

From: henocho [mailto:henocho@sunflower.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 12:04 AM
To: khdins@sunflower.com
Cc: Margene Swarts
Subject: Campsite for the Homeless...

Dear Chr. Katherine and Community Commissioners on Homelessness--

I'd like to know WHERE you feel homeless campers CAN BE --legally, if you don't support their right to camp? --And where we can turn for help for this most vulnerable, alienated population who simply ask to be left in peace?

I believe IF anyone took our City to Court for their devastating actions toward these people, that it would indeed have been found to be illegal! With your INaction today, you have endorsed their actions, and offered only vague (somewhere...sometime...) hope for people who need our support NOW!

What would have been wrong with some compromise proposal that designated a place, with portable toilets, a few picnic tables, and trash containers with pickup?? Surely that's NOT an expensive, unreasonable compromise--with a review--even in six months--and with regular contact with outreach workers and law enforcement support?? YOUR function is to make humane responses that might lessen alienation--and would contribute to the dignity and sense of worth of our homeless people. --Let the City worry about Parks & Rec's budget!

Perhaps, there's something wrong with a Vision that leaves out this segment of those who are homeless --and continues to criminalize their actions. As you are our last resort, OUR COMMUNITY Commission on HOMELESSNESS, you leave these homeless people--and the rest of us who care about how human beings in our community are treated--deeply disappointed.

Perhaps, the Community Commission itself will have a more humane approach; they DID rely on you to come up with some constructive answer... You have offered none. (They HAVE changed their minds about hedgehogs...)

**Very truly,
Hilda Enoch**

Margene, I'd be very appreciative if you would forward my letter above to all members of the CCH. Thank You.

**Hilda Enoch
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Lawrence, KS 66047
Ph. 785-842-6513
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1/14/2009

To: khdins@sunflower.com

Cc:

Subject: Camping in Lawrence for Homeless

To the members of the Lawrence Committee on Homelessness: I have just received a call from my daughter who does mental health counselling at the jail in Ottawa. She told me of a "prisoner" brought in recently who had deliberately sat in front of Weaver's, knowing they would call the police for his loitering, with his intent to be arrested and find refuge in jail for the night. His comment was "Where do you expect me to go?" This is the situation we are creating! I attended your meeting Jan 13 at City Hall, and could not believe what I heard from Parks and Recreation. Surely there can be some small acreage owned by the city that could be set aside for those who have nowhere to go, where they will not be criminalized for camping. An "At your own risk" sign could be placed to relieve the city of liability (as is done at public beaches. Two porta-potties and dumpster surely cannot be that costly. (We do that at city parks for festivals). These homeless folks are part of us and we can't pretend they will just "go away. "A society is measured by the way they treat their most vulnerable". Please, please, re-think this situation and come up with a more compassionate answer. Janney Burgess, e-mail APBJVB@webtv.net". 127 East 17th Terrace

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