

Hall, Renee

From: Debbie Carter <debbielanp@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 9:24 AM
To: City Council and Mayor
Subject: Fw: Request for occasional police patrol

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and Council:

I sent the email below to my City Council Representative back in October and would like to now share it with all of you.

Best wishes!

Debbie

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Debbie Carter <debbielanp@aol.com>
To: bronwyn.beattyhansen@amescitycouncil.org <bronwyn.beattyhansen@amescitycouncil.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 01:04:15 PM CDT
Subject: Request for occasional police patrol

Dear Bronwyn:

A few weeks ago, Officer Gohlmann responded by phone to a call I had made to the police non emergency number about me seeing multiple homeless men urinating while they were partially hidden behind a bush at the Methodist Church and in the library alley. I was hoping that the area could have an increased police presence to encourage them to use a restroom available to them (Bandshell). He informed me that the APD is short on staff and that I would need to contact City Council to increase the police presence in that area.

While I continue to witness what appears to be urination/defecation many times a week, that is not the reason for this email. Today I am requesting an increased police presence in the alley behind my home at 709 Douglas Ave. Some homeless have stashed their things in the alley, which will likely lessen as the leaves are falling and hiding places diminish. But there are also some meetups of homeless people that are very suspicious to me which I have inadvertently come upon twice now, directly adjacent to my back yard and the person being met each time looked very angry to see me and he does scare me.

Just FYI: This morning I witnessed the most homeless men that I have seen at one time as I went on my morning dog walk. Everyday is different. You would be very welcome to walk with me any morning between 7:55 and 8:15 am so you can see what mornings are like in the library area. Even before the Bandshell park restrooms closed, there were many men that use the the Methodist church evergreen bush for their morning needs. The convenience store on the corner of 6th and Douglas doesn't offer a public restroom. So currently, there is not a handy place that I am aware of to meet the bathroom needs of this group beyond the bushes on 6th street and in my neighborhood. I wonder if a portable restroom would be a respectful accommodation for the city to provide - maybe in the library parking lot?

Please consider my request for an increase in police presence in my alley area.

Best wishes!

Deb Carter
709 Douglas Ave.
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