

Hall, Renee

From: Erik Charter <erik.charter@jensengroup.net>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 4:13 PM
To: City Council and Mayor
Attachments: IMG_6514.jpeg; IMG_6298.jpeg

[External Email]

To the Mayor & Council,

These photos were taken this morning & last Friday night at 6:00 around the Ames Public Library. Clearly this situation is getting out of hand. The difficulty is, the more "services" Ames offers for the homeless, the more homeless people Ames will attract. The reason these folks congregate downtown is because that's where the free help is offered. They don't congregate in downtown Ankeny or Waukee because those towns have no free help that I'm aware of.

The Council is composed of compassionate people whose politics range across the political spectrum. After watching the Council meeting last week, however, I was concerned that the only one who really heard what the neighborhood was saying was Gloria Betcher. Ultimately all of you are accountable to the voters and the most reliable voters are going to be property owners. Ames property owners, regardless of party affiliation, do not want to see downtown slip into chaos. If someone is a bit disheveled that needs to be tolerated, but people routinely sleeping in public, carting large quantities of personal goods around, laying down in driveways, walking through town in a deranged state cursing people – that can't be tolerated long term and I am pretty certain as a 30-year watcher of Ames politics, that any Council Member or Mayor that tolerates it will eventually draw opposition to their right that defeats them.

People in Ames are nice, people in Ames are tolerant, but Ames is not Iowa City and there are lines. Downtown is pretty rapidly moving over those lines.

Erik Charter
519 W. Crystal Loop
Ames

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