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Sent: 4/16/2021 12:31:26 PM
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Cc:
Subject: Current Aston Park Situation

Good Afternoon City Council:

I am a resident of 208 S French Broad Ave. I was one of the concerned citizens who wrote City Council in regards to Aston Park encampments. I have just walked through Aston Park and spoken with community resource members, the police, and Jeremy Lett. It appears that most of the homeless tent campers have left. What we have now is a situation of "protesters" most of which I would imagine have homes who are setting up tents currently and did so last night.

I appreciate their cause, but they are not the residents or taxpayers of this neighborhood. I would beg you to stop this now before it becomes an ongoing issue and issue orders for them to vacate the park.

As I wrote in my response to the Council meeting on April 13, Thank you for choosing the safety of my community and thank you for choosing to allow access to the park for everyone by not letting these campers take over the park. I have also described what is in my personal and professional opinion a gross misinterpretation of the CDC shelter in place order below:

The COVID shelter in place orders were intended for people already in place. The orders were not made to allow people to take advantage of the interpretation and set-up camp in our parks. As a healthcare professional, I have noted that these campers are not practicing social distancing or safe practices and by allowing them to continue to stay only encourages the spread of infectious disease. The difference between medieval times and our time is the improvements that have been made in sanitation, clean water, and improved living conditions. By allowing these encampments where there are no sanitation standards and no one is practicing safe social distancing or even enforcing distance between tents, the city actually encourages the spread of COVID-19 into the neighborhoods surrounding them. Furthermore is anyone offering to vaccinate these campers? That could be a huge service to the community.

Thank you city council for listening to the actual residents of these communities who are experiencing these encampments and enforcing the laws of our city. I wish the absolute best for these campers, but it is not safe for them or the neighborhoods they are occupying for them to stay.

Sincerely,

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