From:	Mike Nelson
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc:	newsroom@abcfoxmontana.com
Subject:	Horrible Housing Situation in Missoula
Date:	Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:15:23 PM

Dear Council,

My name is Thomas Michael Nelson, I am 47 y.o. my beautiful spouse is 40 y.o. we are raising a 15 yo son, and 18 yo daughter.

We have a beautiful well mannered 8 yo black lab, and a couple of cats, all are spayed and neutered.

Currently we are living in a Motel. We are not a "perfect" family, but we are just like 99% of the United States population. We struggle to survive on low paying jobs , day to day, week to week, and month to month. We work hard at everything we do and have never had as many problems as we have had since June 1st of this year.

This is going to be long, but I feel I need to be heard. I want to give you some background first. The following is from my go fund me account. I am not asking for charity or donations. My concerns are over the availability of affordable rentals to those of us that keep the city going, and why favoritism toward the wealthy upper class and out of state money are basically worshipped by the city of Missoula currently.

Here is our back story since the beginning of this pandemic.

"Current Priorities 1. Housing 75 per night at Motel (Immediately Needed) 2. Traffic Ticket in Waco, TX 435, * Needs cleared so I can get my Montana Driver's License renewed to get back to work. 3. Transportation Replacement Transmission 800 - 3500 parts. & Labor Our room is paid thru Tuesday, Oct 13th. Something to help please, all other resources are exhausted. Thank you and God Bless. I will answer any and all questions. ********Desperately asking for help******** Cashapp: $Mnelson Even a $5 donation from 10 persons will help as I have $20 left in my pocket. Please share!!!!!!!! We are living on borrowed time. My family and I were evicted on June 1st, 2020. We include my beautiful Lennon, her daughter Nikki, her son Dusty, and myself Mike. Currently we are staying in a Motel in Missoula, MT. The room rate is 80 per night. We are paid through Thursday morning October 7, 2020. We have been searching and exhausting every means necessary to find a rental. Of course our primary hurdles are an eviction, pets, and low income. Each were part of our everyday lives prior to the disaster of this pandemic of 2020. We got behind on our rent from February thru May as my single income fell significantly under the poverty level. When the initial restrictions began, my work as a tow truck driver making 35% commissions slowed to almost a standstill. As everyone was staying home and travel slowed excessively. Here in MT there was an eviction moratorium on place, however it expired on May 24th. 7 days later, even after communicating with our landlord to make arrangements, and receiving a message, which I still have saved. Claiming that would work, the Sheriff's deputy's showed up to put us out while I was at work. We feel that it was mainly due to us housing a close family friend whom was booted out on the street with her 3 teenage boys by her roommates at the end of March and no where else to go. Yes we did not notify our landlord of this, but I did the wrong thing by assuming it was ok, as the pandemic was making everyone a little fearful. This all

occured in Stevensville MT. My work had just starting picking up and I was feeling good about getting all caught up and ba k on track. I learned at about the same time, Ravalli County, MT signed over 100 evictions were signed and served in about a week span. I had to resign my position in the Ravalli county area as I moved out of area, which would increased my response time for towing. I did however secure a position in Missoula, MT with tow company here, but the pay is much less starting with the new company. 13.00 / hr. We have now blown through what little savings we had, as well as my tax return and stimulus, which I am grateful for. I have contacted all churches, and local charities. However they are out of finds as the homeless rate has risen exponentially since June. I am receiving assistance from the Volunteers of America which assist Veterans to help keep from homelessness. They have offered emergency housing in a different city Billings, MT. Which means we would have to give up my job, again, and start over fresh, not knowing anyone , and have similar issues renting as the eviction will follow. One other concern we are facing is our vehicle, not a month after, I was able to get my vehicle out of the shop after a transmission flush, the transmission went completely out. Thank you for your time and concern, anything can be of help. I am just trying to keep a roof over my family's head."

Sorry if it seems long winded but I want every detail heard.

Yes bad luck seems to be in the excess during these trying times of 2020. We have exhausted every resource, which even in times of hardship over the last 10 years for us, we have always been able to overcome.

I feel property management companies (all of them) and private landlords as well, are not willing to work with anyone with less than a 650 credit score or making over 3500 a month to meet the 3 times the rent income, which I made prior to July of 2020.

I don't see anyone trying to help, the government seems to not care, as long as their pockets get fatter. The homelessness rate has far exceeded anything in the past. I was just placed on suspension from my job due to not having a permanent residence, fortunately I have acquired a new position within a week of that notification. But still facing being on the streets in 2 days as the motel bill is far exceeding my income.

Our savings, tax return, and even the stimulus have gone to motels, and fast food as no facilities other than a microwave to cook on.

All I want is to know if there is anything in the works, or in discussion to address this situation?
Is there any relief in sight, as I don't know where to turn next?
And does anyone in office or in a position of power care?

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Michael Nelson

https://www.gofundme.com/f/bw7da-family-security?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&pc_code=ot_co_dashboard_a&rcid=5b26883edd154571bee23fa3bf6663a6

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