

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 1-21-23 ITEM NO. BA 11

Bernadette Russell

From: Deanne Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: February 19, 2023 10:13 AM
To: Jan Leshner
Cc: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB_mail
Subject: "unsheltered individuals"

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2/19/2023

Deanne Johnson

The situations I am seeing in Pima County related to crime and homelessness is that it is worsening and the individuals chose to be on the streets, that is the lifestyle they choose because of drug use or mental issues. Will another "official" on the taxpayer payroll really make a difference? These people need permanent help or be moved out of our city/county.

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Deanne Johnson



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Katrina Martinez

From: Brenda Ellis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 11:39 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Homeless Situation in Pima County. Agenda Item 11

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20 February 2023

Clerk of the Board,

The amount of trash and obviously stolen grocery carts stranded on the streets has increased significantly. And when it rains, the trash and organic refuse is all flushed into the river beds. I am not a cruel and cold person to wish a homeless situation on anyone, but I am a tax paying and law abiding citizen that does not litter, defecate in public or on public/private property, beg on private and public property, wander through neighborhoods looking for delivered packages and other loose items to steal, inspect mailboxes, expect someone else to feed and clothe me and otherwise agitate my fellow citizens and taxpayers. I don't understand why the rights of the homeless supersede my rights to a clean and safe neighborhood and environment. There are several places where the homeless camp near my neighborhood, including in the Rillito River near the 1st Avenue bridge now. These encampments are easy to notice because of the enormous amount of trash and shopping carts. I stopped at a gas station and got to watch a homeless person squat and urinate on the sidewalk of the business in full view of the public. I see all the fences businesses all over town and the county are putting up. Do you have any idea how much that costs? And who do you think pays for that? Me, the consumer. I also don't understand why the tax dollars are being used to house these people – I worked for well over 40 years and payed my way the whole time. Even when I was totally without funds and the economy in the toilet, I did not beg and not pay my rent. I had roommates that I shared the housing bill with and limited/eliminated any non-essential spending. I worked harder and longer and put myself through skilled training. I was aware that drugs and alcohol could easily be addictive and moderated my use (after I paid the rent and other necessities). At the least, housing beyond emergency shelter should not be given to those who won't take addiction and mental health intervention and job training. I'm happy to help those who will help themselves, but I am beginning to resent the funding we are spending on the homeless. I volunteered for the Homeless Count this year to see firsthand the situation. Out of all the individuals I spoke to (asking only the questions on the survey), only one had a plan to get off the street, one clearly had mental issues and needed support, and most of the rest had no intention of improving their situation. What's the plan for those individuals who don't want to leave the streets?

Brenda Ellis
[REDACTED]

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