

Craig, Sondra

From: Diane Silva <silva.diane.elisabeth@gmail.com>
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To: Reynolds, Mitch
Subject: Situation in the Marsh

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Dear Mayor Reynolds and City Council Members, I hope that you have read and seriously considered the many excellent letters that my neighbors at the Landings Condominiums have written. As accurately predicted, the number of tents in the marsh have been increasing and the conditions for the people living there are rough with risk of flooding, no clean water, no toilet facilities and no regular trash disposal. It must be miserable to live amongst the mosquitoes and marshy terrain.

It's also miserable to have our beautiful marsh become an area where trash and human waste are accumulating and trees are being cut down (a chain saw was heard recently). Clearly, illegal acts are occurring and this is no surprise since this was the situation at the riverfront encampment.

At the Landings, we have been watching for and logging the illegal activity. Many warranted calls have been made to 911 and the non-emergency police number. We have seen fires in the marsh, heard loud obscene language at all hours, seen a boat in the middle of the night on the river that stops by the tents, heard a chain saw and gun shots, needles have been found along the trails and drug deals have been witnessed in our vicinity.

I am grateful for our police and fire departments for responding and it must be difficult since the tents are hidden in the marsh and some can only be accessed down muddy steep paths off the trail. It's not logical to support an area where people are living and there's obvious illegal activity and it is difficult for emergency services to respond. So, for how long will this situation, including miserable living conditions, illegal activities, and abuse of the environment, be allowed to continue? Apparently indefinitely since it's hidden in the marsh.

We, at the Landings, are 44 individual taxpaying households that are being ignored. None of you live here. We are not located at Riverside Park where tourists congregate. We are not a corporation that has a lawyer to defend our rights. We are not a riverboat company that might cancel their boats docking next to an area of illegal activity.

Please do not take the time to answer this letter. Instead, take the time to remedy this situation. Nothing is improving for the people living in the marsh or for those of us living in the vicinity.

Thank you for reading this letter,
Diane Silva
Resident at the Landings Condominiums

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