

# SWEEPS

DO THEY  
WORK? **NO.**

ARE THEY  
LEGAL? **NO.**

**No.** They address only the 'sin of visibility', not the root causes of homelessness. If sweeps were working, they would have worked by now. The large majority who don't receive services due to lack of appropriate shelter simply move from one location to another -- swept under the rug, an unending cycle driven not by data but by complaints. Sweeps are expensive, disruptive, burden local budgets and resources and are self-defeating because they require significant dollars which could be put toward creating shelter and housing options.

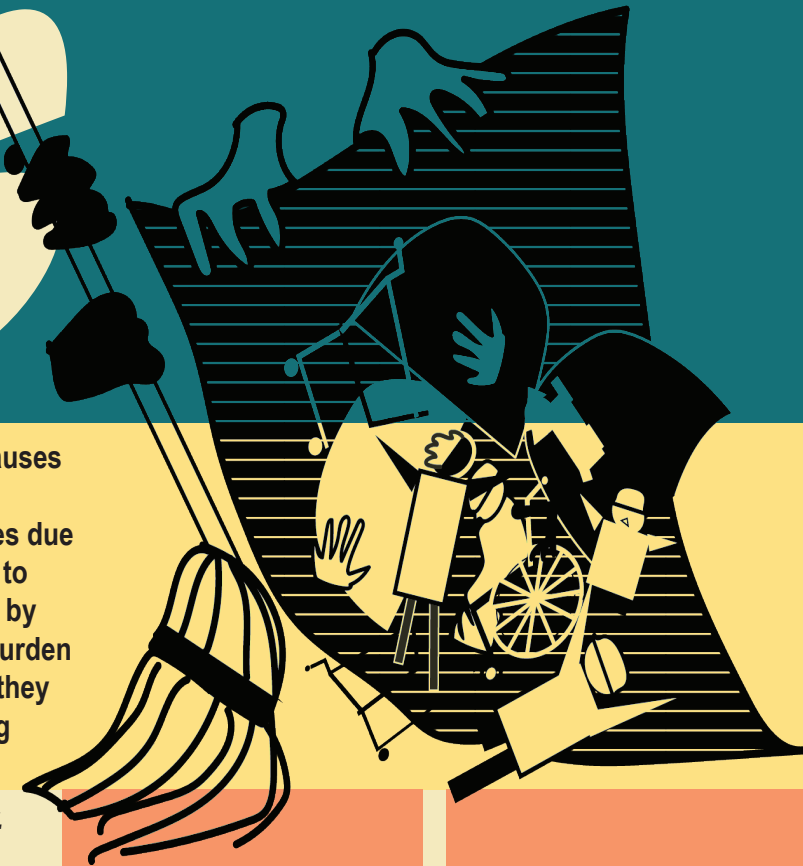
**No.** On September 4, 2018, the 9th Circuit ruled in *Martin v. Boise* that ordinances prohibiting homeless individuals from sleeping or camping on public property are unconstitutional when those individuals do not have a meaningful alternative, such as shelter space or a legal place to camp. Punishing people who cannot obtain shelter for sitting, sleeping, or lying outside on public property is "cruel and unusual punishment" (8TH AMENDMENT).

**2,300**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE IN PIERCE COUNTY  
NEEDING SHELTER

**1,000**

AVAILABLE SHELTER BEDS  
(INCLUDING SAFE PARKING)



CAN WE DO  
BETTER? **YES.**

ESTABLISH SAFE, LEGAL  
PLACES TO CAMP AND PARK

INVEST IN HOUSING FOR  
THOSE MOST IN NEED

STRIKE DOWN ILLEGAL ORDINANCES  
CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

DISPEL THE MYTHS --  
HOMELESSNESS IS NOT A CHOICE

I CAN'T PAY  
RENT



DON'T TAKE MY  
TENT