

City to Consider Homeless Encampment Ordinance

On August 19 at 5pm, the Fargo City Commission will have a first reading of a [Draft Encampment Ordinance](#), which prohibits all camping on public property, **except as authorized by an additional resolution (see below)**. A 2nd reading and final vote on the ordinance could come at the next commission meeting.

This ordinance is a good first step and came about after months of coordination between the DCP, City Officials, Health & Safety Officials, Homelessness Experts, and the public.

Resolution Details

While it is not being considered specifically at Monday's meeting, the language and details included in the draft resolution are of concern. The resolution details the exception and criteria for where camping may be allowed and regulated. An initial reading of the resolution implies that, while camping on public is not allowed, it is allowable within a half-mile of the Downtown Engagement Center with certain restrictions.

Simply put, a resolution that only allows camping in Downtown puts an unfair burden on Downtown businesses and residents. While the DCP understands the value and importance of the ordinance, it is working closely with city officials to try to find an agreeable and workable solution to the details included in the resolution.

Downtown businesses continue to face economic impacts, safety challenges, and perception issues due to the rise in encampments around the area. That's why the DCP is leading the charge in public discussions, advocating for Housing First solutions to address not only the encampments, but also to support those in need.

Thank You, Downtown Community!

A huge thank you to each of you for playing a vital role in making this year's Downtown Fargo Street Fair a remarkable success! Whether you were participating, volunteering, or simply being a great neighbor, your efforts helped create an unforgettable experience for the 100,000 people who came to Downtown Fargo during the event. With gratitude, Rocky Schneider.

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