

Craig, Sondra

From: Daniella Nelles <daniellanelles@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:27 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Cc: Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; Janssen, Barb; Sleznikow, Larry; Hameister, Jenasea; Kahlow, Chris; Kiel, Mac; Mindel, Mackenzie; Woodard, Chris; Schwarz, Rebecca; Trost, Jennifer; Happel, Douglas; Neumann, Mark
Subject: Item 23 - 0673

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Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you in opposition of item 23-0673.

I have worked with our unhoused community members for the past 5 years as a social worker. In that time I have got to know some of the most amazing people, and their stories of struggle, survival, and triumph. I have also watched resources dwindle for these folx. They no longer have a place to go during the day to shower, do their laundry, eat, rest, and recuperate. Our local shelter is working hard and at capacity, therefore there is no where for them to lay their head at night.

My friends, there is no where for our unhoused neighbors to go.

I make contacts weekly with property owners hoping to find units for my clients. Most of the time the housing is unaffordable and/or the property owners are unwilling to rent to those who once were or who are currently unhoused. Passing this ordinance would further solidify the stigma attached to being unhoused. The folx I serve face discrimination due to their class status on a daily basis. Until we have fair, affordable, equitable housing people are going to need the parks.

Forcing people out of the parks without a solution or place to go, is not the answer. Giving citations to folx for surviving, is awful and I know we can do better as a community. I can work hard and advocate until my face turns blue, but it does not make a difference if our community members, county, and city officials do not see the value in all human lives.

I ask that you vote no to this ordinance, and move forward working on policy that pushes for affordable housing options for all.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts,

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Daniella Nelles, BSW
She/Her/Hers

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"Give, even if you only have a little." - Buddha