

City Clerk Staff

From: David Aronofsky <aronofskydavid@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 8:45 PM
To: Jordan Hess; Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Ryan Sudbury
Subject: Proposed Draft Park Camps Ordinance & Supporting Memorandum
Attachments: Missoula Ordinance & Supporting Memorandum 8-25-23.docx

I am sending you, in preparation for Monday's Council meeting, a proposed draft parks camp ordinance applicable to involuntarily unsheltered people, accompanied by a supporting legal memorandum. Please make sure it is included in this meeting's public records and minutes. Thanks.

David Aronofsky
3909 Lincoln Road
Missoula MT 59802

City Clerk Staff

From: William Knight <wknight@homelesslaw.org>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc: Ryan Sudbury; Kristen Jordan; Sandra Vasecka; Mike Nugent; John P. Contos; Gwen Jones; Heidi West; Daniel Carlino; Mirtha Becerra; Stacie Anderson; Jennifer Savage (she/her); Amber Sherrill
Subject: Proposed Emergency Ordinance 3720
Attachments: 2023 08 25 - NHLC Ltr. re Proposed Missoula Emergency Ordinance 3720.pdf
Importance: High

Dear Missoula City Council:

Please find, attached, a letter from the National Homelessness Law Center urging you *not* to adopt proposed Emergency Ordinance 3720, currently scheduled for vote this coming Monday, August 28, 2023, before your body. Police, handcuffs, and jail cells cannot eliminate our social or economic problems for us. Only sound, evidence-based, and compassionate public policy can do that. For further explanation, please read our letter.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday evening and providing any additional testimonial expertise we can to help you reach the best result for Missoula, as a whole, as well as its most vulnerable unsheltered residents.



Will Knight (he/him) | Decriminalization Program Director

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e: wknight@homelesslaw.org | **w:** homelesslaw.org

p: 202-638-2535 Ext. 102



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City Clerk Staff

From: Karen Curran <khcurran@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 4:44 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Johnson Street Facility

I'm disappointed in you, City Council and Mayor Hess, for even considering using the Johnson Street facility as a homeless shelter. How can you do that to the residents living in that community?

The Johnson Street facility was purchased by the city for the purpose of redeveloping and improving that neighborhood and what you are proposing is taking things in the exact opposite direction. During the winters when the facility was being used as temporary housing, I found it unsafe to take my grandchildren to the Rail Link Park playground because of broken beer bottles and other litter strewn about. That's a nice park that now cannot safely be used by community residents.

You're proposing to make the shelter a low-barrier shelter, meaning many housed there will be addicts. Where there are addicts, there are drug-pushers, which means you are inviting such people into that neighborhood. Again, this is unfair to local residents, who will be unable to use the park or even safely use the walking/biking trail that runs by the facility.

You seem to be so focused on showing compassion to the homeless, that you have lost compassion for our city residents. Yes, the homeless need help—which includes treatment and efforts made by them to move out of homelessness and addiction—but using the Johnson Street facility is not the answer. If the facility must be used for another winter (and I believe that is the most we should consider at this time), at a minimum the individuals housed should have to meet the requirements for the temporary safe outdoor space (TSOS).

Karen Curran

City Clerk Staff

From: gkcurran <gkcurran@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Budget

The purpose of this email is to express my disappointment in the City Council's approval of Mayor Jordan Hess' budget Monday night. I previously shared with you the reasons I felt the proposed budget should not be approved. The bottom line of that prior email was that the average resident of Missoula simply cannot afford to pay more for housing. I am sorry that fact did not carry more weight with more of you. I want to thank the three Councilors who voted "no". I strongly disagree with the statement made by one of you that a "no vote" was a "cop-out", particularly when many of you who voted for the budget went on to point out how "next year" will have to be different. Perhaps, the promise to make the hard decisions "next year" is the real "cop-out".

Much was said about "wants" versus "needs". Again, I am disappointed that a simple majority of you could not discern that the budget did not reflect the priorities of the voters you are supposed to represent. Last year you put before the voters a choice relative to increasing the cost of housing in Missoula in exchange for increased spending on "crisis intervention" and for "recreation" (fair grounds). The voters said holding down the cost of housing was a higher priority. Can you honestly say that this year's budget reflects that feedback?

Your frustration with the budget process was obvious, even if the process was somewhat better than in prior years. I hope you will continue to make changes to the budget process that will allow you to better represent the voters instead of the City of Missoula staff. I don't have a "silver bullet" for sure, but would like to offer the suggestion that you be more proactive. As the people's representatives, set the budget limit that the city staff will have to live within. I believe you can do this before the staff begins to do its first deliberations on what it would like to see in next year's budget. Taxes have increased year after year. Can a majority of you agree that Fiscal Year 2025 will be different? Hold the line, even if just for one year. I can't think of one single act that would have a more positive impact on the cost of housing for ALL residents of Missoula than this.

George Curran, Ward 5 Resident