

Craig, Sondra

From: Jennifer Steele <jenniesteele82@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2024 9:16 AM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Board of Public Works Meeting June 3rd

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email to you today regarding the Board of Public Works meeting that is being held on Monday, June 3rd at 10am to vote on a potential ban on camping in the marsh. I am one of many community members who does not support a ban on camping in the marsh. If the marsh location is added to the Board of Public Works no camping list, there will be no more areas where people can camp to try and survive. As a member of the Alliance to Heal and an employee of a local nonprofit that works closely with the unsheltered population, this is very concerning. Greater efforts are being made to connect individuals to resources and when people are constantly moved from one location to another, it becomes difficult to locate them when opportunities arise for things like housing, employment, treatment, or other services. Other issues like increased overdose also becomes of greater concern because as people are forced to move constantly, they spread out more and start living in smaller groups or alone and if they suffer from substance abuse disorder they may use alone and are at much greater risk for overdose and subsequently death.

I would be at the meeting in person if I were not out of town, so I am sending this email instead, but this is a very important matter and affects many in our community. I have a family member who is one of our unsheltered as well and not everyone's story is the same. We have a serious housing problem in our community and our economy is struggling. Many community members suffer from mental health issues that have gone untreated and some people have lacked the resources & support to cope in effective ways, so they have found other ways/methods to do so. I'm hoping that if the marsh can no longer be an option that the City finds an alternative before placing a ban on camping in the marsh. Everything takes time and some of the people we talk to multiple times per week are filling out applications and going to appointments and have been on waitlists without any movement. I would just like to remind everyone that IT IS FREE TO BE KIND.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest Regards,

Jennie Steele