

Craig, Sondra

From: JGLA Rice <ricegirliesj@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 1:14 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Support 32-5 (6/8/23)

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Dear City Council members,

I am writing to express my support of ordinance 32–5 regarding camping on city owned property. I am a renter in downtown city of La Crosse, fairly new to the area, having lived here for about two years. I have experienced situation's here in the city of La Crosse, that I never experienced in the city of Madison, from where I moved and lived for 27 years. I often walk the beautiful Marsh trail system, in particular the Jim Asfoor trail near the Friendship garden. Over the two years, sadly, I've come across homeless men, living in tents in the woods and often times in the area, seeing many drug needles surrounding the tents. On numerous occasions I've had to turn around and go the opposite direction due to men, either mentally ill or on drugs, or both, acting erratically, screaming and swearing angrily on the path, making me feel very unsafe. Just this week, on June 7, as I walked on the path under the bridge near the Oktoberfest grounds, there was a person openly doing drugs as I walked by. The city parks and beautiful nature trails are for citizens to enjoy the outdoors and to get exercise and should not be used as a campground or even worse, a place to do drugs. There's no doubt there's a serious drug addicted homeless problem in the city of La Crosse that needs attention, but I hope La Crosse will not make a bad situation even worse. Please consider this as a voice in support of this ordinance.

Thank you for your service to the City of La Crosse.

Sincerely,
Jenny Rice