



**City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

Committee: Public Safety, Health and Operations

Item: Direct administration to Develop Short-Term and Long-Term Solutions to assist the unhoused and address urban camping to Protect Public Health and Safety

Date: June 1, 2023

Sponsor(s): Mike Nugent

Prepared by: Mike Nugent

Ward(s) Affected:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Action Required:

- Direct administration to provide a menu of long-term community partnership shelter options for council consideration, including costs and potential challenges. These options should include but are not limited to:
 - A long-term transitional community with tiny houses or shelters, assigned campsites, and RV spaces similar to the planned community in Austin, Texas. <https://mlf.org/community-first/>
 - A permanent shelter for year-round one-night accommodations operated similar to traditional shelters in Missoula.
 - Creating an additional 30 units of transitional housing and wrap-around services similar to those to be opened this summer.
- Discuss need for private and non-profit partners as the City of Missoula is likely not the best operator of a long-term solution.
- Accompanying referral will address current environmental crisis management.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Direct administration to provide a menu of long-term community partnership shelter options for council consideration, including costs and potential challenges. These options should include but are not limited to:

1. A long-term transitional community with tiny houses or shelters, assigned campsites, and RV spaces similar to the planned community in Austin, Texas. <https://mlf.org/community-first/>
2. A permanent shelter for year-round one-night accommodations operated similar to traditional shelters in Missoula.
3. Creating an additional 30 units of transitional housing and wrap-around services similar to those to be opened this summer

Timeline:

Committee discussion:	June 14, 2023
Council action (or sets hearing):	June 26, 2023
Public Hearing (if required):	Click or tap here to enter text.
Final Consideration	Click or tap here to enter text.
Deadline:	ASAP

Background and Alternatives Explored: Currently the City of Missoula has a winter warming shelter that houses much of Missoula's homeless population during the winter but lacks sufficient funding to operate year-round. When the winter warming shelter closes in the spring, the residents disperse throughout the City and establish housing encampments at various places across public and private spaces. Many of these encampments are not near basic facilities, which results in environmental degradation and places a severe burden on nearby residential areas. Without criminalizing homelessness, Missoula needs to establish a clear set of rules and guidelines for these types of encampments that ensure that they are secure, do not cause environmental degradation, and allow all of the public to utilize our public spaces. Developing short-term solutions to ensure that homeless encampments occur only in areas equipped to handle the health and safety risks associated with such encampments and to ease the resource burden required to monitor dispersed homeless encampments. In the long-term, Missoula needs to implement strategies around housing the unhoused that can provide wraparound services to help transition folks into housing.

Financial Implications: TBD

Links to external websites:

[MRSC - What Are Local Governments Doing in Response to Martin v. City of Boise?](#)

[MRSC - New Ninth Circuit Ruling Addresses Anti-Camping Ordinances](#)

[Homelessness in the US: How should cities address tent encampments? - Vox](#)

[In Minneapolis and St. Paul, two homeless encampment strategies \(startribune.com\)](#)

[He's watching L.A. homelessness destroy the Ballona Wetlands - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

[Encampment Response Strategy FINAL \(cdn-website.com\)](#)