

Craig, Sondra

From: Paul LaBrosse <prlabrosse@gmail.com>
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To: ZZ City Clerk External
Cc: vkreyer@uwlax.edu
Subject: In support of resolution File #24-0701

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I have become aware of the situation involving several families located at the Rivercrest Village in Lacrosse. As a close and personal friend of Ms. Virginia Kreyer and Mr. Rick Warren, I find their situation to be unreasonable. As a couple living on modest fixed income, they have lived at 4806 Rivercrest Drive for 18 years. They bought the 4 bedroom manufactured home from the former owners in 2006 because it was the best and most affordable option for them. They were able to pay off the mortgage on the original \$62,000 purchase, keep up with necessary improvements, replacements and updates. They replaced all roofing, siding and broken windows and screens and upgraded from vinyl skirting to a sturdier metal skirting. They recently replaced the aging furnace and ac with a new HVAC system. They have maintained and repaired the roofing and decks as needed, and replaced the plastic skylight with a full frame skylight. Over the past 18 years they planted 8 trees and watched them grow from saplings to full grown. They also added landscaping and gardens, averaging \$200 or more a year. In addition to the new \$6000 HVAC, they recently replaced the hot water heater and purchased new appliances (stove and refrigerator).

The prospect of losing their home is a devastating loss, financially and in every other way. They will never find housing this affordable at their age. Because of the way this happened they can't sell their home in order to buy another, nor do they have the income or time to save or prepare financially to do this.

They are losing all security, physical and financial. The money they have saved will in no way cover the removal and securing of another safe and affordable place for their home and property. They can't afford to deal with this crisis and live anywhere else.

The onus and burden of this enforced removal, with no provision for help and assistance, is tearing away their forever home, security in the present and future, and leaving them with no good options for recuperating from this loss.

Ginny and Rick have been upstanding citizens of Lacrosse for many years, working in and supporting the community. Ginny first moved to LaCrosse in the 1970's after graduating from St. Teresa's college and leaving the convent of Assisi Heights in Rochester, MN. She found a community in LaCrosse and began a long career of service to it. Ginny was very proud to work at the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse's library where she began working in 1979. She began her career as support staff and over many years worked to become a paraprofessional library service worker. In that role she had the opportunity to serve her local community and school

and found fulfillment in supporting underserved members of the community. She was a tireless advocate for women and specifically worked to promote opportunities for women in leadership roles throughout her career.

In addition to her service to the UW-L campus community, she held many roles within her local AFSCME Union including acting secretary in the early 2000s. Through various leadership roles she served hundreds of Wisconsin service and support workers.

In recognition of her years of service, in 2001, she was honored by YMCA's tribute to outstanding women in the category of support staff. This award is bestowed annually to "community members who have made important contributions to women and to the greater La Crosse Community".

After many years of service to the community, Ginny retired in 2012 with her partner Rick Warren. The two of them have lived in their current home for 18 years, it was the first home they had ever purchased together and they were incredibly proud of it. That pride was obvious in their beautifully crafted gardens. In the last decade they have invested their meager retirement income into updating their home to serve them for their golden years. It was in their wonderful LaCrosse community they were so proud to be a part of and whom they had served for so many years.

Staying close allowed Ginny to stay on in a volunteer capacity with the University where she could continue to review scholarship applications work which she continues to this day. This vocation brings her ongoing fulfillment as she continues to serve campus students and support those who need additional assistance. In her retirement years Ginny has also volunteered within her church community and supports several community members needing physical assistance. She has remained an advocate for minority communities and supported various organizations in improving community support and access to resources for underprivileged communities.

I firmly believe that the city must come to some agreement with the affected families and specifically, Ginny and Rick. Please consider them in your planning of General Location Parcel 17-50325-200, 5050 Mormon Coulee Rd, Council District #13. North end of River Crest Village. They deserve a reasonable outcome of the situation. Some possible solutions as I see them are:

1. Continue leasing the property to the River Crest Village.
2. Lease the property to the individuals at the village at a reasonable price.
3. Sell the property to the individuals at the village at a reasonable price.
4. If removal of homes are absolutely needed, financial assistance and relocation assistance is a must as well as time to allow it to get done.
5. And finally, reimbursing the families for their home on all that they have spent over the years.

Please consider as you move forward with plans.
Respectfully,

Paul LaBrosse, retired engineer

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