



Independent Living Resources
4439 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 787-1111

June 3rd, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

The intention of this letter is to voice support for Resolution #24-0701, which would extend the lease for one year for the Rivercrest Mobile Home Park.

Just earlier today, I attended the Board of Public Works meeting that voted against the clearance of an encampment where people experiencing homelessness were trying to survive. As city leadership has expressed that homelessness should end and that we must do better for the community, it is concerning to learn that city officials are attempting to move forward an “eviction of all property” on a small parcel of land in the Rivercrest Mobile Home Park in La Crosse. This action could lead to the city government directly contributing to the homelessness crisis in our community.

Six families found out a week before easter that they were potentially going to lose their homes. Contrary to popular belief, it is incredibly difficult to move a mobile home. According to an article in Forbes, published in March of this year, the average cost to move a mobile home can range anywhere from around \$5,000.00 to upwards of \$15,000.00 or more, depending on size and distance of the move. Other difficulties associated with the moving of a mobile home also provide difficulties, such as finding a new location. Many mobile home parks do not have spaces available, or they have specific criteria that individuals must adhere to so they can move their home into the park. Aged mobile homes are especially difficult to relocate, and many mobile home communities have restrictions on the age of mobile homes being moved into their communities. There have been no promises of financial assistance or compensation for any such move, placing this burden on those impacted directly by the city’s desire to end their lease with the mobile home park. These families are in jeopardy of losing their homes due to the actions of our city.

Our city leaders must do their best for their citizens and the community. The resolution to expand this lease should be passed unanimously. The individuals that the potential ending of this lease would impact most are facing what is likely one of the most frightening fears for many of us – the loss of their own home and having nowhere to do. This is entirely preventable and the lease extension for another year should be passed, but it is also imperative that options are explored to prevent this from happening ever again. Perhaps it would be worth it for the city to look at a way to sell the parcel to the mobile home park or extend the lease longer than one year.

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City leaders have the responsibility to do what is best for community members and make certain that their decisions will not lead to trauma, loss, and homelessness. Please vote yes on the proposed Resolution #24-0701 to extend this lease and keep families in their own homes.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Fitzpatrick'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Fitzpatrick
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