From: Bonnie Roe
To: City County Homeless Issues Committee
Subject: Agenda #3
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:00:28 PM

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Dear Members of the City-County Homeless Issues Committee,

I am writing in opposition to repealing section 6(a) and (b). Some are trying to say that this section is redundant, but that is not the case. Section 6(a) and (b) offer protections for both property owner and those who might sleep on public or private property. The requirement for prior permission before sleeping on someone else's property is a safeguard against a number of potential scenarios, among them conflicts, acts of vigilantism, and dog attacks if someone is sleeping on property without the owner's knowledge or consent.

We also know that sleeping outdoors is not safe or lawful.

In an interview for the article linked below, Community Development Director Jim O'Keefe, said, "With or without this provision, it is not safe, or lawful, to camp or live outdoors on public or (without the owner's consent) private property. In recent years, the City has invested millions of dollars to expand, improve and maintain Madison's shelter facilities and create the City's first legal campground at Dairy Drive. Further, the City supports, financially and otherwise, the efforts of community partners, like Catalyst for Change and Madison Street Medicine, to encourage people to take advantage of those facilities, or otherwise connect them to other resources that help meet basic short-term needs (food, transportation, etc.) and, ultimately, secure stable housing."

https://www.channel3000.com/news/advocates-say-section-of-madison-trespassing-ordinance-harms-those-experiencing-homelessness/article_31ac331e-37f9-11ee-9357-575900ce7ad2.html#:~:text=Section%206(b)%20of%20Madison's,on%20the%20property%20of%20another

Please vote to recommend that Common Council keep section 6 as part of the Unlawful Trespass ordinance for the safety of all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bonnie Roe

District 11