

Update: City's Homeless Encampment Ordinance

A quick update to my previous email regarding the [Draft Homeless Encampment Ordinance](#).

On behalf of the DCP, [a letter was sent to the City Commission](#) prior to its meeting today. In summary, the letter supported the overall ordinance but raised a number of concerns and questions regarding the next steps and the details of resolution. In addition to the letter, the DCP had multiple conversation with city leaders and staff prior to the meeting.

After a presentation by staff, where the DCP's letter was referenced as providing a number of good questions and input to work through regarding the resolution, the City Commission unanimously approved the ordinance.

I will continue to update you on the progress over the next two weeks while the DCP works closely with city officials on the details of the resolution. It is anticipated that the resolution will be brought for a vote at the same time as the final reading of the ordinance in two weeks.

Stay tuned!

Previously Sent Update Below:

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.

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