

Craig, Sondra

From: Kelly <kellysueleibold@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 1:44 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; Janssen, Barb
Subject: The importance of sticking to the Pathways Home Plan

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Good afternoon La Crosse City Council members,

As a Supervisor on the La Crosse County Board I look forward to our city/ county partnership in addressing homelessness in an urgent and sustainable way. Not only is the Pathways Home plan (and the outreach team on a weekly basis) building relationships and collecting robust data, but we have already housed half a dozen individuals within just a few months of the plan's rollout. Not only are we, the city and county, collaborating on this plan, but we have dozens of partner agencies and organizations around the table connecting folks with services and supports.

With that in mind, I think the proposal to ban all camping in the City of La Crosse is detrimental to the Pathways Home plan and I encourage you to vote against it at the meeting on Thurs Aug 8. I encourage you to stray away from fear mongering and focus on forward thinking. Again, we already have a sustainable, data-driven and coordinated response in place.

Not only do I wear my County Board Supervisor hat, but I recently started a new job with the Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region. I had the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Collaborative for Affordable Housing's 'A Home for Everyone' conference a few weeks ago and really resonated with the message of collaboration over competition. As many have experienced, there's not enough supply to match population growth, which is exasperated by changing market dynamics. Partnerships across this industry will enable more affordable, accessible, and quality housing to thrive.

Along with Mayor Mitch Reynolds, the mayor of Madison Satya Rhodes Conway was well spoken during a panel suggesting some affordable housing solutions, supporting "the right type of density in the right place" by eliminating parking minimums and minimum lot sizes, allowing accessory dwelling units, using sustainable and energy efficient construction, connecting tenants with resources, and adapting more flexible development agreements that give communities more say. We also heard about homelessness from those with the National Homelessness Law Center and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Housing is a human right and unfortunately we're currently breaking that social contract. The misconceptions around permanent supportive housing fail to recognize the "housing first" approach is coupled with comprehensive, wrap-around services. Stable, sustainable housing pays long-term dividends to our communities and local economies.

Please consider voting against the camping ban next week. Hope you're doing well and staying safe. Thanks for all you do in our community, fostering a La Crosse area region where folks can thrive, not just survive.

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