

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:28 PM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Opposition to Ordinance 23-0673

From: Natalie Heneghan <natalie.heneghan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:20 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Opposition to Ordinance 23-0673

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La Crosse City Council,

My name is Natalie Heneghan. I am a La Crosse resident writing to oppose ordinance 23-0673.

If boosting safety in downtown La Crosse is one of the goals of this ordinance, I propose that council members focus their energies elsewhere.

In my time living in La Crosse, I have felt more fearful for my life while biking through downtown than while walking through Burns or Cameron Park. I have been harassed by intoxicated college-aged boys, but never by those seeking shelter in our parks with nowhere else to go.

I ask the committee to consider if support of this ordinance is driven by a desire to quell discomfort and outrage over the existence of homelessness or by actual, tangible needs our community members face.

When they are pushed out of our public parks, there is nowhere else to go. Veterans, children, and people suffering from mental health issues they did not choose to suffer from, are further removed from services they need, people they know, and social workers who know where to find them.

I encourage you to think about the long-term and unintended consequences. If unhoused people are cited, fined, and jailed as a result of this decision, they are far less likely to pass their future landlord's background check and secure affordable housing. We are creating more barriers, making it more difficult for the unhoused to find long-term shelter and ultimately create a full, healthy, thriving life.

Please oppose this ordinance. Put the energy and resources that would go into enforcing it into services that our neighbors really need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Natalie Heneghan