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From: Peter Gorski <peter.k.gorski@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:35 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Public comment on item 23-0673

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I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed changes about camping on public property. As a member of our community and frequent user of our public parks, I understand and share the concerns of keeping them safe, clean, open, and inviting to everyone. However, the solution to this problem is not to criminalize homelessness, but to solve the underlying issues. This ordinance will lead to greater tension between the unhoused population and police and city officials. That tension and animosity can easily spill over and cause people to lose trust in the non-profit employees and volunteers who are doing the difficult work of trying to alleviate the plight of homelessness.

I applaud the city and county's recent joint efforts to provide housing to those in need. Given time, this new initiative can end homelessness in our community. However, implementation will take time, and our community does not currently have the shelter available to take in everyone currently in need. Further marginalizing this population is a mistake and a step in the wrong direction.

I strongly urge you all to vote no on this ordinance.