

As the day of their Lord approaches one might think that they would make room at their inn, if you will. After all December 25th is the night these churches preach about soon-to-be parents of the baby Jesus were themselves denied shelter. This whole week is forecasted snow, lows in the upper 20s, highs in the mid 30s, I can hear the wind blowing through the gaps in my old windows now as I sit and write this, comfortable inside.

This leaves the anarchists.

Grassroots mutual aid efforts seem to be the only game in town when it comes to helping our unhoused comrades stay warm and dry this year. Chehalis River Mutual Aid Network is running a all hands on deck emergency fundraiser to buy bulk winter gear and tarp material to distribute on the streets directly to those who need it. That's what works best, direct aid. If you can give directly then you might as well give to an organization that does. This "season of giving" please consider them when making any donations, and find them on Open Collective to make that donation tax deductible. all of their links can be found at [Linktr.ee/crmutualaidnet](https://linktr.ee/crmutualaidnet).

More reporting on this and other topics can be found on our website sabotmedia.noblogs.org



NO COLD WEATHER SHELTER FOR ABERDEEN, WA



WINTER IS COMING
HERE



CHEHALIS RIVER
MUTUAL AID NETWORK

CASHAPP - [SCRMUTUALAIDNET](https://cash.app/c/crmutualaidnet)

VENMO - [@CRMUTUALAIDNET](https://venmo.com/crmutualaidnet)

PAYPAL - CRMUTUALAIDNET@RISEUP.NET

LIBERAPAY - [@CRMUTUALAIDNET](https://liberapay.com/crmutualaidnet)

MUTUAL AID IS ALL THAT REMAINS AS THE COUNTY, THE CITY, AND THE CHURCHES ALL REFUSE SHELTER



As I write this the rain is pouring down here in Aberdeen, after the first snowfall, the rain is somehow a welcome respite. The comfort of a home is, unfortunately, not afforded to everyone in this town. Many of my closest friends live in tents and pallet built homes down by the river. Normally there is a emergency cold weather shelter open by now. Shelter is hard to come by here, pretty much the only game in town is the Union Gospel Mission, open everyday, but closed to many who have received a lifetime ban by mission staff for frivolous "infractions" like sleeping outside of the shelter when its full, looking at staff wrong, or even just refusing to participate in their religious services. But at least when it gets cold and wet there is a county funded, privately ran low barrier cold weather shelter in town, easily accessed by the concentration of unhoused people in Aberdeen. That is not true this year.



Even the churches seem to have closed their doors to the homeless. Despite have vast legal protection to open a shelter under RCW 36.01.290, which states, in part:

- (1) A religious organization may host the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization whether within buildings located on the property or elsewhere on the property outside of buildings.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, a county may not enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that:
 - (a) Imposes conditions other than those necessary to protect public health and safety and that do not substantially burden the decisions or actions of a religious organization regarding the location of housing or shelter, such as an outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, for homeless persons on property owned or controlled by the religious organization;
 - (b) Requires a religious organization to obtain insurance pertaining to the liability of a municipality with respect to homeless persons housed on property owned by a religious organization or otherwise requires the religious organization to indemnify the municipality against such liability;
 - (c) Imposes permit fees in excess of the actual costs associated with the review and approval of permit applications. A county has discretion to reduce or waive permit fees for a religious organization that is hosting the homeless;
 - (d) Specifically limits a religious organization's availability to host an outdoor encampment on its property or property controlled by the religious organization to fewer than six months during any calendar year. However, a county may enact an ordinance or regulation that requires a separation of time of no more than three months between subsequent or established outdoor encampments at a particular site;
 - (e) Specifically limits a religious organization's outdoor encampment hosting term to fewer than four consecutive months;
 - (f) Limits the number of simultaneous religious organization outdoor encampment hostings within the same municipality during any given period of time. Simultaneous and adjacent hostings of outdoor encampments by religious organizations may be limited if located within one thousand feet of another outdoor encampment concurrently hosted by a religious organization;
 - (g) Limits a religious organization's availability to host safe parking efforts at its on-site parking lot, including limitations on any other congregationally sponsored uses and the parking available to support such uses during the hosting



These entities were first The Moore Wright Group who were unsuccessful in opening their shelter last year and whose proposal was tabled, and remains so. Second was Chaplains on the Harbor, a very prominent homeless outreach provider over the last several years. Chaplains was previously involved in suing the City of Aberdeen over it's treatment of the homeless encampment on the banks of the Chehalis River. They have been blacklisted by this group of far right fascists including the Mayor, two of three Commissioners, and most of the City Council, ever since. The behind the scenes coordination involved here can only be speculated to but based on the previous history it does appear that the City and County officials have conspired to block any attempt to have a cold weather shelter that serves the vast majority of the homeless in Grays Harbor County - located here in Aberdeen.



The plan is still unclear, despite our repeated attempts to question officials on what the situation is there has been no update in at least two weeks. The last word the residents of Aberdeen got was that the city council had voted to reject the shelter within it's city limits saying,

"[The City of Aberdeen] respectfully rejects all candidates for the cold weather shelter and asks that the applicant and the county work together to find other potential host locations outside of the Aberdeen city limits"

The Council voted on November 9th 8-3 in favor of requesting to the county that Aberdeen "be taken off the list for consideration of a cold weather shelter" for this winter, affirming earlier objections from Aberdeen Mayor Pete Schave to the shelter proposals. In an interview with The Daily World the County commissioners stated that they would not go against the wishes of the City. Commissioners Kevin Pine and Jill Warne are both a part of the local gang of far right politicians whose aim is to eradicate the homeless population of this town to make way for their millionaire friend Terry Emmert to buy and develop all of Aberdeen to fulfill their vision of a gentrified tourist trap here in Aberdeen. Pine said in a phone interview Wednesday that the county has asked the contractors who proposed cold weather shelters in Aberdeen to search for alternative locations, but that those entities hadn't yet reported any new locations back to the county.

