

April 8, 2019

To Mayor and Roseburg City Council:

This is the follow up of the statement I made at the last Roseburg City Council meeting regarding the need to address the sanitation and public health concerns that exist because so many people are living outside.

Although Housing First Umpqua did not intend to jump into this public policy debate, the problem of our riverbanks becoming the default toilet and trash dump for people who live along our river has come to a head and needs to be resolved. As an organization that is made up of housing and homeless advocates, we want to encourage you to find a way that addresses the environmental and public health concerns, as well as basic human needs of our homeless neighbors.

We support a permanent solution to homelessness but even if we change our ways and made a real commitment to do what is needed to make this happen, that goal would not be reached for a long time. In the meantime, we cannot continue to ignore the problem that now seems to be overwhelming the city and is impacting the livability for everyone. Housing First Umpqua proposes that we start addressing the problem of trash and unsanitary conditions by implementing some simple solutions.

- Place toilets in various locations where homeless are living
- Provide trash services in the same locations.
- Install Sharps containers along with the toilets & trash cans

We have compiled a list of locations that might be feasible. We identified where people are staying and where there was access for toilets, trashcans & Sharps containers to be maintained.

The south end of Mill Street

The south end of Micelli Park

The north end of the Templin Beach Parking lot

Deer Creek Park

Along the Bike Path from Deer Creek Park to Gaddis Park

Toilets at each end of bike path at Gaddis Park

The park along Newton Creek behind Sherms/Goodwill/etc area of town.

Eagles Park

Although we support the above, we believe that a better solution might be to establish organized and managed camping places, where not only toilets, trashcans and Sharps containers are provided. These could serve as a point of contact to help people access services that can help get them off the streets.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Betsy Cunningham, Board Chair

Housing First Umpqua

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