

City Council Comment received from Laura Lingeman

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

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To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Contact Info:Name:

Laura Lingeman

Commenting on behalf of:Ward #:

Ward 5

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A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-07-31.

Section:

E Items - Ordinance Introductions

Item:

Ordinance Prohibiting Trespassing Along Railroad tracks.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I am writing to communicate my frustration at the City of Reno's consideration of the Ordinance Prohibiting Trespassing along the Railroad tracks which is specifically directed at displacing the homeless community, thereby hindering this community's ability to become housed. My views are influenced by my experience as a first responder during which I have responded to many calls for service along the railroad corridor, in particular the zone from Wells to Sutro off of commercial row. Having responded to this area, I am aware that the only people "trespassing" in this area are homeless people, and by "trespassing" these people are simply living. This ordinance would displace these persons causing them to take residence in more public spaces, less centralized areas, or areas that are harder to access for first responders (along the river, poorly marked alleys, etc). Cares Campus and Our Pace are at capacity, so the idea that they people might be encouraged to enter an emergency shelter is just not unrealistic. Conversely, by ENCOURAGING homeless persons to stay in designated areas along the rail road tracks, we can keep these individuals in an accessible, relatively private area, free from the public view and better consolidated so outreach teams can do their work more efficiently. Perhaps, if TRUST were established with this community, parameters could be put into place to make this

zone cleaner, safer and better tied in with some of the City's supportive resources to actually help address the root causes of homelessness. I really don't know what the City of Reno's goal is with this ordinance. It does not help the public who complain about the 'nuisance' of having to see homeless people as moving homeless people off the tracks forces them into potentially more public areas. It does not help the homeless people who will continue to be stuck in crisis even after being displaced. And it does not help first responders, as we are forced to track down patients in more complicated, difficult to access, and potentially dangerous locations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.

Yes

By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.

Yes

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Yes