

What are your thoughts on the current encampment sweeps? Do you think any part of the sweeps should be handled differently?

Chyanne Chen

The current status quo is unacceptable and I know many of our residents are fed up. Encampments are simply not safe living spaces for unhoused residents and we need to do more to move individuals into safe transitional housing. I've talked to many parents, seniors and small business owners who are frustrated that for every step we take to reduce encampments, we then take two steps back.

I am deeply concerned that this latest initiative will be more of the same. I am concerned about **media reports indicating that city staff are not following well-established policies** on securing the personal belongings of individuals, offering shelter or working to improve access to services. If we do not take these common sense steps, we will simply be sweeping unhoused residents from one neighborhood to the next. And these sweeps are not only inhumane, they are ineffective. The media has reported that encampments have already returned to the exact locations they were removed from last week. We've been down this road before and to break this cycle we need to do what we know works: supportive services, safe shelter and prevention.