

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Mandi Peterson <mandimc23@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:18 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** Opposed to opening parcels for camping Aug. 8th Agenda

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Good Afternoon,

I apologize for sending this email last minute but would like my voice to be heard. While the homeless population within the city limits is an issue and I empathize for everyone trying to find an alternative we can all agree on, I am deeply opposed to the idea of allowing "camping" within parcels of the city of La Crosse. I take my 3 young children (4 and under) to several of these areas alone and worry that allowing homeless camps into these areas jeopardize my safety and my children's safety. My husband and I also have a boat at the Municipal boat landing and I will not feel safe bringing my family to that area. We spend our weekends in La Crosse and on the river. We bring our extended families to this city and enjoy restaurants and recreational areas of La Crosse. If I need to worry about my family and the young children in my extended family also being exposed to unpredictable behaviors and safety, we will not spend our time to La Crosse any longer.

Concerns:

Safety and ability to ensure safety. Law enforcement is already hard to hire and keep employed. There is likely going to be an increase in theft, vandalism and violence.

Littering and sanitation (including drug paraphernalia and dirty needles) increasing in these areas.

Mental illness of campers and unpredictable behaviors.

Drugs and alcohol use and consumption, again increasing unsafe conditions.

Negatively impact local businesses and decline in community engagement. If this is permitted, my family and extended family will not be coming my into the community any longer. I am sure that many others will be following suit.

Final comments-

I truly hope this is not allowed, there is not much we can do if it is permitted. If this ordinance is not allowed, I do hope a better solution can be found that does not jeopardize the city, our families and the community. I am on board with figuring out something for these folks, I just don't agree with openly allowing free camping in our parks or within the city.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Mandi Peterson

Sent from my iPhone