

Hi,

I live in downtown Madison and I urge you to **not support** Resolution 62393 to rescind emergency order #2 ending encampments in parks.

Before any ending of encampments we should be asking (1) if the alternatives are as plentiful and accessible as the resolution makes them seem and (2) why people are not taking advantage of them yet. If there are other issues (mental health, substance use) that prevent people from utilizing "more humane housing" options, our efforts should focus on treating those causes, not simply removing people.

Have people in encampments been turned away from other housing options? Do they trust other options? Do they think other options will be more temporary (how many people will be living in hotels after CARES funding ends)? This resolution seems to assume that everyone living in an encampment has simply decided they like it better than "more humane" housing.

If housing the people in encampments is the city's goal, we should be using our resources to expand housing options and figuring out the best way to get people to utilize them. Kicking these people out of encampments does nothing to help them, and will only make things worse for them.

Thank you for considering these comments.

-Adam Kleman

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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 resolutions 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

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It is absolutely unacceptable to stop homeless people from camping outside when they have no where else to go. You MUST make this right!

Amanda Jane Hoffman  
Oakland Ave, Madison, WI

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Dear Committee member,

I understand that you have a resolution before you to end camping by people who are experiencing homelessness in the city of Madison. I hope you will oppose this resolution because there are not enough spaces in shelter to accommodate the estimated 200 people living in tents, cars and campers. There are waiting lists to enter hotels. During this pandemic, the CDC recommends that encampments remain where they are, with adequate restroom facilities and access to hand hygiene materials.

We should not be criminalizing homelessness in our City. Please do not approve this resolution.

Thank you,  
Anne Reynolds  
Board member  
MACH OneHealth

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To whom it may concern-

I am writing concerning the agenda item re: emergency order #2/establishing TPE's in Madison parks/green spaces.

I am trying to understand what is being argued, but as I read the item, it appears the vote is to rescind the order and break up encampments.

As a community member and parent of children who visit Madison parks, I have observed individuals camping in various areas. I have at times been uneasy, but have never felt unsafe or threatened by their presence in these spaces. I would like for there to be spaces set up for them to be, intentional, with the sanitation and safety services they need. If they are being asked to leave where they are, they need a safe solution. I recognize they may not qualify for services within existing shelters, or they may have health conditions that exclude them for safety reasons due to COVID.

I think I am requesting that Emergency Order #2 be affirmed -.for designated spaces to be established on a temporary basis for individuals who are unsheltered and homeless. In addition, that local agencies continue to have access to build relationships and provide support to move them into more permanent arrangements (mental health, substance abuse, job training and placement, etc).

It is inhumane to criminalize camping in parks without providing a safe & suitable alternative.

Cara Scanlan

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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

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Hello everyone

I am writing over my concern for the health and safety of our homeless population and continuing the option of camping. Firstly, I was pleased to see that this population has had a temporary option of camping this summer while shelters have been shut down due to COVID. Now I am concerned as a citizen and physician that they will no longer have this option.

The homeless population is vulnerable to the elements. Having a place to camp with a tent and a place to cook provides our homeless brothers and sisters with some form of safe and healthy living, no matter how minimal. This option should be continued until we find other solutions to provide housing. This next year will especially be important while the threat of COVID continues to loom and shelter options are closed.

I urge you all to support this equitable option of camping on public property and to continue to work on more permanent solutions to homelessness.

Claire Gervais, MD  
UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

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Hello,

I am writing today with deep concern for our homeless citizen's living in camps in Madison. Please do not remove them until they have someone to go that is legal. Please treat our homeless with respect and decency. So many people are on the edge of homelessness or have fallen into it due to covid 19 and loss of employment.

Homelessness is not a crime, nor is addiction, nor is mental illness. Please do not put our homeless out of their camps by declaring them illegal. Madison can do better. Have a heart, please. Do not end camping in Madison for our, yes, our homeless.

Please, as humans, let us be compassionate and let our homeless stay in camps until we have created legal and safe places for them to winter.

We have a responsibility to these people, these are our people. Treat them with respect and delay making camps illegal until we as a community have winter shelter prepared for them.

Connie Benell  
21 Farwell st  
Madison, WI

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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

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I'm not sure why you'd decide camping is illegally. What the problem especially with covid 19?  
Deborah Burns

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Dear Commissioners & Alders,

I am writing to you today to urge that the Emergency Camping order be continued until alternate housing is available to the campers.

I am the architect and planner for Occupy Madison's proposed second village for 1901 Aberg Avenue, as I was for the existing successful village at 304 N. 3rd Street. We are moving as swiftly as possible, currently limited by neighborhood review/input, City & County approvals, possible funding, and closing on purchase of the property. Building out the village site and 20-some sleeping pods will be the easiest part.

All of this is possible before winter really sets in IF all stakeholders commit to making this a reality on a timely basis.

The park campers are a prime target group for priority in becoming a part of the Occupy community and to become stewards at the second village. In my view it would be quite disruptive of our plans to serve many of the park campers to disperse them. My general observation over 8 years of work on our housing deficit is that there is enhanced safety and vital social support that obtain from self-organized camping villages, be they in parks or elsewhere. Our successful village and the park encampments are both modeled on the form and function of villages from prehistoric times. The risks of anti-social behavior

within an encampment are a good deal less than when people camp alone. Agencies and individuals have been able to contact and be of service to the campers much more effectively than if they were scattered.

Thanks for your time and attention to this matter of vital importance to our community.

Warm regards, Ed Kuharski

**Edward Kuharski, Architect, AIA, LEED AP  
GREEN DESIGN STUDIO**

405 Sidney Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
608/469-5963 mobile  
[ekuharski@aol.com](mailto:ekuharski@aol.com)

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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 Henak 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

"The totally awakened warrior can freely utilize all elements contained in heaven and earth. The true warrior learns how to correctly perceive the activity of the universe and how to transform martial techniques into vehicles of purity, goodness, and beauty. A warrior's mind and body must be permeated with enlightened wisdom and deep calm."

Morihei Ueshiba (Translated by John Stevens)

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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 Boettcher

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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

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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

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October 14, 2020

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. And the numbers of homeless are likely to increase as long as the economic effects of Covid-19 linger and the government is stingy with its aid.

It is a fact that 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.

I understand the concerns of some about the potential for violence at these encampments. However, the risk and violence to the homeless you are seeking to reduce is only going to increase as result of this measure, whether due to official criminalization or by driving these populations further into hiding. Further, although housed residents may feel discomfort as a result of the encampments, keeping them in view serves to remind everyone of our responsibility to motivate our government to act prevent this organized abandonment of human beings.

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.

Sincerely,

Gisela Wilson, PhD  
1244 Morrison  
Madison, WI 53703

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Dear PSRC, EOC, and BPC members,

I am writing in opposition to a resolution that is coming before you, which would rescind Emergency Order #2 and direct city staff to enforce ordinances against encampments in city parks. I am told that currently, there are well over 200 people sleeping in tents, cars and campers throughout the city (and I believe that is a gross underestimate). There are not enough spaces in shelters 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 seven CDC underlying conditions.

Please do not pass this resolution. Given the disruptions caused by this pandemic, many people who have never before experienced homelessness are now homeless. That includes an immediate family member of mine, who at times is now sleeping in his car. At one point he had symptoms of potential Covid and PHMDC arranged temporary accommodations in a hotel, but he had to leave when the test result came back negative. We should not be criminalizing homelessness and making existing without a home illegal until there is sufficient shelter and hotel space to accommodate everyone.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Gelembiuk



I am writing to you to express my extreme opposition to rescinding Emergency Order #2. No one likes homelessness in their neighborhood, I get it. But kicking people out of the parks while providing nowhere for them to go is cruelty incarnate. Madison's infrastructure for dealing with homelessness has been insufficient for well over a decade; now, during a pandemic and economic collapse, to just tell people to move on somewhere else without providing them resources is absolutely heartless. Shame on Alders Baldeh and Henak for introducing a resolution that targets the most helpless members of our community while providing no solutions.

Sincerely,

Ian Adcock

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On behalf of FSSF I would like to address concerns we have regarding ending temporary encampments within the city. I don't want to make any assumptions of why this is being considered. My question is what will happen if and when you end this? Do you have a plan for these displaced individuals who have no place to go?

Encampments may not be the ideal solution during normal times. However, where are the resources or the plan to work with and help this growing population of homeless folks, displaced due to the economic shifts in recent months? From our perspective, the encampments provide at the very least, a centralized location where we can do outreach to provide help in our limited capacity. Forcing them out of the permissible encampments will most likely cause a scattering throughout the city. Grass roots organizations such as ours are doing everything we can to address the needs of these people. We feel ending the permissible encampments at this time, along with potentially ending the hotel stays of dozens of families on January 1, is a disaster waiting to happen - if there is no plan to address the shelter needs of this population during the winter months.

Does the city have a plan?

***Jeff Turk***

President, Board of Directors

**Friends of the State Street Family**

**PH: 608-515-4825**

Website: [www.friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org](http://www.friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org)

Outreach Line: 608-535-9394 (Voice to Text)

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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.

Jesikah Leeper

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Hello,

I'm writing to encourage you NOT to end the temporary camping allowances. Folks are struggling right now. Criminalizing their temporary shelters will do nothing to solve the problems Madisonians are facing; it just adds one more problem to their plates. Seeing tents in parks in the city does make me uncomfortable - it is difficult to be confronted with human suffering that I would rather pretend is not happening. But this is not a reason to make public camping illegal - it gives me the opportunity to examine those feelings and think about what I am doing, or what I should be doing, to bring about a world without that kind of suffering.

The way to solve homelessness is to provide housing, not to make it illegal to be poor.

Thank you,  
Jesse Dirkman

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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

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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

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Greetings,

Please consider extending the Emergency Camping Extension for individuals experiencing homelessness, and attached is my letter of recommendation for the extension.

Thank you for your good work, and for all that you do.

Blessings,

*Karen Andro*  
Director of Hope's Home Ministries  
First United Methodist Church  
203 Wisconsin Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703-2105  
608-338-0320 (office)  
<http://www.fumc.org>

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Hello,

I am a Madison resident that would like to voice concern about tonight's resolution to rescind the Emergency Order that allows homeless to camp in tents in Madison parks. Homelessness is a major problem in Madison. But trying to pretend it doesn't exist isn't the answer. Banning camping in Madison parks and pushing out homeless individuals will only hurt those people and possibly cause deaths. This is inhumane. They are people and citizens too. As a citizen I feel it is more important to provide a place for these individuals to survive rather than to attempt to make parks more aesthetically appealing by removing the uncomfortable sight of the existence of the homeless.

Please continue to allow camping in city parks so that the homeless have someplace they can even remotely consider home. It is imperative they have a place to set up camp if it is a means of survival.

Thank you,  
Karen Corbeill  
81 Lakewood Gardens Ln.

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Dear committee members: I understand that you have a resolution before you to end camping in the city of Madison. Right now there are at least 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 this many people, 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 seven underlying conditions the CDC has designated that make people more at risk from the Covid-19 virus.

We should not be criminalizing homelessness and making it illegal to exist without a home, especially when there isn't sufficient shelter and hotel space to accommodate everyone seeing a place to get some sleep.

Thank you.  
Norm Littlejohn

## 2209 Cypress Way #16, Madison 53713 • District 14

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Greetings,

I am writing to request that you oppose the motion sponsored by Samba Baldeh and Zachary Henakto rescind Emergency Order #2 which allows encampments in some city parks.

I have noticed the encampments and there is a clear need for more shelter and housing especially as winter approaches. I know city staff are already working on this front to establish a site for a men's shelter and temporary indoor space for winter as the shelter is being built. In the meantime, people need spaces to sleep. Given the dire economic situation these times have wrought, there have not been other options for people. If Emergency Order #2 is immediately rescinded, where will those who need a spot to rest their heads go at night? This resolution is inhumane given the current situation many unhoused and out-of-work Madisonians find themselves in. I have seen no threat posed by the encampments and no adequate reason for this resolution.

I am a member of Affordable Housing Action Alliance and staff of Madison Area Community Land Trust.

Thank you for your time,

**Olivia R. Williams, PhD**

[oliviarenewilliams.com](http://oliviarenewilliams.com) | [Twitter](#)

[MACLT](#) | [EVA](#) | [NASCO](#)

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Dear all,

I am new to District 17 and look forward to getting to know Alder Baldeh. I see that he is hoping to increase funding to get some of these homeless into our vacant hotels, however he is putting the cart before the horse. Penalizing those who must sleep in cars, campers, and tents is obviously not the thing to do first! This will only decrease their access to resources (advocacy groups and mutual aid groups ARE providing necessary services to these encampments) and increase the dangers of homelessness to those affected and increase risk to the City at large by making a growing in-need population LESS supported and their needs less visible.

Thank you,

Philippa Bergmann  
27 Anniversary Court  
Madison, WI 53704

On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 3:39 PM Philippa Bergmann <[pb.supercherie@gmail.com](mailto:pb.supercherie@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear committee members:

I understand that you have a resolution before you to end camping in City parks (and perhaps other City property). You would be going against the will and good conscience of the people by passing such an ordinance right now in the midst of a pandemic and at the VERY TIP of the economic fallout from it. Right now there is an (under)estimated over 200 people sleeping in tents, cars, campers throughout the city. Mutual aid groups have stepped up and are helping this population as best as we can; the City needs to step up with SOLUTIONS FOR THE GROWING POPULATION of the housing-insecure now, NOT PUNISHMENTS.

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.

**MY TWO CENTS:** Work with local commercial landlords who are clamoring for tenants and increase the number of tiny village communities in this city! Make them the PRIDE of Madison!!! Occupy Madison Tiny Village has been successful for 4 years now and is an exemplar of what these can be. I have lived near the OM Village since its inception and have been to many of their community garden sales and have loved having them in our community! I am BEYOND pleased to see the new village being rapidly assembled at Wiggies parking lot close to my workplace! Much, much more of this please!

And to Alder Baldeh: I have just moved and am now a homeowner in your district. I am beyond disappointed and angry to see that this is a bill you sponsored. I ask for a response from you to my concerns above.

Thank you,

Philippa Bergmann  
27 Anniversary Court  
Madison, WI 53704

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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

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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.

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*Rachel Leigh Peller, MPA*

she/her/hers

[rleighpeller@gmail.com](mailto:rleighpeller@gmail.com)

224-217-1713

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Committee members,

I understand that you have a resolution before you to end camping in the city of Madison. Right now there are at least 200 people sleeping in tents, casd, and campers throughout the city. One of these encampments is next door to my apartment, and I find these new neighbors have caused absolutely no disturbance to myself or my community. If this resolution passes, there are not enough spaces in shelter to accommodate everyone. Many do not qualify to even get on the waitlist for hotels as they are not older or do not have one of the 7 underlying conditions recognized by the CDC. Please do not pass this resolution to break up encampments. Doing so would be going against CDC recommendations and would be, in effect, criminalizing homelessness. Instead please us your privilege and power to do everything possible to ensure that all Madisonians have access to safe and affordable housing so that no one finds themselves in the position of needing to put a tent up in a park in the first. These people are my neighbors, I do not want to see them displaced.

Thanks,

Sarah Kdosi (she/her)

[kdosi.com](http://kdosi.com)

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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

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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

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please continue allowing homeless people to camp in city parks. there aren't enough other places for people to go. until there are enough places to go, at least have the parks continue being an emergency place to stay. thank you.

-wanda ashman  
640 crandall st  
madison, wi 53711-1837  
(608) 233-6912