

From: [Ron](#)
To: [Ball, Jeremy](#); [Cordova, Gilda](#); [Vega, Victor](#); [Starbuck, Dirk](#)
Cc: [Haddon, Stacey](#); [Throop, Jim](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Item #4 on the February 2nd City Council agenda.
Date: Monday, February 01, 2021 9:39:20 AM

Please accept this as Public Comment and a Written Communication for Item #4 on the February 2nd City Council agenda.

Spending another half-million a year to “clean up the riverbed” and expel the homeless with funds that were intended to renovate an aged domestic water delivery system and other wise maintain the delivery and supply grid isn’t prudent. First, the aging infrastructure still needs to be replaced and second you aren’t solving the homeless problem.

The staff is proposing to divert O&M money from the water utility saying that “funding the ongoing costs for clean-up and patrolling from the Water Enterprise Fund would be a legitimate use.” They justify this by saying that the homeless population “sits directly over the City’s potable water source.”

I would urge you to ask for a map showing the location of the City water wells along the river and another showing the proximity of the camps to support this assertion. I would also ask for a history of well water lab analysis for the last 10 years to see if there has been an increase of contaminates that could have come from the camps.

The second issue is “where will the homeless go” to establish their camps if you are successful at ejecting them from the riverbed? Most likely they will move into abandoned homes, as some of them tried to do in my neighborhood, or into hiding places in the commercial areas.

My point is that in the process of “solving” this problem be wary of the unintended consequences associated with simply moving it to other locations.

Until the Council eliminates the blight associated with the homeless population that exists throughout the City you haven’t solved the problem at all.

Ron Fink
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