

**From:** Pearl,  
**To:** City County Homeless Issues Committee  
**Subject:** Solutions to encampments  
**Date:** Monday, June 7, 2021, 5:58:27 PM

---

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

I'd like to say thank you to all the alders and community members who have stepped up to advocate for the voices of our unsheltered brothers and sisters, neighbors, and friends who are often silenced as we, as a society, like to look away. As a second eviction of a homeless camp in just two months was to take place, the city of Madison and the mayor demonstrated that this group of folk was worthless trash, to be shunned, to be moved, and to be unseen. In not responding to advocates phone calls and E-mails, the mayor demonstrated that she did not find this population of our city to be worth her time. Yet, in April the city put out the "Housing Forward Initiative" - a pretty two page pamphlet that can be found online with the "proposed 5-pronged approach to address our housing needs". These include:

1. Increase Housing Choice
2. Create Affordable Housing throughout the City
3. Combat Displacement and Segregation
4. Ensure Seniors and Others Can Stay in Their Homes
5. Work to End Homelessness

And includes a little side bar with things the city of Madison has done in the past two years including it says "Shifted our homeless services approach to protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19"

If "shifting" means going against CDC guidelines in breaking up homeless encampments and not providing the requirements of temporary permissible encampments (TPE's), then yes, but it definitely leaves out "to protect".

This is frustrating and it's sad. We have time for little pamphlets and lots of words in lots of meetings but little action. The encampment at Reindahl is three times the size that it was when the eviction was halted and will continue to grow as the ban on housing evictions has lifted. This population would not be able to fit into the Starkweather TPE. To work on ending homelessness, combatting displacement, and increasing housing choice would be to allow for encampments to remain until a better option is found. However, I have not been hearing solutions besides throwing more money into the same programs which haven't solved the issue of homelessness yet, so this is obviously not the answer. We need to think outside the box.

In my research, I have not found another incidence such as what Madison advocates have done in stopping a homeless encampment eviction. This is a major first step. Now we have time to open our eyes to possibilities. We can look at the skillset of those living at Reindahl and their advocates who have organized a kitchen, a greenhouse, solar energy, have moved the grass, put in a shower, are organizing laundry events, organized weekly meetings and one individual has even asked for materials to learn sign language to help and communicate with a new resident who is deaf. Why not put those skills and community building into an environment that is stable, legal, and self-sustaining? This isn't hard. As a social worker with my background in mental health and addiction and working in transitional housing, I have seen the barriers and shortcomings of our social services. But in my travels, I've seen systems that work, for example, the rainbow community has been doing it every year for fifty years, ranging from hundreds to thousands of people. While at its peak, the water protectors of Standing Rock were estimated at over 3,000 people. Madison already has a long history with co-op housing and a new model with the Tiny House village. Intentional communities are vast and wide such as Freetown Christiansia in Copenhagen Denmark where 50 years ago unshoused individuals used old military barracks to begin to make a village now self-sustaining of over 1,000 people. As an outsider, I was welcomed there with open arms and amazing food at their cafe. Seattle has "city permitted villages" while Denver has "Safe Outdoor Spaces". The mission of the Eco Village project of Fresno "provides safe and dignified living spaces in an environmentally sustainable manner, giving each resident the educational, emotional and physical tools, caring support and training to escape the cycle of homelessness". As the people living at Reindahl have already expressed wanting to start yoga classes, grow their own food, have arts and music spaces, and would love workshops on things like canning and conflict resolution. This is a sustainable vision. To me, that sounds like more of an answer than shelters, warehouses, libraries, and park benches. It would be a place of learning, where social service providers could help but would be less needed as people invest and share in their strengths and skills as well as save on budgetary social services costs long-term. We can do it. We, as a community, as a society, can invest in solutions that are based on needs and empowerment. I don't even care if the mayor wants to call it the "Satya Eco Village", lets do it.

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A\\_\\_www.christiania.org\\_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08\\_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=V\\_sj226vu0BVF1NjYyAUTvWnAcCzUWgF0LciYrgo5o&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A__www.christiania.org_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=V_sj226vu0BVF1NjYyAUTvWnAcCzUWgF0LciYrgo5o&e=)

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=http-3A\\_\\_www.seattle.gov.homelessness.city-2Dpermitted-2Dvillages&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08\\_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=Dr1N7B8L3dgt6iorAog7XisScOaB\\_xfIIYnaMqIRk&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=http-3A__www.seattle.gov.homelessness.city-2Dpermitted-2Dvillages&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=Dr1N7B8L3dgt6iorAog7XisScOaB_xfIIYnaMqIRk&e=)

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A\\_\\_borgenproject.org\\_scotland-2Ddeco-2Dvillage-2Dfor-2Dthe-2Dhomeless\\_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08\\_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=Vfc8Ais7TZoT0UgoUxPMT3gTKGpmsqPRBe6uPzs18&c=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A__borgenproject.org_scotland-2Ddeco-2Dvillage-2Dfor-2Dthe-2Dhomeless_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=Vfc8Ais7TZoT0UgoUxPMT3gTKGpmsqPRBe6uPzs18&c=)

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A\\_\\_ecovillagefresno.org\\_contact\\_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08\\_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=FaRQ-Ra5RyI2ymIhbdq66ploipBRtUbQ1lyQgzck&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A__ecovillagefresno.org_contact_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=FaRQ-Ra5RyI2ymIhbdq66ploipBRtUbQ1lyQgzck&e=)

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A\\_\\_www.denverpost.com\\_2021\\_01\\_05\\_denver-2Dhomeless-2Dencampments-2Dsafe-2Doutdoor-2Dspace\\_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08\\_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=IQHvmANIpMRyKjPy0DnkssYRjn\\_EPcFvImKocoGib4&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2?url?u=https-3A__www.denverpost.com_2021_01_05_denver-2Dhomeless-2Dencampments-2Dsafe-2Doutdoor-2Dspace_&d=DwIFaQ&c=byefhD2ZumMFFQYPZBagUCDuBIM9Q9twmxaBM0hCgll&r=kIR19SpZFhaqWpuKdYwFjv05Urhgij08_0sAbyOgCDM&m=THRj64ZqQUcUFVn6897E66s34DAdel1ntkPJGCd04ic&s=IQHvmANIpMRyKjPy0DnkssYRjn_EPcFvImKocoGib4&e=)

\*PEARL\*  
she/her/hers  
"Be the change you wish to see in the world" - Mahatma Gandhi

**From:** [Bonnie Roe](#)  
**To:** [City County Homeless Issues Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Please accept criteria for the purpose- built men's shelter  
**Date:** Monday, June 7, 2021 4:38:13 PM

---

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

Dear Members of the City-County Homeless Issues Committee,

Please adopt the search criteria listed in today's agenda for the needed purpose- built men's shelter. The sponsors really nailed it with this list and each one is so important.

Of particular importance to me is that these men would be located with easy access to 7-day/week transportation and within 3.5 miles of services, at most. This list of criteria solves all the concerns I had with the previously- considered Zeier Road location, which fell so far short of what these men need to help them rise from homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748