

OCCUPY MADISON PETITION

On April 30th the City of Madison is prepared to evict 35-50 people from the Occupy Madison site on East Washington Avenue with no alternative other than the inadequate City overnight shelters and no day shelter. Occupy Madison has asked the City to allow Occupy Madison to occupy another site in Madison after April 30th. The City has refused this request. We want them to reconsider this and work with us to find a new location or let us remain in the current site.

In the spirit of the recent "Housing is a Human Right" resolution passed by the City Council, Madison has the opportunity to lead the nation with its support of Occupy Madison.

I SUPPORT OCCUPY MADISON IN FINDING A SITE LOCATION BEYOND APRIL 30TH: Name or Organization te lix bunkel 2321 Badger (608) 575-24-48 Alexander

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A resolution recognizing Occupy Madison's contribution to the city of Madison

Whereas, since late October of last year, Occupy Madison has resided at the former Don Miller car dealership on East Washington; and

Whereas, from the start, city officials took a positive approach to the occupation, inspecting the site to ensure the health and safety of participants without restricting Occupy's ability to deliver its political message; and

Whereas, positive relations between city officials and Occupy -- something notably missing in other cities -- enabled Occupy Madison to expand its mission; and

Whereas, while keeping attention on the issues of economic inequality and control of our political system by the 1%, Occupy Madison has also welcomed a significant number of formerly homeless persons into its encampment; and

Whereas, Occupy Madison has developed a creative response to the growing poverty and homelessness caused by the economic crisis; and

Whereas, at Occupy Madison, formerly homeless persons run the encampment, have developed a code of conduct, and have been able to deal with personal conflicts without the use of force or the need for frequent calls to Madison police; and

Whereas, at Occupy Madison, the City of Madison is fortunate to have a core group of formerly homeless persons who have taken up positions of leadership and have developed the skills needed to govern their community; and

Whereas, these Occupy residents want more than to be passive recipients of charity or government services and prefer to take responsibility for themselves and for their community, while giving something back to the wider Madison community; and

Whereas, thanks to the creative and flexible working relationship we have enjoyed with the city, Occupy Madison has grown into a valuable resource that may provide a model for how our city can respond to poverty and homelessness in a time of severe budget cuts; and

Whereas, in a time of budget and service cuts, Madison has been able to increase the help it provides to our city's poorest residents, and all for the cost of a 15-amp electrical service and an unused parking lot; and

Whereas, the expertise and community built with such great effort is now in danger of being lost, because the encampment faces an April 30th eviction date; and

Whereas Occupy residents have asked the City of Madison for help in identifying another cityowned space where we could set up Occupy II, making use of all we have learned over the past five months but the City of Madison has responded that no further permits will be issued to Occupy Madison; and

Whereas, the City of Madison, known for its creativity in so many other areas, should imagine a more creative response to poverty and homelessness that lets the poor and homeless take responsibility for their own lives and their own community; and

Whereas, Occupy's residents only want a chance to continue the difficult work they've taken on and a chance to work creatively with the City of Madison and other city officials in a way that would benefit our entire city,

Now, therefore be it resolved that, the City of Madison thanks the Occupy movement and the current Occupy residents for their efforts to address important community needs during this recession and recognizes their potential to be an important resource for this city,

Be it further resolved that, the City of Madison reaffirms its commitment that Housing is a Human Right and will increase its efforts to implement that resolution; and

Be it finally resolved that, the City of Madison will work with Occupy to develop creative responses to the problems of poverty and homelessness that put the poor and homeless in charge, and will work with Occupy Madison to identify a location on city-owned property for an Occupy II encampment.

Deleted from version introduced at Common Council meeting on March 20th.

To be voted on April 10th in Room 201 at the City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Blrd.

Time: 6:30pm
Register to speak on Resolution: 6:00-6:30pl
You god 3 minutes to speak.

GUEST COLUMN

3/24/12 Wisconsin State Journal

Help Occupy Madison find a new site

By ALLEN BARKOFF

he city of Madison is prepared to evict 35 to 50 people on April 30 from the Occupy Madison site on East Washington Avenue. Many are homeless and will have no alternative other than the inadequate city overnight shelters.

Occupy Madison has asked the city to allow us to occupy another site in Madison after April 30. The city has refused this

We want to thank Mayor Paul Soglin and his administration for accommodating Occupy Madison these last several months. Occupy Madison has a permit to stay at its current site on the 800 block of East Washington Avenue until April 30 when the site is scheduled for develop-

We would like to find another suitable city-owned or privately-owned property before April 30 so we can relocate to prevent the eviction of the people now living at the site. The majority of these people are homeless. They have chosen to sleep outside in the Occupy Madison site parking lot during a Wisconsin winter rather than at the city homeless shelters. Their ages range from 18 to 77 years old.

Occupy Madison is self-managed by the residents and has provided food, shelter, privacy, safety, respect and dignity to these people. This has been accomplished with the financial support of the Madison community without city funding and with minimal city services. Occupy Madison is prepared to continue supporting this homeless community at the new site. Without a new site, these homeless people would be dependent on city services and funding.

Ideally, a new site would be available on a long-term basis. This would allow Occupy Madison to both advance the goals of the Occupy movement in addressing the inequalities in our society and continue to help the homeless population that has gravitated to Occupy Madison because their needs are not being met by the city.

Occupy Madison has had a good working relationship with the city and would appreciate any help it can offer us in finding another suitable location before our permit expires. An encampment visible to the public is necessary to keep the issues of inequality in the public and political conversation. We have worked with the city in a peaceful manner and have tried to comply with all of the rules and regulations.

We welcome everyone to visit the Occupy site and see what the people who live on site have accomplished. In the spirit of the recent "Housing is a Human Right" resolution passed by the City Council, Madison has the opportunity to lead the nation with its support of Occupy Madison.

Barkoff, of Madison, is a supporter of Occupy Madison.