSWG public comments, and in written form as well, inviting the stakeholders of this group to respond if you would like to engage in a discussion. I look forward to your response.

I do want to start by saying I do appreciate the support from the city for some recent portapotty and dumpster service, the health department for some testing. I do appreciate the offering of the warming shelter, which I was happy to volunteer at, despite the barriers that it held, like not having significant food, blankets, not being that warm, not able to take donations unless they were packaged goods. I do appreciate nonetheless that it was a space of solace in those harsh winter days that just past. But we need to do more.

In summary, I share some of the demands of volunteers and many campers of Camp 210, and they are to:

1. We demand housing for all houseless community members now.
2. We demand amnesty for all involved, and a halt to any ongoing investigations related to this illegal sweep.
3. We demand a full ban on sweeps.

I understand some of this groups scope and not having legislative power. But I do understand you can likely study these issues, provide recommendations, and individually speak your conscience if you have thoughts on them.

Thank you,  
Kai,  
Bellingham