

Craig, Sondra

From: Morris210 P <tpotaracke518@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 7:18 PM
To: JANSSEN@cityoflacrosse.org; Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; ZZ Council Members; Reynolds, Mitch
Cc: Morris210 P
Subject: La Crosse, Wisconsin Unsheltered Population Thoughts/Input

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Dear Dedicated Public Servants, council members, mayor, department heads and teams,

We have not found the solution that fits . . . yet.

The solution is NOT a park. The solution is not a hotel or any other nonpublic asset for accommodation. Yes, I believe it needs to be a public or nonprofit facility, but I am not certain a perfect place exists. What do the experts think? What do the persons versed in these types of populations advise?

We all have needs, as Maslow said there are certain needs as human beings: food, water, shelter. However, how many parks, trails, or additional facilities are we going to allow to be trashed.

Many of the unsheltered are addicts and cannot function or reason appropriately. Therefore make bad choices that affect all of us in the community. We even have infiltration of this population south to the southern edges of the city.

Many lack even a basic level of self-respect as evidenced by their inability to clean up themselves and their 'camping' area, find work, follow through with agencies dedicated to assist: Salvation Army, churches, Catholic Charities, food van, HIV clinic van, etc.

How do we, how can we help this needy population? I do not know, but we need to. We must for the future of our great city and our children, families, populations, and beyond.

Do we have a building we can place them into which can be hosed down, sanitized, cleaned periodically, yet which can facilitate oversight, hygiene, auditing of health, needs, security, additions, etc. Different level of need on different floors/areas.

I do believe part of the solution should be the nonprofit organizations whose mission is to help and house the poor, etc. as they are exempt from paying taxes for this mission but I am not sure they are equipped to facilitate this population and their vast and varied needs.

It breaks my heart to see what goes on each and every day from the building I work in which is directly proximal to the marsh unsheltered population: needles, cars/bikes/vans/parts/trash clogging up sidewalk, streets, parking lots; intimidation and unsecure routes to our parking lots/vehicles/outdoor spaces; filth, garbage, profanity, seedy behaviors in plain view of all populations; requisite warnings to visitors to our beautiful city to be aware of these populations as they could be offensive and violent; threatening, and unseemly; blood and other body fluids on our business thoroughfares, garbage, drug paraphernalia, etc. on these same areas has prompted increased lighting and security cameras. Observations of dump trucks, skid steers, and other equipment; our police and fire personnel, auditing entities, HIV agency, food agencies, etc.

It saddens me to see the city I have called my home for over 55 years treated with such disrespect and lacking in value to these human beings; it distresses me to see the children and pets under duress because of the choices, or not, of their legal guardian(s).

I believe this population needs to be housed in a building, with 24/7 monitors; a facility capable of periodic disinfection and cleaning; and these people if they are to be housed there need to comply; if not then they need to leave our city.

How? Where? who?

Not parks or trails as we tried that;

not a hotel as we tried that.

do the unsheltered have a collective voice/representative person/group? where do they think they should be housed? how do they think they should be treated? What responsibility are they willing to accept and live up to in order to receive services and shelter?

Compromise.

Logical Consequences.

Positive/negative reinforcement.

Thank you for all of your time and work, effort and frustration. I am at a loss for the 'right thing to do'. There has to be a way... I know we cannot continue the way it is or our city will be destroyed.

Tammy Potaracke

Lifelong La Crosse Resident

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