

# What are we going to do about this?!

## Here are our demands:

- Immediate end of all sweeps!
- Removal of hostile architecture
- Housing for All
- Expansion of Housing First apartment programs
- No-barrier shelters
- Tax on rental property to support Housing for All
- Housing Task Force to make actionable recommendations on factors that either decrease homeless (overdose prevention centers, new PSH apartment programs) or increase homelessness (inadequate housing supply, zoning restrictions, lack of municipal investment in housing). The Task Force would also oversee taxes brought in by rental property tax, to ensure monies are spent where it is needed most to promote Housing For All.

# How can I help?

A good first step is to understand just how difficult it can be to find shelter in Rochester. Please visit our “Find a Shelter” tool to see an interactive example of just how difficult it can be to find shelter.

<https://rgpr.org/find-a-shelter>

After seeing just how hard it can be to get off the streets and indoors, it will become more clear as to how our Neighbors end up sleeping outdoors.

Encampments are the evidence of homelessness in our community. Destroying the evidence does not solve the crime of homelessness caused by policy failures and lack of municipal investments in housing.

Together, we must demand an immediate end to all sweeps, and promote more Housing First programs that move people directly from street to apartments, guaranteeing all of our Neighbors a safe place to live!

**Sign up to stay informed and join the fight!**

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# Rochester Grants Pass Resistance

<https://rgpr.org>

**Help keep our Unhoused Neighbors safe!**

The City of Rochester and Monroe County have a long history of brutal encampment sweeps, displacing our Unhoused Neighbors and wreaking havoc on their lives.

*This results in the unauthorized taking of property, to trauma being inflicted on our Neighbors, isolation, displacement, shame, stigma, ALL of which increase the likelihood of chaotic drug use and overdose death.*

The Supreme Court’s Grants Pass decision clears the way for even more sweeps!

# What is the Grants Pass Decision?

The Grants Pass decision gives local governments a greater ability to enact and enforce criminal penalties for acts like public camping or sleeping – even in localities where limited local shelter space contributes to these acts.

This means that our Unhoused Neighbors can be arrested and fined for sleeping outside, *even when they have nowhere else to go.*

It is *very common* for our Unhoused Neighbors in Rochester **to have nowhere to go**. Shelters are often full, or just outright inaccessible for many of our Neighbors.

The Grants Pass decision emboldens and encourages overreach by government and enforcement agencies. For instance, since the Grants Pass decision, Sweeps are not only taking place on public property but (via citations) are planned for private property as well. The City has claimed it has “anti-camping laws” that allow this.

# Wait, people don't have easy access to shelters?

No, far from it! Every day, 748 of our Neighbors experience homelessness in Monroe County, and that number is growing.

Even if there were enough free shelter beds for everyone, which there is not, our Neighbors face any number of barriers to shelter entry. Some examples are

- Some shelters *cost money*
- Very few shelters accept families
- Very few have wheelchair access
- Very few shelters allow pets/support animals
- Very few shelters accept couples
- Very few shelters are trauma-informed
- Not all shelters offer food
- Not all shelters offer case management
- Some shelters have curfews or other onerous requirements
- Some folks are barred from shelter due to sanctions from DHS\*

\* Visit <https://rgpr.org/education/definitions> to learn more about “Sanctions”

# If people can't get shelter, where are they supposed to go?!

This is exactly the question you should be asking yourself, and the exact problem that the Grants Pass decision exacerbates!

The Grants Pass decision has effectively made it illegal to be Unhoused, allowing for fines and arrest of people sleeping on *public property*.

Unhoused communities form as a last resort for our Neighbors who cannot access shelter elsewhere, and now the City of Rochester and Monroe County have been cleared by the Supreme Court to continue their violent sweeps, further displacing and alienating our most vulnerable population.

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