

F.4 Ordinance Adoption - Bill No. 7287 (For Possible Action): An Ordinance to repeal Title 8, Chapter 8.12 section 8.12.015 of the Reno Municipal Code entitled “Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center”; and other matters properly relating thereto.

STAFF REPORT

Date: January 22, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Ordinance Adoption - Bill No. 7287 (For Possible Action): An Ordinance to repeal Title 8, Chapter 8.12 section 8.12.015 of the Reno Municipal Code entitled “Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center”; and other matters properly relating thereto.

From: Brian Sooudi, Deputy City Attorney

Department: City Attorney's Office

Summary:

Staff is recommending this ordinance repeal because it is being replaced with the new Reno Municipal Code of Title 8, Chapter 8.12 “Offenses Against Public Peace,” Section 8.12.011 entitled “Sitting, lying, sleeping or camping on a public place including but not limited to sidewalks, streets, alleys, sensitive areas or within doorways prohibited.” Leaving the old laws on the books would create redundancy and confusion for the general public.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

December 11, 2024 - Council meeting, staff provided a presentation and ordinance repeals. Council referred the ordinance repeal.

Discussion:

The proposed ordinance pertains to repealing Reno Municipal Codes in Title 8, Chapter 8.12 “Offenses Against Public Peace,” including Section 8.12.015 of the Reno Municipal Code entitled “Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center” due to it being replaced by a new ordinance in Title 8, Chapter 8.12 “Offenses Against Public Peace,” Section 8.12.011 entitled “Sitting, lying, sleeping or camping on a public place including but not limited to sidewalks, streets, alleys, sensitive areas or within doorways prohibited.” The new law addresses this issue in one concise ordinance. Upon passage of the new law, this law becomes redundant in the Reno Municipal Code. Staff recommends repealing this ordinance to

better assist the general public in understanding what is a violation of code and to eliminate any potential conflicts in the law.

Financial Implications:

None at this time.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council

Proposed Motion:

Staff recommends Council adopt Bills No. 7287.

Attachments:

Title 8, Chapter 8.12 Section 8.12.015 Repeal

EXPLANATION: Matter underlined is new; matter in brackets and stricken [--] is material to be repealed.

BILL NO. ____

ORDINANCE NO. ____

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL TITLE 8, CHAPTER 8.12
SECTION 8.12.015 OF THE RENO MUNICIPAL CODE
ENTITLED “SITTING OR LYING DOWN ON PUBLIC
SIDEWALKS IN THE DOWNTOWN RENO REGIONAL
CENTER”; AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY
RELATING THERETO.**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RENO DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Title 8, Chapter 8.12, § 8.12.015 of the Reno Municipal Code is hereby repealed as follows:

~~Sec. 8.12.015. Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center.~~

~~(a) Preamble. The Reno City Council finds and declares as follows:~~

- ~~(1) Public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center are created and maintained for the primary purposes of enabling pedestrians to safely and efficiently move about from place to place, facilitating deliveries of goods and services, and providing convenient access to entertainment, goods and services.~~
- ~~(2) The public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center are prone to congestion, and should be kept available to serve these primary purposes.~~
- ~~(3) Except in places provided therefor or where necessary, sitting or lying on the public sidewalks in the Downtown Reno Regional Center interferes with the primary purposes of the public sidewalks, threatens public safety and damages the public welfare.~~
- ~~(4) Pedestrians, particularly the elderly, disabled, or vision impaired are put at increased risk when they must see and navigate around individuals sitting or lying upon the public sidewalk.~~
- ~~(5) The public welfare is promoted by an economically healthy downtown area which attracts people to shop, recreate, work and be entertained. These areas provide easily accessible goods and services, employment opportunities, the tax revenues necessary to support essential public services, and economic productivity necessary to maintain and improve property within these areas.~~
- ~~(6) In some circumstances people sitting or lying on the sidewalks deter many members of the public from frequenting the downtown area, which contributes to undermining the essential economic vitality of this area. Business failures and relocations can cause vacant buildings which contribute to a spiral of deterioration and blight which harms the public health, safety and welfare. An important factor in protecting public safety is attracting people to the streets and sidewalks of the city's Downtown Reno Regional~~

Center, because the presence of many law-abiding citizens serves as a deterrent to crime and increases the public's sense of security and the safety of all.

- (7) ~~There are numerous other places within the Downtown Reno Regional Center and adjacent areas where sitting or lying down can be accommodated without unduly interfering with the safe flow of pedestrian traffic, impairing commercial activity, threatening public safety or harming the public welfare. The limited regulation of sitting or lying down on sidewalks is both reasonably necessary and appropriately balances the public interest and individual rights.~~
- (b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall sit or lie down upon a public sidewalk, or upon a blanket, chair, stool, or any other object placed upon a public sidewalk in the Downtown Reno Regional Center, which shall be defined as the area within the exterior boundary bounded by the following named streets: commencing at the south right-of-way line of I-80 and the east side of Keystone Avenue, then south along Keystone Avenue to the north bank of the Truckee River then east along the Truckee River to the east side of Arlington Avenue, then south on Arlington Avenue to one parcel south of California Avenue, then east following the south property lines of the parcels located on the south side of California Avenue to one parcel east of Forest Street, then north to the south side of California Avenue, then east to the east side of South Virginia Street, then north along South Virginia Street to the north side of Stewart Street, then east on Stewart Street to the west side of Wells Avenue, then north along Wells Avenue to the south right-of-way line of I-80, then west along I-80 to the east side of Keystone Avenue, the point of beginning.~~
- (c) ~~The prohibition in subsection (b) shall not apply to any person:~~
- ~~(1) Sitting or lying down on a public sidewalk due to a medical emergency;~~
 - ~~(2) Who, as the result of a disability, utilizes a wheelchair, walker or similar device to move about the public sidewalk;~~
 - ~~(3) Operating or patronizing a commercial establishment conducted on the public sidewalk pursuant to a street use permit; or a person participating in or attending a parade, festival, performance, rally, demonstration, meeting, or similar event conducted on the public sidewalk pursuant to a street use or other applicable permit.~~
 - ~~(4) Sitting on a chair or bench located on the public sidewalk which is supplied by a public agency or by the abutting private property owner; or~~
 - ~~(5) Sitting on a public sidewalk with a bus stop zone while waiting for public or private transportation.~~

~~Nothing in any of these exceptions shall be construed to permit any conduct which is prohibited by section 8.12.042 of the Reno Municipal Code (blocking of sidewalks).~~

- (d) ~~No person shall be charged with a violation of this section unless the person engages in conduct prohibited by this section after having been notified by a law enforcement officer that the conduct violates this section.~~
- (e) ~~The provisions of this section are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or portion of this section, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this section, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.~~

~~(f) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.~~

SECTION 2. The Reno City Council hereby finds that this ordinance is not subject to the requirements of Chapter 237 of NRS, Business Impact Statement process.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be in effect from and after its passage, adoption and publication in one issue of a newspaper printed and published in the City of Reno.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk and Clerk of the City Council of the City of Reno is hereby authorized and directed to have this Ordinance published in one issue of the Reno-Gazette Journal, a newspaper printed and published in the City of Reno.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20__, by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:_____

NAYS:_____

ABSTAIN:_____ ABSENT:_____

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF RENO

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF RENO, NEVADA

EFFECTIVE DATE:

02-22-2025 - Reno City Council Meeting - Item # F.4 Amend Title 8 Chapter Chapter 8.12 DRRC

[illegible]

[illegible]

In support of items F1-F6 on the 1/22/25 Reno City Council meeting agenda

From Brian Bosma <bbosma.beep@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:19 PM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>; City Clerk <CityClerk@reno.gov>; Naomi Duerr <DuerrN@reno.gov>

Good afternoon Councilmember Duerr and Reno City Clerk,

My name is Brian Bosma and I live in Ward 2. I am writing this letter in support of ordinances F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 & F6. These ordinances will help to clean up vague and inconsistent ordinance language and will help to create consistencies across numerous agencies and departments. Support of these ordinances gives those on the front lines the appropriate tools to enhance community health and public safety and improve overall conditions for visitors, students, residents and businesses.

With so many organizations and agencies working tirelessly toward Reno's vibrancy efforts these ordinances will help in addressing behaviors and conditions that threaten public safety, pollute our natural resources, and deteriorate the overall experience people have in our city.

Thank you for all your effort and work on behalf of Reno residents, businesses, students and visitors and thank you for your focus on making Reno a safe, clean and enjoyable place for everyone.

I hope you will vote in support of Agenda Items F1 through F6.

Respectfully,

--

M. Brian Bosma

(775) 813-3766

bbosma.beep@gmail.com

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Outlook

City Council Comment received from Bridger Fiore

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 10:39 AM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Bridger Fiore

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

Phone Number:

7754095365

Address:

900 Novelly Drive

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

F.1, F.2, F.3, F.4, F.5, F.6.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

For years now the reno city council and local government have been treating the unhoused population of our city like they are pests. They are people who have fallen on hard times, and need the support of the community around them, not to be pushed to the side so that they can be ignored and scorned by the government that should be helping them. Prohibiting "sitting, lying, sleeping, and camping on public places" will not solve any problems that the city council thinks it will. All it is us going to do is make the houseless population move to other areas, over congesting areas where they won't be penalized. There needs to be more systems in place that genuinely address the housing issues our city is facing, not shoving them to the side for the next generation to handle.

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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No

City Council Comment received from Chelsea Fleischman

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 4:39 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Chelsea Fleischman

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

F.1 - F.6.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I'm opposed these items for many reasons... I've heard incredibly dehumanizing, sometimes dangerous, stories of the Cares Campus here and shelters like it elsewhere. Not to mention that the other shelters are full and folks with pets, disabilities, partners, children or women in general have even more difficult experience finding shelter/resources. It feels like these proposed items are an incredibly short-sighted bandaid solution to a much larger housing issue and have the potential to cause far more harm than good, and potentially even cost taxpayers more in the long run. Are we turning to other cities who are handling this in different, less harmful approaches and taking their data/results into consideration?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Yes

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Yes

City Council Comment received from Cindy Gallimore

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>
Date Tue 1/21/2025 1:29 PM
To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Contact Info:

Name:

Cindy Gallimore

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

1,2,6.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

Even when shelters are available, they're often unsafe for women, pets, and people with disabilities. Shelters can reach capacity, then what? It's morally disgusting to criminalize neighbors who are simply surviving like the rest of us.

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

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Yes

City Council Comment received from David Cordeiro

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:44 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

David Cordeiro

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 1

Email Address:

cordeirohunter@gmail.com

Phone Number:

8053024744

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

7284 Oppose, 7285-7289 In favor with no replacement.

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 oppose further anti-homeless legislation as proposed by the council. These proposed measures fail to address the root causes of homelessness, and instead, they criminalize poverty. They grant law enforcement the authority to penalize individuals simply for existing in public spaces, which does nothing to solve the underlying issues. Furthermore, I argue that the problematic individuals are already breaking existing laws and should be dealt with accordingly. We've seen in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco that ordinances like these do not reduce homelessness. Instead, they displace vulnerable individuals, burden public resources, and lead to costly legal battles over their constitutionality. Moreover, these ordinances risk eroding the freedoms of ordinary, lawful residents,

such as those who might sit or rest in public areas, while granting police the power to enforce these laws unevenly. Across the country, such vague measures have led to disproportionate impacts on marginalized groups, including people of color, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness. I was walking through the Capitol park in Sacramento not long ago and the prevalence of homeless there was much the same as it is here. However in Sacramento, in addition to banning sleeping, camping and lying down, they also banned things like keeping your belongings in public, plugging in your devices in public, using the trash cans, smoking, and unattended wheelchairs. This is all pointless legislation. If this council feels that the camping ban by the Truckee was a success, then I will respond that the prevalence of homeless in my neighborhood greatly increased on a timeline that directly correlates to the camping ban and any camp sweeps. Records on the Reno direct portal will corroborate this claim. Instead of criminalizing those who have nowhere else to go, the city council should be seeking input from those who have experienced homelessness themselves. Effective solutions often come from individuals who have lived through this struggle and understand its nuances in ways that policymakers and city leaders cannot. It is not our place to judge what it is like to exist in a condition we know so little about. Rather than working against these individuals and the organizations that support them, the city council should be collaborating with them, enabling their efforts, and amplifying their voices. The CARES Campus is a good thing but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution and it should not be touted as the primary solution to homelessness in Reno. Cities that have successfully reduced homelessness, like Salt Lake City and Houston, have embraced housing-first strategies paired with supportive services, including mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job training. These approaches work because they prioritize stability and respect for individuals' dignity. By contrast, measures like these ordinances perpetuate cycles of displacement and hardship without addressing the root causes of homelessness. These ordinances will neither resolve homelessness nor create a safer Reno. Instead, they risk limiting the freedom of lawful residents and granting police the discretion to enforce these laws discriminatorily. I urge you to invest in compassionate, evidence-based solutions and work collaboratively with those offering real help to ensure that we uplift our community as a whole. Thank you for your time and consideration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Yes

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No

City Council Comment received from Lee Anne Moore

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:33 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Lee Anne Moore

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 6

Email Address:

jedi.scum16@gmail.com

Phone Number:

951-852-8450

Address:

311 E Taylor Street Unit C, Reno, NV 89502

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks..

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing challenges faced by unhoused individuals in our community and the proposed ordinance to make sitting or lying down on public sidewalks illegal. This measure is both inhumane and cruel, as it neglects to address the systemic issues contributing to homelessness while unfairly penalizing those who are already vulnerable. With shelters at full capacity, many individuals are left without a safe place to stay, exposing them to extreme weather conditions that have, at many times, claimed lives. Even when space is available, shelters often fail to meet the diverse needs of our unhoused population. Women with children, individuals with disabilities, those struggling with severe mental health issues or addiction, and people with companion animals frequently face barriers to accessing these facilities, etc. These gaps in inclusivity and safety keep the cycle of homelessness going, making life even harder for the most vulnerable people in our community. Addressing these issues is key to creating a more supportive and fair environment for everyone. The current approach of using sweeps and incarceration doesn't solve the root causes of homelessness or offer lasting solutions. Punishing behaviors like sitting or sleeping in public spaces only

pushes people further to the margins of society. Instead of helping them find stability and support, these actions create more barriers, making it even harder for them to escape homelessness. For example, 70% of people experiencing homelessness report that legal barriers and criminal records make finding housing or employment significantly harder, exacerbating their challenges. A better solution would focus on addressing the underlying issues, like lack of affordable housing, mental health support, and job opportunities, to break the cycle of hardship and offer real paths to recovery. I urge the council to address this issue with compassion and to prioritize investment in public services that offer meaningful, long-term support. Expanding access to affordable housing, mental health care, and inclusive shelters is essential for effectively tackling this crisis. Evidence shows that housing-first programs can reduce chronic homelessness by up to 87%, while also generating significant cost savings through reduced reliance on emergency services and incarceration. By funding outreach programs and supportive housing initiatives, we can improve outcomes for unhoused individuals and build a more equitable and humane community. Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. Sincerely, Lee Anne Moore

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

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Yes

City Council Comment received from Luke Rizzotto

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 1:10 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Luke Rizzotto

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 1

Email Address:

luker.1029@yahoo.com

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

F.1.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

Agenda item F.1, and all of the proposed ordinances on homelessness for that matter, are misguided and flawed efforts that do not adequately address homelessness in our community. Instead of seeking to either alleviate the pains of homelessness - via better shelters, programs, and aid - or tackle homelessness at its source - via equitable and reasonable housing and economic policy - the proposed measures instead aim to make homelessness less visible with no regard to how this will impact our homeless neighbors. Specifically, the proposed policies as written will continually target and punish individuals who lack or cannot access the resources or knowledge to navigate their situation and do not provide an adequate way for such individuals to improve their situation. The Staff Report for this item, Bill No. 7284, vaguely mentions "encourag[ing encampment] inhabitants to accept other alternatives like shelters, drug treatment programs, and mental health facilities", yet anyone who works with the homeless can share how ineffective these "alternatives" can be, especially in our community, as these are often limited in space, woefully underfunded, or require people to relinquish their own freedom, possessions, and dignity. City of Grants Pass v. Johnson is given as a legal justification for these

ordinances, yet we cannot delude ourselves into thinking that just because something is legal, that it is appropriate or effective, yet alone ethical. Instead of focusing on the visible perception of homelessness, I implore the City to instead consider solutions that address the fundamental causes of homelessness - as laid out earlier in this comment - so that we can meaningfully and effectively address this issue. I understand this may be difficult and nebulous, but we as a City and community must seek to address issues to solve them, not to simply cover them up.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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No

January 22 Council Meeting Opposition to Agenda Item F1-6

From Natalie Handler <nataliemhandler@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:20 PM

To Jackie Bryant <BryantJ@reno.gov>; Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Greetings City of Reno Manager, Mayor + Council

I am writing to you in extreme opposition to the ordinances agenda items F1-3 which punish our most vulnerable and impoverished residents from doing life sustaining activities such as sitting, lying, sleeping in public. What this ordinance essentially does is punish people for being poor. Not only is it morally unconscionable it is also extremely wasteful and data shows that it only further pushes people away from exiting homelessness.

I have heard the term "service resistant" being tossed around as a way to further encourage the need to push this harmful ordinance forward and it makes me increasingly angry every time. Anyone who really checks out the services offered or attempts to access them are met with lack of accessible shelter beds as shelters are often at capacity or lack space for some demographics (most often women children disabled/elderly) never ending waitlists, unsafe or dignified options and many other barriers that would take anyone with reliable electricity, internet, transportation and level-headedness days to access let alone our unhoused neighbors who often have none of those things and are doing everything to stay warm, fed and safe on a daily basis. I know this from first hand experience as do many other community advocates and we have told you via public comment, email and face-to-face time and time again. You can send cops, ambassadors, park rangers and private security guards around with flyers listing off the address of Cares campus or Our Place but that will not magically make more shelter beds open up for the hundreds who are on the streets or in our parks. Nor will it create viable housing options for them that currently do not exist. I will also say that when there are even around 15 beds open at Cares no one should be forced to go there. It is widely known as unsafe, inhospitable and inhumane with 600+ head to toe and offers little to no exit strategies into housing. At one point and time we asked you all to stay a night to see what its like and none of you did. So how can you sit here and vote to give people no other option than a massive tent or a jail cell? And yes when someone with no money can't pay the fine first then the fine turns to a warrant they will go to jail. This is not anywhere near the Housing First model some of you have claimed you support. Your actions will speak louder than your words

As for the few business owners who have taken advantage of the low property values along the 4th street corridor claiming this as their neighborhood even though they do not reside in this part of town seem to champion this ordinance. I hear them speak of their concerns about vandalism, violence, drug and alcohol use (not that which is happening inside their business of course, just that of the poor people outside) and I would like to remind them the council and our community that we already have laws that prohibit those activities. None of that behavior should be used to prop up this ordinance against sitting or resting.

This ordinance is not nor will it ever be a solution to helping people gain housing and safety. It is wasteful and harmful. Please take the opportunity to show strong intelligent and compassionate leadership by voting no! If you cannot tell me where folks are supposed to go when the shelters are full or how this punitive action actually helps people get into housing then maybe it shouldn't be implemented. If you can tell me these things with reason I would absolutely love to hear back from you on this!

Sincerely,
Natalie Handler



January 21, 2025

Mayor Schieve and Reno City Council Members

RE: Support for ordinances F1-F6 on the January 22, 2025 Reno City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Downtown Reno Partnership is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit business improvement district that was formed in 2018 and is tasked with increasing the safety, cleanliness and vibrancy of Downtown Reno. Our boundaries cover 110 blocks, and we represent over 1,500 property owners.

We are writing in support of ordinances F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 & F6. These ordinances will help to clean up vague and inconsistent ordinance language and will help to create consistencies across numerous agencies and departments. Support of these ordinances gives those on the front lines the appropriate tools to enhance community health and public safety and improve overall conditions for visitors, students, residents and businesses.

Downtown Reno welcomes more than 3 million visitors per year to our iconic Virginia Street, to stroll along our beautiful Truckee River, to enjoy the Riverwalk District, the Brewery District, and the J Resort Glow Plaza. Downtown Reno is a special place for residents, visitors, students and business owners to come and enjoy all that The Biggest Little City has to offer.

Numerous organizations and agencies are working tirelessly toward Downtown Reno's revitalization efforts and these ordinances will help in addressing behaviors and conditions that threaten public safety, pollute our natural resources, and deteriorate the overall experience people have in our city.

Thank you for all your effort and work on behalf of Reno residents, businesses, students and visitors. And thank you for your focus on making Reno a safe, clean and enjoyable place for everyone. We hope you will vote in support of Agenda Items F1 through F6.

Sincerely,

Neoma Jardon

Neoma Jardon
Executive Director
Downtown Reno Partnership

Re: Upcoming vote on Public loitering

From rachel haverly <blulake510@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 4:17 PM

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

Hello City Council,
I am against this proposed law!!

F. 1 through F. 6 – Adoption of an ordinance prohibiting sitting, lying, sleeping, or camping in public places and another related to loitering.

Do not vote in support of this. I think it is toxic and you are over reaching and not helping homeless families and homeless enough. You let California toxic developers and investors come here and create a monopoly with no laws to protect renters and jack up rents and people were evicted and once you are homeless its very hard to get back into housing.

Families are suffering and so are seniors. Unemployment is the highest in nation in Nevada and housing is the most expensive.

Do not vote Yes on this law. Anyone should be able to rest or lie down if needed. This is not Nazi Germany.

R. Haverly

02-22-2025 - Reno City Council Meeting - Item # F.4 Amend Title 8 Chapter Chapter 8.12 DRRC

[illegible]

In support of items F1-F6 on the 1/22/25 Reno City Council meeting agenda

From Brian Bosma <bbosma.beep@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:19 PM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>; City Clerk <CityClerk@reno.gov>; Naomi Duerr <DuerrN@reno.gov>

Good afternoon Councilmember Duerr and Reno City Clerk,

My name is Brian Bosma and I live in Ward 2. I am writing this letter in support of ordinances F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 & F6. These ordinances will help to clean up vague and inconsistent ordinance language and will help to create consistencies across numerous agencies and departments. Support of these ordinances gives those on the front lines the appropriate tools to enhance community health and public safety and improve overall conditions for visitors, students, residents and businesses.

With so many organizations and agencies working tirelessly toward Reno's vibrancy efforts these ordinances will help in addressing behaviors and conditions that threaten public safety, pollute our natural resources, and deteriorate the overall experience people have in our city.

Thank you for all your effort and work on behalf of Reno residents, businesses, students and visitors and thank you for your focus on making Reno a safe, clean and enjoyable place for everyone.

I hope you will vote in support of Agenda Items F1 through F6.

Respectfully,

--

M. Brian Bosma

(775) 813-3766

bbosma.beep@gmail.com

*CONFIDENTIALITY -- This message is intended to be confidential and directed only to the person/entity as addressed above. Furthermore, the contents of this message and any attachments hereto may be subject to the attorney-client privilege and/or work product doctrine and should not be disclosed to other parties or distributed or copied in any way. Any unauthorized use, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message by error, please reply by e-mail to inform us and delete any copies from your hard drive. Thank you.



City Council Comment received from Bridger Fiore

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 10:39 AM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Bridger Fiore

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

Phone Number:

7754095365

Address:

900 Novelly Drive

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

F.1, F.2, F.3, F.4, F.5, F.6.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

For years now the reno city council and local government have been treating the unhoused population of our city like they are pests. They are people who have fallen on hard times, and need the support of the community around them, not to be pushed to the side so that they can be ignored and scorned by the government that should be helping them. Prohibiting "sitting, lying, sleeping, and camping on public places" will not solve any problems that the city council thinks it will. All it is us going to do is make the houseless population move to other areas, over congesting areas where they won't be penalized. There needs to be more systems in place that genuinely address the housing issues our city is facing, not shoving them to the side for the next generation to handle.

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

Do you wish to sign-up for Reno Connect e-newsletters?

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No

City Council Comment received from Chelsea Fleischman

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 4:39 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Chelsea Fleischman

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

F.1 - F.6.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I'm opposed these items for many reasons... I've heard incredibly dehumanizing, sometimes dangerous, stories of the Cares Campus here and shelters like it elsewhere. Not to mention that the other shelters are full and folks with pets, disabilities, partners, children or women in general have even more difficult experience finding shelter/resources. It feels like these proposed items are an incredibly short-sighted bandaid solution to a much larger housing issue and have the potential to cause far more harm than good, and potentially even cost taxpayers more in the long run. Are we turning to other cities who are handling this in different, less harmful approaches and taking their data/results into consideration?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Yes

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Yes

City Council Comment received from Cindy Gallimore

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>
Date Tue 1/21/2025 1:29 PM
To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Contact Info:

Name:

Cindy Gallimore

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

1,2,6.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

Even when shelters are available, they're often unsafe for women, pets, and people with disabilities. Shelters can reach capacity, then what? It's morally disgusting to criminalize neighbors who are simply surviving like the rest of us.

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

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Yes

City Council Comment received from David Cordeiro

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:44 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

David Cordeiro

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 1

Email Address:

cordeirohunter@gmail.com

Phone Number:

8053024744

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

7284 Oppose, 7285-7289 In favor with no replacement.

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 oppose further anti-homeless legislation as proposed by the council. These proposed measures fail to address the root causes of homelessness, and instead, they criminalize poverty. They grant law enforcement the authority to penalize individuals simply for existing in public spaces, which does nothing to solve the underlying issues. Furthermore, I argue that the problematic individuals are already breaking existing laws and should be dealt with accordingly. We've seen in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco that ordinances like these do not reduce homelessness. Instead, they displace vulnerable individuals, burden public resources, and lead to costly legal battles over their constitutionality. Moreover, these ordinances risk eroding the freedoms of ordinary, lawful residents,

such as those who might sit or rest in public areas, while granting police the power to enforce these laws unevenly. Across the country, such vague measures have led to disproportionate impacts on marginalized groups, including people of color, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness. I was walking through the Capitol park in Sacramento not long ago and the prevalence of homeless there was much the same as it is here. However in Sacramento, in addition to banning sleeping, camping and lying down, they also banned things like keeping your belongings in public, plugging in your devices in public, using the trash cans, smoking, and unattended wheelchairs. This is all pointless legislation. If this council feels that the camping ban by the Truckee was a success, then I will respond that the prevalence of homeless in my neighborhood greatly increased on a timeline that directly correlates to the camping ban and any camp sweeps. Records on the Reno direct portal will corroborate this claim. Instead of criminalizing those who have nowhere else to go, the city council should be seeking input from those who have experienced homelessness themselves. Effective solutions often come from individuals who have lived through this struggle and understand its nuances in ways that policymakers and city leaders cannot. It is not our place to judge what it is like to exist in a condition we know so little about. Rather than working against these individuals and the organizations that support them, the city council should be collaborating with them, enabling their efforts, and amplifying their voices. The CARES Campus is a good thing but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution and it should not be touted as the primary solution to homelessness in Reno. Cities that have successfully reduced homelessness, like Salt Lake City and Houston, have embraced housing-first strategies paired with supportive services, including mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job training. These approaches work because they prioritize stability and respect for individuals' dignity. By contrast, measures like these ordinances perpetuate cycles of displacement and hardship without addressing the root causes of homelessness. These ordinances will neither resolve homelessness nor create a safer Reno. Instead, they risk limiting the freedom of lawful residents and granting police the discretion to enforce these laws discriminatorily. I urge you to invest in compassionate, evidence-based solutions and work collaboratively with those offering real help to ensure that we uplift our community as a whole. Thank you for your time and consideration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Yes

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No

City Council Comment received from Lee Anne Moore

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:33 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Lee Anne Moore

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 6

Email Address:

jedi.scum16@gmail.com

Phone Number:

951-852-8450

Address:

311 E Taylor Street Unit C, Reno, NV 89502

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks..

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing challenges faced by unhoused individuals in our community and the proposed ordinance to make sitting or lying down on public sidewalks illegal. This measure is both inhumane and cruel, as it neglects to address the systemic issues contributing to homelessness while unfairly penalizing those who are already vulnerable. With shelters at full capacity, many individuals are left without a safe place to stay, exposing them to extreme weather conditions that have, at many times, claimed lives. Even when space is available, shelters often fail to meet the diverse needs of our unhoused population. Women with children, individuals with disabilities, those struggling with severe mental health issues or addiction, and people with companion animals frequently face barriers to accessing these facilities, etc. These gaps in inclusivity and safety keep the cycle of homelessness going, making life even harder for the most vulnerable people in our community. Addressing these issues is key to creating a more supportive and fair environment for everyone. The current approach of using sweeps and incarceration doesn't solve the root causes of homelessness or offer lasting solutions. Punishing behaviors like sitting or sleeping in public spaces only

pushes people further to the margins of society. Instead of helping them find stability and support, these actions create more barriers, making it even harder for them to escape homelessness. For example, 70% of people experiencing homelessness report that legal barriers and criminal records make finding housing or employment significantly harder, exacerbating their challenges. A better solution would focus on addressing the underlying issues, like lack of affordable housing, mental health support, and job opportunities, to break the cycle of hardship and offer real paths to recovery. I urge the council to address this issue with compassion and to prioritize investment in public services that offer meaningful, long-term support. Expanding access to affordable housing, mental health care, and inclusive shelters is essential for effectively tackling this crisis. Evidence shows that housing-first programs can reduce chronic homelessness by up to 87%, while also generating significant cost savings through reduced reliance on emergency services and incarceration. By funding outreach programs and supportive housing initiatives, we can improve outcomes for unhoused individuals and build a more equitable and humane community. Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. Sincerely, Lee Anne Moore

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Yes

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Yes

City Council Comment received from Luke Rizzotto

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 1:10 PM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Luke Rizzotto

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 1

Email Address:

luker.1029@yahoo.com

Phone Number:

Address:

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2025-01-22.

Section:

F Items - Ordinance Adoptions

Item:

F.1.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

Agenda item F.1, and all of the proposed ordinances on homelessness for that matter, are misguided and flawed efforts that do not adequately address homelessness in our community. Instead of seeking to either alleviate the pains of homelessness - via better shelters, programs, and aid - or tackle homelessness at its source - via equitable and reasonable housing and economic policy - the proposed measures instead aim to make homelessness less visible with no regard to how this will impact our homeless neighbors. Specifically, the proposed policies as written will continually target and punish individuals who lack or cannot access the resources or knowledge to navigate their situation and do not provide an adequate way for such individuals to improve their situation. The Staff Report for this item, Bill No. 7284, vaguely mentions "encourag[ing encampment] inhabitants to accept other alternatives like shelters, drug treatment programs, and mental health facilities", yet anyone who works with the homeless can share how ineffective these "alternatives" can be, especially in our community, as these are often limited in space, woefully underfunded, or require people to relinquish their own freedom, possessions, and dignity. City of Grants Pass v. Johnson is given as a legal justification for these

ordinances, yet we cannot delude ourselves into thinking that just because something is legal, that it is appropriate or effective, yet alone ethical. Instead of focusing on the visible perception of homelessness, I implore the City to instead consider solutions that address the fundamental causes of homelessness - as laid out earlier in this comment - so that we can meaningfully and effectively address this issue. I understand this may be difficult and nebulous, but we as a City and community must seek to address issues to solve them, not to simply cover them up.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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No

January 22 Council Meeting Opposition to Agenda Item F1-6

From Natalie Handler <nataliemhandler@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 2:20 PM

To Jackie Bryant <BryantJ@reno.gov>; Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Greetings City of Reno Manager, Mayor + Council

I am writing to you in extreme opposition to the ordinances agenda items F1-3 which punish our most vulnerable and impoverished residents from doing life sustaining activities such as sitting, lying, sleeping in public. What this ordinance essentially does is punish people for being poor. Not only is it morally unconscionable it is also extremely wasteful and data shows that it only further pushes people away from exiting homelessness.

I have heard the term "service resistant" being tossed around as a way to further encourage the need to push this harmful ordinance forward and it makes me increasingly angry every time. Anyone who really checks out the services offered or attempts to access them are met with lack of accessible shelter beds as shelters are often at capacity or lack space for some demographics (most often women children disabled/elderly) never ending waitlists, unsafe or dignified options and many other barriers that would take anyone with reliable electricity, internet, transportation and level-headedness days to access let alone our unhoused neighbors who often have none of those things and are doing everything to stay warm, fed and safe on a daily basis. I know this from first hand experience as do many other community advocates and we have told you via public comment, email and face-to-face time and time again. You can send cops, ambassadors, park rangers and private security guards around with flyers listing off the address of Cares campus or Our Place but that will not magically make more shelter beds open up for the hundreds who are on the streets or in our parks. Nor will it create viable housing options for them that currently do not exist. I will also say that when there are even around 15 beds open at Cares no one should be forced to go there. It is widely known as unsafe, inhospitable and inhumane with 600+ head to toe and offers little to no exit strategies into housing. At one point and time we asked you all to stay a night to see what its like and none of you did. So how can you sit here and vote to give people no other option than a massive tent or a jail cell? And yes when someone with no money can't pay the fine first then the fine turns to a warrant they will go to jail. This is not anywhere near the Housing First model some of you have claimed you support. Your actions will speak louder than your words

As for the few business owners who have taken advantage of the low property values along the 4th street corridor claiming this as their neighborhood even though they do not reside in this part of town seem to champion this ordinance. I hear them speak of their concerns about vandalism, violence, drug and alcohol use (not that which is happening inside their business of course, just that of the poor people outside) and I would like to remind them the council and our community that we already have laws that prohibit those activities. None of that behavior should be used to prop up this ordinance against sitting or resting.

This ordinance is not nor will it ever be a solution to helping people gain housing and safety. It is wasteful and harmful. Please take the opportunity to show strong intelligent and compassionate leadership by voting no! If you cannot tell me where folks are supposed to go when the shelters are full or how this punitive action actually helps people get into housing then maybe it shouldn't be implemented. If you can tell me these things with reason I would absolutely love to hear back from you on this!

Sincerely,
Natalie Handler



January 21, 2025

Mayor Schieve and Reno City Council Members

RE: Support for ordinances F1-F6 on the January 22, 2025 Reno City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Downtown Reno Partnership is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit business improvement district that was formed in 2018 and is tasked with increasing the safety, cleanliness and vibrancy of Downtown Reno. Our boundaries cover 110 blocks, and we represent over 1,500 property owners.

We are writing in support of ordinances F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 & F6. These ordinances will help to clean up vague and inconsistent ordinance language and will help to create consistencies across numerous agencies and departments. Support of these ordinances gives those on the front lines the appropriate tools to enhance community health and public safety and improve overall conditions for visitors, students, residents and businesses.

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Numerous organizations and agencies are working tirelessly toward Downtown Reno's revitalization efforts and these ordinances will help in addressing behaviors and conditions that threaten public safety, pollute our natural resources, and deteriorate the overall experience people have in our city.

Thank you for all your effort and work on behalf of Reno residents, businesses, students and visitors. And thank you for your focus on making Reno a safe, clean and enjoyable place for everyone. We hope you will vote in support of Agenda Items F1 through F6.

Sincerely,

Neoma Jardon

Neoma Jardon
Executive Director
Downtown Reno Partnership

Re: Upcoming vote on Public loitering

From rachel haverly <blulake510@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 4:17 PM

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

Hello City Council,
I am against this proposed law!!

F. 1 through F. 6 – Adoption of an ordinance prohibiting sitting, lying, sleeping, or camping in public places and another related to loitering.

Do not vote in support of this. I think it is toxic and you are over reaching and not helping homeless families and homeless enough. You let California toxic developers and investors come here and create a monopoly with no laws to protect renters and jack up rents and people were evicted and once you are homeless its very hard to get back into housing.

Families are suffering and so are seniors. Unemployment is the highest in nation in Nevada and housing is the most expensive.

Do not vote Yes on this law. Anyone should be able to rest or lie down if needed. This is not Nazi Germany.

R. Haverly