

From: [JACK K PHILLIPS](#)
To: [City County Homeless Issues Committee](#)
Subject: OPPOSE eviction and SUPPORT alternatives
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 4:31:16 PM

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

Hello,

I'm Jack Phillips, a graduate student at UW Madison and a representative on the Associated Students of Madison. I've been following the Reindahl story closely, and I'd like to voice my opposition to the eviction of the park's residents. Madison has a severe lack of infrastructure to aid unhoused community members- there's no program for establishing permanent housing despite continuous construction of luxury condos in the city, a resolution to acquire a more suitable building for a men's shelter was shot down by one vote the same week that the residents of Reindahl Park learned that their temporary permission for camping was rescinded, that same men's shelter was the site of human rights violations by Madison Police Department earlier this year, including the preventable near-death of a man who collapsed because law enforcement would not allow him access to his inhaler, and soon, the eviction moratorium will be lifted, making houselessness a pressing issue that must be addressed immediately and with compassion. Alder Halverson led the charge against a new men's shelter, and now leads charge against campers who've found some semblance of stability. His proposal for a ten-tiny-home village is a good start, but it offers neither the capacity that the men's shelter expansion would have brought nor the stability of a housing-first policy. I am writing you today to implore you to act with grace and compassion for the most vulnerable members of our community, and to break the cycle of abuse and exploitation that leads people to criminality. To that end, I ask that:

You OPPOSE agenda item 2, the resolution to evict the residents of Reindahl Park, who collectively have no other options for housing in Madison or Dane County- remember that our shelters are continuously at capacity.

You SUPPORT agenda item 3, the first-step measure of the Housing People initiative, which seeks to locate a site for ten tiny homes plus basic utilities. Remember that this measure does not offer an immediate alternative to camping at Reindahl, and that even once implemented this measure would house only a fraction of Madison's unhoused population. Additionally, the resolution for this initiative explicitly calls for it to be temporary housing, and Madison and Dane County do not currently have housing-first initiatives to find participants a permanent solution.

While I agree that the encampment at Reindahl Park doesn't provide the kind of stability that you and I enjoy, it is simply the best option for many of our unhoused neighbors in a city that's decided to invest more in police to harm houseless people than beneficial programs to help them. If you do decide to subject them to eviction, then I recommend you go down to the park, look each resident in their eyes, and inform each resident that you are personally responsible for the violence which Madison Police Department will enact on them. Thank you.

-Jack