

Craig, Sondra

From: City of La Crosse Notices - No Reply
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:26 AM
To: Craig, Sondra; Elsen, Nikki; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Sleznikow, Larry; Trost, Jennifer; Mindel, Mackenzie; Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; Steele, Annette; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; Weston, Lisa; Newberry, Aron; Bedford, Crystal; Padesky, Gary; Stine, Olivia; Northwood, Rosanne
Subject: City Council Contact Form: City Administrator for Sustainability in Programs for the Vulnerable

Submitted on: 2/10/2026

Name: Laura Wright

Email Address: laura@firstcongolax.org

Is this related to a legislative agenda item: Yes

Agenda item number:

Subject: City Administrator for Sustainability in Programs for the Vulnerable

Dear Council Members,

I write to you as a pastor serving the La Crosse community, with a particular concern for our neighbors who are most vulnerable—those experiencing homelessness, housing instability, poverty, disability, and social isolation. From this perspective, I want to express my strong support for the creation of a City Administrator position within the City of La Crosse.

In my pastoral work, I regularly see how the effectiveness of city systems directly affects people's lives. When city departments are well-coordinated and clearly managed, programs that serve vulnerable residents function more smoothly, partnerships are stronger, and resources reach people more consistently. When systems are strained or unclear, it is often those with the least margin—people without stable housing, families in crisis, and seniors—that feel an acute impact.

A professional City Administrator would provide consistent day-to-day leadership, improve coordination among departments, and create clearer accountability within city government. Many communities across Wisconsin have adopted this model and found that it strengthens service delivery, long-term planning, and collaboration with nonprofit, faith-based, and social service partners. These are precisely the partnerships relied upon by programs addressing homelessness, affordable housing, public health, and basic human needs.

La Crosse has shown a commitment to caring for its residents, especially those who are struggling. Creating a City Administrator position would strengthen the city's capacity to sustain and expand that care by ensuring that vital programs are managed efficiently, communication is clear, and long-term solutions are pursued with stability and professionalism.

Thank you for your service to our community and for considering how this decision may shape the city's ability to care for all who call La Crosse home. I am grateful for your leadership and hopeful for continued dialogue about how we can best serve our neighbors together.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright
Senior Pastor

First Congregational United Church of Christ
La Crosse, Wisconsin

If you'd like, I can:

Make this more prophetic or more pragmatic

Shorten it for mass mailing

Rewrite it as a joint letter from clergy and service providers

Add a brief story vignette (without naming i