

## Elsen, Nikki

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**From:** Brinks, Kristen F <KFBrinks@gundersenhealth.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Subject:** Support for the amendment to the camping ordinance

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To Nikki and the La Crosse City Council -

My residence is 919 Cass Street. I am contacting you to let you know I would like you vote in favor of the amendment to the camping ordinance in city parks. I am a member of the Downtown Neighborhood Association, have lived in the historic district since 2000. Our parks are suppose to be for community members to enjoy and to highlight the beauty of our wonderful city. However, that is not happening in certain parks. I am appalled at the conditions in Cameron Park, and also most recently Burns Park and Leuth Park (which now seems to be cleaned up again, thank you City workers). I no longer walk down King Street past Cameron park – I do not feel safe, there is garbage and needles on the ground, tarps and lots of dirty items, and people loitering. I have not attended a Friday Farmer's market, will not sit in the park for enjoyment, and no longer take my dog there. All this is very disappointing. I have seen the unsheltered harass walkers and residents, and try to destroy signage regarding 2 hour parking. The conditions of the parks are horrible, and it is impacting the downtown community – businesses, homeowners, renters, and visitors.

I have heard some talk that the amendment is criminalizing the unsheltered and we should be more sympathetic. I am in total disagreement with that statement. The changes DO NOT criminalize the unsheltered. We, the taxpayers, have done a lot to assist the unsheltered, and there has been a lot of sympathy and support, but there is no reason we should continue to give up our parks for them to live, when they are not respectful of the property or the people that live in this region.

I ask you to vote in favor of the amendment.

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