

Elsen, Nikki

From: Kahlow, Chris
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Elsen, Nikki
Subject: Attach to item 24-1037

Hello Chris, I believe you are my City Council Representative. I live at 1346 Wood St. in La Crosse.

I am reaching out to you in regards to our city marsh trails. Last night my husband and I went for a bike ride like we have many times over the years. We have not been out in over a month due to traveling so we were quite taken aback when we approached an area on the marsh trail off lang drive to behind New Castle Title and River Architects. This area was occupied by many many homeless. As we approached another bike rider we had passed earlier had turned around to see if we were going to attempt going through this area, he said he would go through if we did. We decided that the three of us would ride our bikes through quickly and help each other if needed. As we went through it was apparent that these campers have been in this area for a while, we saw many window air conditioner laying around and disassembled for parts, bikes disassembled and in pieces, and many other things that did not look as though they belong, my guess is they were unrightfully taken. Needles were laying around, some people looked so strung out that they looked like they could snap at any moment while others were so lucid that you weren't even sure they were still alive. I cannot tell you all the emotions I felt riding through this, mostly anger that my husband, myself and other community members cannot feel safe using these once beautiful trails for recreation. As we exited the main area where people resided we saw another young man maybe about 14 with a box of needles in the middle of the trail, we had to swerve to miss him. It was unclear what he was doing, just so sad. A way further down the trail we encountered a few young families with about 6 young children, I told them that they should turn around, I knew the parents knew what I meant when I said that, however it broke my heart to hear the children ask the parents why they needed to turn around. Raising our family we took our kids on these trails many many times over the years, helping them develop a love for the outdoors and a love for La Crosse. To think that La Crosse is letting all of this go on where people don't feel safe utilizing all the things La Crosse has to offer makes me sick to the stomach.

We did call the non-emergency police number last night, there was nothing they could do. They recommended we reach out this way. I do not have answers for this problem however there has to be more that can be done than what is being done now. This is a very real issue, how can I stay informed on what is happening to address this issue. I have never in my entire life living in La Crosse taken issue with anything but this is out of control.

Thanks for listening Please keep me informed on how I can stay updated on this issue. I do not want to live in a city where I do not feel safe to enjoy the outdoors and the beauty the city has to offer.

Thank you and have a great day,
Sarah Mumm
Lifetime La Crosse Resident

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)