

## Elsen, Nikki

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**From:** Sue Knopf <graffolio21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 10:50 AM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** In opposition to 23-0673 Camping on City-owned property

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To City Council members:

Although I agree with fellow apartment dwellers that the camping in the Market Square ramp and Cameron Park must stop, I believe this ordinance amendment will make things worse. For the people who truly need help, this ordinance will make it harder for help to find them. For those who are interested in playing catch-me-if-you-can with the police, the game will be spread even farther and make things more dangerous for the police.

This ordinance is not the answer. The answer is to find a place where people can stay all year round. The mayor and police do not want to criminalize homelessness, but what is happening now—allowing people to “camp” in a place without bathrooms or water or shelter—not only dehumanizes them but also makes life difficult for nearby residents and businesses. I am assaulted daily with the smell of smoke and urine in my apartment building’s private stairwells, the sight of the filthy public stairwells—which have not been scrubbed for several years—and the sounds of people yelling threats in the park and parking ramp.

The city should be able to do better and needs to do so now.

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