From: Zach B
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Wildly out of touch
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:59:08 PM

Dear City Council,

I just want to point out what I'm seeing on my block, right now. There is a family living in an RV, who were made homeless when their landlord refused to renew their lease so they could in turn rent it out as an AirBnB. Two houses down from me a single working mother of four young children had her lease prematurely terminated at the behest of her landlord. When pressed for a reason her landlord explained it was nothing she did and gave her the, "we don't mean to be part of the problem, but..." speeches with which I'm sure many homeless families are familiar. Waiting lists for apartments in Missoula are now years-long, even for normal people let alone section 8. Meanwhile this mother of 4 has 30 days before she's homeless, despite being a hard working productive member of society.

Society is an agreement between everyone, that we work together to provide basic needs to all participants. It's one thing when someone who violates social contracts, providing nothing and only taking doesn't have their needs met, but when society can't provide the good working people upon which our entire economy relies access to shelter or food… That right there is the erosion of the fundamental pillars of society. As city council, you're responsible for preventing this from happening.

I want to point out a couple of facts. None of the services provided by the city are helpful to any of these now homeless families. You all have spent so much money and time congratulating yourselves yet the only people you've managed to help are primarily homeless drug addicts, most of whom are beyond any reconciliation with a normal productive way of life. Permanent adult babies. My wife is the nurse at the jail and familiar with the worst of them, she'll be the first to tell you the number one thing people say about the Poverello is, "I would never go there, that place is too dangerous." These are criminals saying this, mind you. In spite of this obsession with giving money to the Poverello and dystopian 3rd world camps, the only thing the city has managed to do is attract more of these hopeless people, many of whom now flock to Missoula from out of state with violent and sexual criminal records. Drawn by an oversaturation of services which attract and enable the lifestyles of the worst people in our society, who regularly victimize others in the circumstances those services were intended to help, rendering these services completely pointless.

People who visit Missoula and drive down Broadway, god forbid they try to enjoy some time on its once beautiful waterfront, are now confronted with squalor, bloody wet wipes, those orange free needle caps, and crime. City Council of Missoula, you can't help someone who refuses to help themselves. Maybe the focus should be on helping people who deserve help, instead of enabling reprehensible IV drug users with absolutely no desire to participate as functional members of society.

We arrived at this crisis simply by not building houses. The ONLY way out of this housing and homeless crisis is building more houses. All kinds of houses. If any of you care about Missoula, you'd divert funds away from feel-good false charities like the Poverello and do whatever it takes to BUILD MORE HOUSES. I see some housing projects, which is a good start, but if you really do care about Missoula we need about 10x more. Maybe you can start

by purchasing that land over by the mall, or the Sawmill District, removing all these selfish regressive NIMBY covenants, or taxing vacation rentals to the point where they can't compete with rentals.

Respectfully,
Zach