

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this finds you well. I'm reaching out to inquire about your regulations regarding unhoused neighbors being denied access to Nextdoor.

The unhoused are our neighbors, many of them have lived in the same neighborhood for years (many of which have been evicted from their shelters, who still live in the same neighborhoods). They should have a say in what goes on in their own community, especially if housed neighbors are having discussions about them without their input.

As a user of Nextdoor, I see myriad posts regarding housing & homelessness, where many residents want to have discussions and find ways to help or alleviate the housing & homelessness crisis we are witnessing. However, our housed neighbors are discussing the issue without any input from the unhoused community. Much of the rhetoric being used to describe the unhoused population is hateful, dangerous, and oftentimes threatening to their lives, yet Nextdoor allows this to continue. Oftentimes, these discussions will lead to devastating sweeps, putting our most vulnerable unhoused neighbors in danger while they have absolutely no say in the matter. It is critical that our unhoused neighbors have access to this information so that, in the event of a horrendous, inhumane sweep, they can better prepare themselves and their community. If Nextdoor wants to participate in a true conversation and find real solutions, they must allow the unhoused to speak for themselves and provide first-hand experience and knowledge to these critical conversations.

Not allowing our unhoused neighbors access to Nextdoor is also a violation of the first amendment; to block someone from speaking on a topic just because they do not have a physical address is a violation. What of the many landlords who own properties, have access to Nextdoor, and do not live on the property? How is this any different? Meanwhile, our housed neighbors with physical addresses have the ability to organize to harass the unhoused, threaten their shelter, and post pictures and videos of the unhoused without their consent, violating their rights and privacy.

This is not to discredit the good that happens on Nextdoor. Many Nextdoor users also give away clothing or other items that can be beneficial to our unhoused neighbors. Neighbors will also post critical information regarding COVID19; this may be the only place the unhoused are able to obtain data, statistics, and information on testing and vaccination sites, and surges in cases. It is paramount that our unhoused neighbors have access to this information.

Additionally, Nextdoor has taken it upon themselves to promote an [Anti-Racism](#) section on their website, stating "Racism has no place on Nextdoor". This is contradicting Nextdoor's policy on homelessness, as the majority of residents who experience homelessness are [Black and Brown](#), as well as [LGBTQIA+](#). To say that racism has no place on Nextdoor, and then to not allow space for unhoused residents to voice their opinion, is a contradiction. If the goal of Nextdoor is to truly use "technology to fight bias", refusing to allow the unhoused to use this platform is doing the exact opposite.

What steps can we take to ensure our unhoused neighbors have access to Nextdoor? They deserve to know what is going on in their neighborhood, and to combat the dangerous rhetoric being spread on your platform.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Yasmine Pomeroy