

Elsen, Nikki

From: Elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org
Subject: FW: Homeless Encampment on the Marsh

From: 7 <kentonjan@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 4:30 PM
To: Reynolds, Mitch <reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>
Cc: Trane, Andrea <tranea@cityoflacrosse.org>; Hawkins, Chadwick <hawkinsc@cityoflacrosse.org>; Gallagher, Matthew <gallagerm@cityoflacrosse.org>; Schwarz, Rebecca <schwarzr@cityoflacrosse.org>; Dickinson, Tamra <dickinsont@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Homeless Encampment on the Marsh

You don't often get email from kentonjan@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

***** CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *******

Mayor Reynolds and Members of the Board of Public Works,

As a newer resident of The Landings Condominiums I am writing to express my concern about the growing homeless population who seem to be moving into the marsh area by the La Crosse river across from my building. I know you have heard from a number of other residents as well as our board members. My late husband and I moved here in 2022 from our home across from Powell Park where we lived for 43 years. We were acutely aware of the homeless issues impacting our former neighborhood, and now face the same issues in our new location.

The city seems to be paralyzed about actively addressing the immediate issues of the homeless situation other than pushing them from one location to another. I know the city has a long term plan, but unless short term issues are addressed our community's safety and health will be in jeopardy. I understand that a "no camping" ordinance was passed, but it's parameters need to be expanded.

My understanding is that the marsh is a DNR protected area owned by the City and other entities. Our community has invested in hiking and biking trails that transverse the marsh which has been enjoyed by all of our citizens. The "campers" create a danger/obstruction to that enjoyment - I see fewer and fewer people using these trails as they feel intimidated and threatened by the filth and litter, and sometimes the "in your face" physical presence of people who are basically squatters. There is nothing right about this. The residents of my building contribute around \$250,000+ annually to the tax roll of this city and we like most citizens don't appreciate the huge expenditures the city is having to make to clean up after the mess left behind.

I don't pretend to know what the solution is, but it seems that an extension and enforcement of the no-camping ordinances to this area and others would be an important first step to avert what is sure to be a repeat of Houska Park if left unaddressed.

Time is of the essence. I know a number of people in my building have provided all the requested information such as affected parcel numbers to bring this issue to the Board of Public Works for a vote. It is imperative to invoke the no-camping ordinance to protect our beautiful marshlands, our

citizens, and the interests of the City. Now it is up to you, our local government officials to do your job while continuing to seek solutions to address the longer term needs of the homeless population. I believe you can and must serve and protect the interests of all.

Janet Koppelman
14 Copeland Ave #205
608-615-9592