

**Craig, Sondra**

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**From:** Neva Von Haden <nevam@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 8:59 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** City Council July 11 Agenda Packet

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Dear Council Members,

The flood waters have temporarily lessened some of the issues we have had with screaming, profanity, and obvious violence, occurring day and night in the encampments behind our building (across the water from the Jim Asfoor Trail and adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Trail). Even so, we still hear yelling there, and we've watched men wheel carts of scrap lumber to where the camping is still allowed. We can hear the hammering, fortifying their camp where they manage to find dry locations.

We also witness an ever-increasing crowd of tents on the Vietnam Veterans trail, behind River Architects. It is pretty shocking that this is allowed to happen. People wanting to use that trail choose to stay off of it. Those who haven't traversed it before end up turning back when they see what's ahead. Visitors to Riverside Park are warned not to go there, whether by foot or by bike, because of the risk of aggression, solicitation, unlicensed and unvaccinated dogs, or worse. One of our residents recently witnessed a drug deal outside the River Architects building. People sleep between that building and the Bosshard-Parke Law Office building. At least one person from the group actually parks a car in the cul-de-sac in front of those two professional buildings, coming and going with her pitbull. This same woman has been seen, multiple times, tying that dog to a tree on our property while she goes into Festival. It barks incessantly until she returns.

There has been quite a parade of trash floating down the river behind us, including now-abandoned tents.

At some point the flooding will recede, and as it does, campers will reinfiltate and reestablish their hold on this area of the marsh, and the calls to emergency departments will increase.

Something must be done to keep the peace in this marshland and in our neighborhood, to keep people from camping on the public trails, to enforce license laws for dogs, and to reduce the pollution. Waiting five years for Pathways Home is ridiculous. Moving campers who are causing trouble 500 feet every 12 hours hardly seems realistic. It would be best to prohibit camping in the marsh (I, myself, would be screaming and fighting if I had to live in there.), and designate two or three areas in or out of the city, with bathrooms, running water and trash pickup - somewhere where emergency personnel do not have to traverse jungle-like environs to reach them, and where they are not affecting the value and the quality of life of a neighborhood. If anyone WANTS to be part of Pathways Home, they will not go missing.

Thank you,

Neva Von Haden  
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