

Craig, Sondra

From: Kevin Hundt <kevinhundt0@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:21 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Testimony in opposition to 23-0673

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Notes dictated by Kevin Hundt from testimony by a gentleman going by the name of Bozz, 6/8/2023

I had housing but had it taken away because of "too many visitors" which is bogus because some of them were homeless and hadn't taken a shower or eaten in a couple days.

This ordinance is bogus because where are you going to put everybody? They write people a ticket for \$124 or whatever it is and then the tickets keep piling up and then they're going to jail because they can't pay their tickets. Homeless people have no place to go and if you get caught sleeping somewhere you're not supposed to you're gonna get ticket after ticket and there's no way to survive.

The city is screwed up because they're not doing nothing, they say they are, they have meetings with Julie [McDermid] and they say they're going to do something but they never do. Then they turn around and write ordinances like this to keep people out of parks. I understand about Cameron because there are families there but Houska was good because hardly anyone went there except for the dog parks. Of course there are going to be problems when you have 90 or so people there but there were fewer violent calls there than in the rest of the city but they want to shut it down. Only two incidents where the police were involved and had to use force, some guy fighting with the cops but you can't judge the whole group by the individual.

I don't believe the city is being fair because they have no place to put the homeless people and it's just getting worse. People are getting worse, two people had a fight today and cops got called because they were fighting over a razor. When people get stressed out they get like that.

Every place I've been you see cops kicking people out of that area, where are we supposed to go?

You've got some people helping, Couleecap has helped me, but they can only do so much. Answer I've got for you, buy the Kmart, it's been vacant for years, nobody's done shit with it. I know for a fact that WERA and Couleecap have offered to buy Kmart and another building on the south side but have been denied both times, they had the money. Even a hospital, Gundersen was willing to put in over \$2 million, \$4.2 million with WERA and the city turned them down, voted against it. Kmart's been vacant and now all of a sudden they want to put houses there, a lot of what it is is that residential people don't want homeless in their area because they're afraid crime's going to go up in their area, in some cases they're right, some are dumpster divers or whatever, but only one in 20 or 30.

In this country people get homeless and they just don't want to work with them.

I became homeless in 2018, got kicked out because too many people were coming over who just needed to relax or take a shower, get something to eat. That's why I'm homeless because of that, they said well there's a law that you can only have two people over at a time, well maybe it's a law since 1800s, they don't enforce it I guarantee there are other people but they enforced it against me, just because I had people over to eat chill take a shower, some of them hadn't

taken a shower in days.

They don't understand because they've never been homeless. So it seems like the community doesn't care about us, they keep putting up roadblocks.

Now they're trying to pass this ordinance banning homeless in parks, that's just going to create more problems. We ask for help, we get it to a certain extent but the thing is you gotta understand we're not just all homeless, a lot of us have had jobs, military service, we come from all walks of life, it's sad, nobody wants to listen to anybody else talk about, him [gesturing to another unhoused person] he's been trying to get a caseworker for a minute, when you can't get a caseworker you can't get nothing, a lot of people getting stressed out there.

I believe the city does not give a shit, if they did they would have gone out for a couple offers, \$4.2 million is nothing to sneeze at.

It's a vicious cycle for last two three years been going to council meetings, every time something comes up there's opposition to it, I'm 60 years old, I've got cancer, I'm dying, I can't work, I've only got one lung. Some people don't want to work, maybe they're lazy, but again you're using that against everyone else.

What it's gonna turn out to be is they're going to come up with a new ordinance, we're already fighting with the police, that's why when they come they come three four deep, it's going to hurt a lot of people, not just mentally but physically too, you can only push people so far, some people are going to be fighting with the cops because at least they'll go to jail, you know, three hot and a cot,

They're talking about writing tickets to homeless people just for sitting in a park, if they know who I am they're gonna write me a ticket, even if I'm just in a park for being homeless, that's discrimination. It's not fair at all. What they don't understand is there are some people among us talking about taking it to another step, and if that happens it's just going to get nuts, and then what's the mayor going to do?

But to pass an ordinance that we can't even be in a park, just to visit, what's that tell you?

I ran into a cop the other night, he woke me up and talked to me normal, didn't write me a ticket just told me where I could go so I wouldn't get in any trouble, because there was someone else who was playing music loud and the neighbors complained, so I got kicked out because of what he was doing.

For homeless people it's a no-win situation. What are we supposed to do?

Houska worked out because even if someone wasn't there then someone else could tell them someone came looking for them so they could at least pass the word along.

People are already upset, there's no reason to close Houska part down, it was away from the public really except for the people who drove through the park.