

Elsen, Nikki

From: K. Andy Vang <djchek7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:19 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Re: Vote to allow camping in city parks & city-owned facilities

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Hello La Crosse City Council Members and City of La Crosse Leadership:

I am emailing about the homeless situation here in La Crosse and your vote tomorrow on allowing camping in city parks and city-owned facilities. I live on the northside of La Crosse at 1027 Caledonia St. and the homeless population is here as well.

I am aware that the homeless situation is a sensitive issue that affects all municipalities across this country and each municipality is finding their own ways to deal with it. The City of La Crosse cannot allow the homeless population to continue to camp out in city parks and city-owned facilities as we, La Crosse residents and other residents in the area, use these parks and city-owned facilities for our own fun/activities, and we would like our space/privacy during our events too.

I know that it's hard to find a "one size fits all" solution to the homeless situation, but I would hope that the La Crosse City Council and City of La Crosse leadership not be "enablers" to this situation by providing handouts or other in-kind support as it will only worsen the problems and issues. I support helping the homeless population get the assistance they need to get back on their feet but there needs to be accountability on their end as well to make sure that the assistance that your municipality provides to them is really working to make a difference. I understand that drug use, mental health issues, and lack of resources are all challenges facing the La Crosse homeless population, but we all are vested citizens of this great city to help these neighbors of ours recover and hopefully become productive residents of our city again. Allowing the homeless population to camp in city parks and city-owned facilities is NOT a beneficial way to help these people.

I am writing to voice my concerns and objection to allowing camping in La Crosse city parks and city-owned facilities. I have spoken with a couple of your council members on this issue so they know where I stand on the issue. It would be irresponsible and ill-advised for your council to approve this request as we have already tried this option last year with the Houska Park experiment and the results were horrendous. Please "table" and defer the vote for the request to allow for more research and more collaboration amongst city, county, and state agencies to brainstorm on feasible solutions that will not affect the quality of life and decency for all other La Crosse residents that use those same city parks and city-owned facilities.

If there are any questions or concerns, please let me know or feel free to call me at (608) 385-7427 (cell).

Thank you for your time and consideration,

K. Andy Vang
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