

From: Stacey Williams <swilliams6681@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:20 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Homeless encampments

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Hello all,

I would like to ask all of you to OPPOSE agenda item 2 (resolution 62393) at tonight's Public Safety committee meeting.

Aside from the obvious fact that it is unconscionable to mess with our houseless neighbors' hard-won survival arrangements in the middle of a pandemic and an economic crisis, we are talking here about rescinding an emergency order for an emergency that IS NOT OVER. Our record-setting COVID numbers speak for themselves on that matter.

If the concern that prompts this proposal is indeed that the homeless population has better options that they are not using, then the solution is to do a better job of helping them access these options, not to lapse back into privileged NIMBY behaviors like deploying police to break up camps.

Thank you for your time,

Stacey Williams

Madison resident, Emerson East (within spitting distance of Demetral Park, and perfectly content with whoever needs to use it for shelter)

From: liz b <elizabet.bruno@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:26 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: OPPOSE Rescinding Emergency order #2

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Dear honorable council members.

I am sickened to my core to be writing this letter, enraged and disappointed. It is unfathomable to consider enforcing the illegality of homelessness at this time of locally spreading pandemic, moving into the frozen season. Targeting those most vulnerable and executing them to a situation filled with danger of infection is no solution. It is with sad eyes I read the twisted frame of this resolution to Rescind Emergency order #2. The words sound so nice and pleasant, we talk about safety and neighborhoods. Well, maybe it is time to look deeper, Madison and stop covering the sickness of racism and anti-poor public policy and culture with sweet words and money for studies..

In what reality does enforcing the illegality of homelessness support the elimination of homelessness?

In what reality will those of you in decision making seats finally listen to and adapt to the research this proud city is so fond of funding?

We know housing first initiatives are the most powerful way to eliminate homelessness. A recent study in Vancouver found offering \$7500 to 50 random homeless people led to decreased drug usage, increased food security and stable housing and employment for the majority of recipients. Each person off the streets saves over \$8,000 in public services.

Continuing to criminalize homelessness only perpetuates the problems. Charging people with money they don't have, draining services from the city, putting police in positions they have no training for, relying on jails as housing. This is insanity.

I hear a concern in the proposal brought forth by Samba Baldeh and Zachary Henaka about safety of neighborhood people.

Does it make anyone more safe to outsource safety to the hands of police? Clearly not for all bodies. Is it really a long term solution? I don't think so. It's not even a short term solution!! Our neighborhoods need more skills at dealing with the conflicts and concerns coming up without calling in guns and jails to solve solutions better served by redistribution of wealth and belonging. We need to stop blaming those most vulnerable and take some personal responsibility.

I appreciate your time and hope you can stand up for real solutions, as uncomfortable as facing reality can be

Elizabeth Bruno

Lake Edge neighborhood
4109 Drexel Ave,
Madison WI 53716

From: CAROLINE SYLVIA BLOCK KLESSIG <csklessig@wisc.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:31 PM

To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: It is Unconscionable to Make Camping Illegal in the City of Madison

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To whom it may concern:

To make camping illegal in Madison will cause direct harm to the city's homeless population. It is unconscionable to make camping illegal in the city without an abundant support network of alternatives where these human beings can be housed, fed, and taken care of.

I demand that this action is halted for the sake of this vulnerable population.

Sincerely,
Caroline Klessig

From: Adrienne Pagac <adrienne.pagac@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:37 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Regarding the Encampments of People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

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Good afternoon.

I have recently learned that a resolution sits before you concerning the encampments of people currently experiencing homelessness. It is my understanding that there are over 200 people sleeping in tents, cars, and campers throughout the city - a number *well beyond* the capacity available to shelter them elsewhere. It is also my understanding that some would not qualify for this assistance because they do not meet an age threshold or they do not present with the comorbidities required to qualify.

It is unconscionable to pass a resolution that would further criminalize those harmed by the lack of affordable housing in our community and/or by the economic dislocations wrought by the pandemic. Until such time that the city can provide adequate (and safe) housing for people that are unhoused, the city council should not pass a resolution that would do so. Rather than tackle this issue as a *community*, this resolution smacks of NIMBYism (at least for those fortunate enough to have their own yards). But that is part of the very problem, isn't it?

Utterly gutted,
Adrienne Pagac
Resident - Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighborhood

From: Erika Schneider <erika.schneider@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Erika Schneider <erika.schneider@gmail.com>
Subject: Emergency Camping Order

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to extend the Temporary Encampment Orders until alternative housing solutions are in place for people experiencing homelessness.

We can all agree that camping outside in Wisconsin in winter is very dangerous and unacceptable. However, people experiencing homelessness have no where else to go right now. The shelters are filled to capacity and the city is operating a long waiting list for those that are eligible for hotels. Offering the parks as an alternative place to stay is the least we can do for our very vulnerable neighbors. Breaking up the encampments will disconnect people from service providers that regularly visit and spread people throughout the city and into different parks.

Please do not criminalize homelessness!

Thank you for attention to this matter,
Erika Schneider

From: K Darcy <drstarbuck@aim.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:50 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Tent encampment issue

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It is *unconscionable* to make camping illegal in the City of Madison if there is no legal place to sleep and legal alternatives. We are living in unprecedented times. Please work together toward a solution!

Thank you,

Karen Darcy
Madison, WI

From: Daniel Bomberg <dbomberg1794@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:56 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba

<district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Don't End Temporary Camping in Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dan Bomberg and I live at 941 E Gorham St. Apt. 1 Madison, WI 53703. I'm writing to state Madison should not end temporary camping the city. During a time of mass unemployment and housing precarity, people need the option to camp as a form of shelter.

Sincerely,
Dan

From: Jessica D <jessdufault@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 5:18 PM

To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Camping in Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

It is unconscionable to even consider making camping illegal in the City of Madison ESPECIALLY if there are no legal places to sleep and other alternatives. Unless we have the capacity to help rehouse and support those most impacted by COVID and other current economic hardships!

Thanks for doing the right thing by actually taking the time to envision and implement alternatives for homelessness vs criminalizing it!

Jessica Dufault

From: Baldeh, Samba

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 5:40 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Strange, John <JStrange@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>; Skidmore, Paul <district9@cityofmadison.com>; Henak, Zachary <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes, Linette

<LRhodes@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Rescinding Emergency Order #2 Legislative file # 62393

Hi All -

I am sure many of you have received either direct emails or as part of a commission group about this issue. I just wanted to give some background and the intent of the resolution. I hope this will help to clear some of the misinformation out there. Nothing in this resolution involves the police or criminalizing homelessness. I think we all should agree that the parks are not the best alternatives we have out there. Government should be accountable to all its citizens not just a few. No American should sleep outside particularly in these brutal winter months.

Background:

On May 6, 2020, Mayor Rhodes-Conway issued an emergency order establishing Temporary Permissible

Encampments (TPE) of homeless persons in city parks.

This order contravenes three city ordinances, one zoning ordinance and a state law- all prohibit camping in municipal parks.

Since the order allowing TPEs, large campgrounds have been established in Reindahl, James Madison and Central Parks.

Activities in the campgrounds have resulted in numerous police calls for disturbances and including a homicide in Reindahl Park and arson of tents in James Madison Park.

Comments:

The Mayor's order to move homeless individuals from a city shelter to the parks created a set of new problems without resolving the issue of disease contagion. Throughout much of the spring and summer

many of our parks have become "off-limits" to city residents as fights, drug use and other behaviors became common.

Common sense and long-standing city ordinances and policies state the obvious: city parks are not for camping. Parks officials acknowledge that areas that have been camped will be ruined for other use for years to come. Just as parks that have been crime scenes will be avoided by local residents for many years.

As winter approaches, the city must aggressively seek state and county funds to house as many of these individuals as possible. This resolution is in no way written to criminalize any homeless person.

Proposal:

1. Rescind the Mayor's emergency order
2. City staff are directed to enforce the City's ordinances regarding camping in the City's parks and prioritize enforcement actions In encampments where there are numerous police calls for service.
3. City staff will work with Dane County and local community outreach providers to assist the occupants of the encampments in obtaining support and other, more humane housing options. This includes identifying county and state assistance through the federal CARES Act.
4. City staff shall prepare a report for the Council that assesses the extent of the impact of camping sites on the City's parks, that details existing housing options for those experiencing homelessness.
5. Find immediate solutions to take the burden off of Warner Park Community Center which is not suitable as a long-term shelter. I believe this option is already on works.

Thank you.

Alder Samba Baldeh
MCC - District 17
Email: district17@cityofmadison.com
Phone: 608-501-1424
www.cityofmadison.com/council/district17

From: Gail Bliss <gail3511@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 6:13 PM

To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>; Martin, Arvina <district11@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Protect vulnerable individuals, do not eliminate encampments on public land, including parks.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please consider this email as written comments strenuously opposing ending temporary camping in the city of Madison at this time.

I am horrified that the response to homeless people camping in parks in the middle of a pandemic, during an economic crisis and eviction crisis is to demand people be kicked out of the parks. The SOLUTION is to create adequate emergency shelter and long term to create adequate

affordable housing. Kicking people out of the parks isn't even a bandaid - it is hiding the problem and burying our heads in the sand.

The CDC calls for allowing emergency camping during this pandemic. With groups of people camping on appropriate areas of public land, Social Service agencies can provide support services and attempt to help people find housing. Forcing people out of the encampments scatters them making them harder to serve, and NOT solving the problem of inadequate emergency shelter and housing.

Useful actions would be the creation of additional shelter for families, shelter for couples, shelter for people with service animals, nontraditional shelters like the second tiny house village, and additional day shelter space, so that people can be safe and sheltered during this pandemic. All of this is work that needs to happen to keep people safe this winter.

Thank you
Gail Bliss
5309 Regent St

From: Amelia Royko Maurer <roykomaurer@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Urgent

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear All,

It is unconscionable and lazy to ban homeless people from camping in parks when there is no better housing alternative for them. Please consult with housing experts Brenda Konkel and Heidi Wegleitner and find them a better alternative. That is your job!

Thank you,

Amelia Royko Maurer.

From: John Newman <john.ch.newman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7:08 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please leave the homeless people alone

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear distinguished members of the City Council,

I am furious that you would choose to try to kick people out of homeless encampments.

I think if you want to remove people from a specific given area, you should be obligated to provide them with a new area they can go. Obviously the shelters are full, or not usable for another reason. You should talk to the homeless first, and ask them what they need.

There are empty and abandoned buildings here in Madison. Why aren't we using them to house the homeless?

I'm sure landowners have reasons why they want to remove American Citizens who are struggling from our public parks, but they never provide an answer to where they should go. It seems like they don't want to house the homeless, they just want to get rid of the homeless.

I've been homeless. You cannot get your life back on track without someone helping you. Homelessness is a cliff with few ledges all too far apart, and the only way to get back to stable ground is if someone throws you a rope.

I have now rented for 6.5 years in a row, and never missed a rent payment. I was able to get that way because at least 3 independant citizens helped me, and a few family members. All of this after being homeless in the winter of 2013.

Imagine if we had a robust housing system to help the homeless in our city. Imagine the productivity we could see in our city.

We need more compassion, and less billy clubs.

Best Wishes,
John C. Newman
404 Algoma St. Apt. 1
Madison, WI 53704

From: tanya cohen <tanya_cohen@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 8:41 PM

To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Vote accordingly: Inconscionable to make camping illegal in the City of Madison if there is no legal place to sleep and legal alternatives.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear committee members: I understand that you have a resolution before you to end camping in the city of Madison. Right now there is an (under) estimated over 200 people sleeping in tents, cars and campers throughout the city. If the resolution were to pass, there are not enough spaces in shelter to accommodate everyone and there are waiting lists for those who qualify to get into hotels. Many do not qualify because they are not older or have one of the 7 CDC underlying conditions. Please do not pass this resolution breaking up encampments that goes against CDC recommendations. We should not be criminalizing homelessness and making existing without a home illegal until there is sufficient shelter and hotel space to accommodate everyone seeing a place to get 8 hours of sleep.

Respectfully,

Tanya Cohen
1459 East Main St. #210
Madison WI 53703

From: Emerson Boettcher <emerson.boettcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 1:33 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; dictrict20@cityofmadison.com
Subject: Tent Communities

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Madison, WI, and was on a run and noticed the homeless population tent community by McPike Park. I was heartbroken. I decided to do some further research, to see if there was more word from the City of Madison on plans to prevent and fight against homelessness, as homelessness is a *policy choice*.

I then stumbled upon the city's plans to outlaw several tent communities that are around town. It is unconscionable to do this until you recognize housing as a human right, and provide it.

Stop criminalizing homelessness. Criminalize the policies that allow it in the first place.

Emerson

From: Rachel Leigh Peller <rleighpeller@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:29 PM
To: PD PSRC <PDPSRC@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: SUPPORT encampment at McPike

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hey there,

I heard there was an effort tonight to remove people from their temporary shelter space at McPike Park, and I wanted to voice my **OPPOSITION TO THEIR REMOVAL**.

I'm a youngish, short white woman who has experienced sexual assault in my past.

I live in the Marquette neighborhood and have walked through and near McPike Park several times since the encampment. I feel very safe.

I strongly **support their right to seek shelter there**, especially since our city has not done enough to ensure affordable housing options.

--

Rachel Leigh Peller, MPA

she/her/hers

rleighpeller@gmail.com

224-217-1713

From: Tyler Schueffner <tyler.schueffner@briarpatch.org>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 8:49 AM

To: dpsrc@cityofmadison.com; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Equal Opportunities Commission <EOC@cityofmadison.com>; Baldeh, Samba <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Jay Kiefer <jay.kiefer@briarpatch.org>

Subject: Homeless Encampments In Madison Parks

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings,

I wanted to share comments regarding the discussion about city parks being used as homeless encampments.

I have been a homeless outreach worker for 14 years. I am currently the Coordinator of the Briarpatch Street Outreach Program which targets and serves teens and young adults up to age 24.

To say homelessness has been a challenge to this community is an understatement. Since I began this work, I have seen the issue get worse, more complicated, more dangerous, and more desperate. Our shelters are overwhelmed, outreach workers are burning out because the movement from homelessness to housing is slow and often nonexistent. Unfortunately, homeless services are often the catch all for other systems (Health care, county care,

treatment, etc.). The need for a community wide strategic plan for those unable to or unwilling to access the shelter system has long been due.

To those of us doing the work it feels like our city continues to push the marginalized further out and limit where they can stay. Since the beginning of the COVID crisis, outreach workers were asked for input, told the city was working on plans to help unsheltered homeless families and individuals, yet those plans were often slow and came with many restrictions. We were asked about our ideas and then repeatedly told those ideas were not viable. Meanwhile our consumers are caught in the middle, and left to fend for themselves, make decisions and set up camp where they can.

We are experiencing a public health crisis that hasn't happened in 100 years, and exceptions must be made for those most vulnerable. For the 15-20 homeless individuals causing problems in our parks and streets, hundreds are just trying to get by, often unseen or unknown to the community. Trust me, the outreach community knows that problems exist, and we are also painfully aware that we are not getting nearly the level of resources to address the issue effectively. We are some of the lowest paid and under resourced providers in the community. We cannot sustain the work we are doing and be asked to tell people to move and vacate parks and other places... which we are often asked to do, completely compromising our relationships with our homeless community.

I believe before any recommendations or proposals are made by any city commission or committee, that so deeply affects the lives and safety of our most vulnerable, members of the committee or commission join any one of the outreach teams and look the people in the eyes and tell them of the enforcement of such city ordinances. The City staff overseeing homeless services specifically Sarah Lim, and Torrie Klopp-Mueller have committed themselves to joining us, meeting the people, and gaining a full appreciation of the challenges we face as a community and as providers. It's time our representative leaders do the same.

In this current state of the world (specifically the political world), humanity is being compromised and viewed as a weakness and liability. Caring and empathy are without a doubt some of the most challenging qualities to practice, especially during times of dire straits. Please consider homelessness a public health crisis, in need of the same level of concern and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Tyler Schueffner

Briarpatch Street Outreach Program Coordinator

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