

Craig, Sondra

From: Trevor Yeoman <trevoryeoman034@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:37 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Camping Ban

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Council members,

As a longtime resident and property owner I am writing to try and appeal to your humanity when it comes to our unhoused population. We need solutions, this much is clear, and what else is clear is this body of government is the source of the issue.

I have spent some time pouring over the many letters you have gotten and the suggested ideas that will be in front of you tomorrow, and I come away disappointed. It seems you have failed to find proper locations for housing the homeless before considering banning camping. One of the locations suggested in the packet available is an old county lot, that you then note you haven't spoken to the county about and will need their permission. This is absolutely ridiculous. You have already partnered with the county to implement a long-term plan for solving our current crisis, I'm curious why you do not try and stick to said plan.

I understand housing can be difficult to find, but you do have many options available that are currently city owned. As mentioned in your packet the old Fire Station #2 is currently unoccupied and has resources available almost immediately for 30 unhoused individuals. I've also seen some letters suggesting the old K-Mart. It has sat empty for what seems like nearly a decade, and the current owner seems to constantly make excuses for why it hasn't been developed. Is that not a solution that could be amicable?

My plea is to not ban camping before you can find a solution. Many of you have been on council for years and have seen multiple other buildings fall through, including places like the old Maple Grove Hotel or the old Marine Credit Union headquarters which also remain empty to this day.

As many have also messaged you, the camping has been detrimental to our community and is traumatic for the people involved. A solution needs to be found, but you have already agreed to help implement the Pathways Home with the county, so I implore you to stick to that. Sending the police on a wild goose chase to every newly illegal homeless encampment will not be a solution but only create more distrust in our wonderful community and waste even more valuable resources.

Thank you for your time,

Trevor Yeoman - La Crosse District 1 resident