

Craig, Sondra

From: Laurie Logan <laurie.logan64@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:26 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; ZZ City Clerk External

Some people who received this message don't often get email from laurie.logan64@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

***** CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *******

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed ordinance making it illegal to set up a campsite on city property.

I am a resident of the city of La Crosse, medical director of the St. Clare Health Mission, former Director of Addiction Medicine for Mayo Clinic Health System-La Crosse, and current physician member of the La Crosse County Health and Human Services Committee. I have a broad perspective of this issue, and a deep understanding of the root causes, and possible solutions.

I understand why both the citizens of La Crosse and the city council members would like to have our parks no longer be places where people must live. A promising plan to help people move from parks to homes was presented to the council on Tuesday, June 6th.

Increasing attempts to penalize people for camping in the parks just amounts to chasing them from one place to another when they really have no good place to go. And while being chased around the city, their health worsens. Many of the people living in parks are ill, elderly and disabled. Can you imagine having to move from place to place keeping track of your medications, your wound care supplies, your insulin? And to what end? So that others do not have to see them?

St. Clare Health Mission provides healthcare weekly in a mobile unit, which many in the community were compassionate enough to help provide funding for. We have patients we follow regularly. Forcing the homeless to scatter defeats the purpose of providing healthcare. When we can't find our patients, they are more likely to end up in the emergency room, hospitalized, or dead.

I know the city council members are pressured by community members to "fix this", but your job is to look at the situation clearly and think about all the outcomes of what you do. Please have the courage, wisdom and patience to do the right thing, not just take fast action that causes great harm, without fixing anything.

Sincerely,

Laurie Logan, M.D.
147 13th St. S
La Crosse, WI