

Elsen, Nikki

From: Diane Silva <silva.diane.elisabeth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:00 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Camping in the marsh

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Dear Council Members,

I am a resident at the Landings condo building and I spoke at the Board of Public Works meeting regarding the issue of allowing camping in the marsh. This is unregulated camping without any toilet facilities, clean water or rules.

As city officials, I believe you are accountable to the residents of La Crosse. Here are my questions:

Did you not realize when the Riverfront encampment was closed that the campers would then relocate into the marsh?

Did you not realize that the same problems that occurred in the Riverfront encampment would continue throughout the marsh?

*These problems include trash and human waste accumulation, drug use, 24/7 noise including foul language and fires.

Is it fair for our residents and visitors that now our beautiful marsh trails no longer feel safe to access?

Have you walked the marsh trails and closely looked at what is happening?

Would you allow laws to not be followed in your neighborhood regarding drug use, trash accumulation, noise, public urination/defecation and fires?

Homelessness is of course a complex issue but not a new one in La Crosse. People are being shuffled around because there has been no definitive action. Does it take 60 days to delineate the city owned parcels in the marsh and to realize that the same situation is happening in the marsh as at the Riverfront encampment? As time goes by, the problems are greatly increasing.

Sincerely,
Diane Silva

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