

Elsen, Nikki

From: Johanna Jorgenson <johannarayeee@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 7:10 PM
To: Elsen, Nikki
Subject: Rezoning of the New Franciscan Community Resource Center

*** 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. ***

Hello,

My name is Johanna Jorgenson, and I am currently working with Catholic Charities in the COVID Shelter for the homeless. While I am still new to working with this population and am learning about their struggles and how to help them find housing and possible employment, I know that I can be doing more. And the city of La Crosse *can do more*.

Recently, there has been talk about the concerns at Cameron Park (or as many people call it, Squirrel Park). There have been complaints from families who wish to take their children to play, complaints from vendors at the farmers market, and from many others. And the city's response to these complaints has been to ticket the homeless people in the park for not leaving when asked. They aren't given an alternative place to go; they're just told to go.

I know many resources have been at the park to help these people get housing and such, but when you tell them they need to leave the one place resources know where to find them, you are adding to the problem, not reducing it.

It is incredibly important for our homeless (and low income) community for the Franciscan Community Resource Center to be built. It will offer a place for these people to go to get the assistance they need in order to find homes. Also, with more resources in the same place, both community assistance as well as our homeless community won't have to scramble to find a place to meet. Having this community resource center will also allow our Warming Center to allow more people in during the winter. Especially with COVID-19 right now, it is incredibly important to be able to have more available room to allow more guests in and still follow the county's guidelines to safe social distancing.

All of these factors will help not only our disserved homeless community, but it will also help reduce any problems the general population has with the homelessness in Cameron Park. And it will not only help to reduce the homeless population, but it will also help to *prevent* new homelessness.

I wholly support the rezoning of the property located at 508 South 5th Ave. so that Catholic Charities can provide services to those in need in our community.

Thank you,
Johanna Jorgenson