

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:26 PM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: Camping ordinance on agenda

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**From:** Dickinson, Tamra <[dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:25 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members <[ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Camping ordinance on agenda

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**From:** Sampson, Brian <[sampsonb@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:sampsonb@cityoflacrosse.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:30 PM  
**To:** Dickinson, Tamra <[dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Camping ordinance on agenda

Hi Council member,

Thank you for reaching out for my perspective on the matter. This topic has been highly debated throughout the country with many jurisdictions exploring this approach.

I certainly understand some of the community's frustrations about the number of unsheltered individuals and how some of them treat the property they're on. If we accomplish what we set out to in the five-year plan to address homelessness, that stress will be greatly reduced.

In the meantime, the research has shown that writing tickets, arresting people, or disbaring them from public spaces is an ineffective method to address the issue. People still have the same need for a place to exist and they turn to even more dangerous corners of our community such as by rivers, under bridges, and in other isolated corners. This makes it more difficult for service providers to connect with them and help them get services and housing when it becomes available. It also makes people susceptible to overdose deaths and other medical conditions—we've already had over 20 overdose deaths in La Crosse this year (an astronomically high number), with a lot of the deaths being people who were homeless or previously homeless.

The communities that have had success addressing unsheltered homelessness have created acceptable, safe, and legal places people can be (i.e. housing) instead of creating places people can't be.

In summary, I don't see how this ordinance would be helpful to the larger quest at hand which is to ultimately help folks get out of the parks and streets altogether and into housing or shelter.

Please feel free to share my input with other city council members, as you are the first to ask my opinion.

Also, please let me know if you have any other questions related to anything homeless-related.

Thank you,

Brian Sampson

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**From:** Dickinson, Tamra <[dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 11:48:48 AM

**To:** Sampson, Brian <[sampsonb@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:sampsonb@cityoflacrosse.org)>

**Subject:** Camping ordinance on agenda

Mr. Sampson,

Thank you for your presentation on June 6. I represent District 1 on the Northside of LaCrosse. I received a few phone calls from disgruntled residents with concerns about behaviors of unsheltered near them.

I would like to know your opinion on the revision of the camping ordinance.

Do you believe this revision is valuable or helpful?

I am getting several opposition letters as are the other council members.

Any insights are appreciated,

Tamra Dickinson, District 1, council member