

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

June 8, 2023

Re: Opposition to Agenda Item 23-0673

To the La Crosse City Council:

I am writing to express YWCA's opposition to the proposed changes to the ordinance regarding camping on public property. While we share a number of the City's concerns, we believe the proposed changes will be both ineffective and counterproductive. Attempts to criminalize homelessness through 'nuisance housing' citations often produce outcomes that perpetuate housing insecurity, and what's more, they cost taxpayer dollars to enforce. We believe the City's resources would be best spent investing in housing and shelter options.

The lack of adequate resources, shelter space, and affordable and safe housing in our community ensures that the proposed changes to this ordinance will increase barriers for our unhoused neighbors. We encourage the City to reach out to organizations providing direct services to our unsheltered population so we may find solutions that ensure the safety and wellbeing of all. **We can and must do better.**

Best,



Laurie Cooper Stoll, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
YWCA La Crosse