



CITY OF MILPITAS

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6/23/2020

Agenda Item No. 3



ATTACHMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEM RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PACKET DISTRIBUTION



June 23, 2020

Hello Mary,

I have received the email below from the Milpitas Parent Coalition:

Last City Council meeting on 6/16/2020 proved to be beneficial in that we were able to get a consent item on the Agenda #12 pulled. Now you are able to get a presentation regarding details for these funds.

Which is to allow 2 vendors to receive contracts to clean up encampments and vendors can receive up to 100k each which ends up being a possibility of One Million Total of Funds within the next 5 years as stated in the contract.

This conversation opened the door for Milpitas Parent Coalition to request city council to reconsider. And most importantly advocate for our Homeless Community.

A presentation Today by Public Works will provide more information on the need for Public Works not to continue to provide these services and allow contractors to take over what public works has been providing for the community through out the years.

They will state San Jose and Santa Clara city have outsourced this. And they will bring up the danger of hazardous waste and biohazard of needles.

But this move to contract vendors to clean encampments creates many many concerns.

So We need to get this message to you.

Here are some Reasons stated but not limited to why the contract should not be signed.

1) cleaning encampments with out providing a viable solution doesn't make sense. Homeless will return and it will continue to be an issue.

2) Public Work employees show PRIDE in their work. In 2012 When city council voted to fire all parks employees from our Public works department and use contractors it proved to be a colossal mistake, as these contractors do not have the same pride in keeping parks up.

When residents called about park issues it was stated that it is under a contractor therefore city staff had no control of situation.

3)We want to insure the protection of the jobs within Public works. with recession here and budget shortfall that we all know it's coming we must make fiscally responsible decisions. This contract takes up to 200k from the Public works Budget. Will this force the Public Director to lay off employees?

I will forward email from Deputy Public works Director Elaine so you can be informed on following concern.

4) Public Work Director claimed 600 hours a year spent on cleaning encampments.

With 3 clean ups last year using 5-9 employees for one day for each clean up for large encampments and small encampments were 3-5 Employees for half a day. 600 hours seems over dramatized. By the way only 1 clean up this year so far. And only 2 completed in 2018

Even if they used max employees for all 6 clean ups then... that's 9 employees x 8 hours x 3 days = 216 hours that is maximum because small encampments is only half a day. I gave a big buffer. 120 hours for small encampments so total 336 hours through the year. Where is the 600 hours coming from... especially if only 3 Clean ups were done in 2019.

If Public works staff makes 50 an hour (guess) total for max staff per clean up is \$5,600. My estimated Annually would be 16,800. If they make less hourly then total would be less. Of course there are Unknown costs for discarding waste, PPE and Equipment.

Makes sense to keep in house. Like other city's of similar size and budget.

5) They will say it is a safety issue, yet it has been a job that Public Works has been doing since before anyone can remember.

Why is it now a safety issue?

Isn't the city providing proper PPE for our Public works? OSHA has standards that have to be followed. This plea for someone else to step in to do a job they have been providing is grasping for sympathy, and if it is really hazardous then of course but so is climbing trees so will we have to out source that too now.

If it's really Hazardous then add Hazard Pay for these employees.

They will say it takes them away from the other duties, again this is part of their work. Or maybe the solution is Hire employees to help seasonally.

The message is really that this money could be allocated to help homeless with a viable solution to house them, not just clean up and have them set up else where.

We can't displace Homeless with out a place for them to go. They will go set up in another neighborhood and maybe it will be the neighborhood park next time, oh wait someone just attempted that recently didn't they.

We have merged with other leaders from many of Milpitas Groups, we all manifest that we can count on you advocate with us to keep this in house to preserve those funds for staff and if possible to help find a viable solution for our Homeless.

In April council directed City Manager to work with the county to find another location for transitional housing. We want to insure Milpitanians are a priority on that list and we want to move this action forward as soon as possible we cant use COVID as an excuse it has to be the reason.

If your still reading this I Thank you for your time and consideration.

I look forward to hearing back.

Respectfully,

Jackie
Co Founder
Milpitas Parent Coalition

Tue 6/23/2020 12:31 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We should not be paying anyone to "clear out" homeless encampments unless we are also sending in social workers to make sure they all get the services they are eligible for and want. We should also make sure that the clearing out allows them to keep possessions they need, such as clothing and bedding.

If we just send in people to throw everything away and force the people to move along, then our city is inhumane. I would not be able to vote for anyone who thinks it's ok to just force people to move with no support. The city has been "studying" where to put our homeless folks for two years. If the answer to that is force them out then this is not a functioning government. A government's job is to take care off its citizens, not to force them out.

Stacy Brobst

Lisa Moreno
Tue 6/23/2020 4:20 PM

Lisa Moreno of Milpitas
Co-founder of Milpitas Parent Coalition.

Good evening Mayor Tran and City Council: As you are aware, our unhoused population is growing and will continue to grow due to the COVID pandemic. It is more important than ever for us to come together as a community and provide some form of housing that includes "wrap" around services. To simply clean up after those

who are "ripped" from the only home they know, and then do it all over again, because we don't have the proper facilities/services for this community, is not the answer. Many that find themselves unhoused, are inflicted with having the unfortunate disease of addiction and alcoholism, which many times is a result of an individual not having the proper medical care thus, they end up self-medicating. Many of us in this community are trying to engage with the City leaders to make this happen, yet we find it hard to do so as week after week, we send in our comments only to hear them said with no emotion and then our words and passion are lost.. Please understand, our passion is strong and will continue until the right decisions are made.

As leaders of this City, the community looks upon you to make those decisions that will foster a clean, safe and healthy environment for all who enter our community.

We thank you and look forward to working with you on this very critical and important matter.