

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-100

WHEREAS, sanitary, secure and humane housing is necessary for a person to lead a healthy, productive life.

WHEREAS, lack of housing incurs a great cost upon both the individuals involved and society at large.

WHEREAS, people can become unhoused because they experience a combination of addiction, mental illness and poverty. People can also lose their housing due to a work accident, inability to pay a medical or vehicle expense, the loss of a job, the loss of supportive family or friends, or other life circumstances.

WHEREAS, unhoused people will often, by necessity, find somewhere to live in the urban wild, such as parks, open spaces or undeveloped parcels within urban areas.

WHEREAS, living in the urban wild has a profoundly negative social, environmental and community impact.

WHEREAS, sanitary, secure and humane supported shelter areas significantly reduce these impacts.

WHEREAS, living in the urban wild, in constant survival mode, dramatically restricts a person's ability to meet their physical and mental needs, gain employment or attain the personal identification needed to access existing services.

WHEREAS, when previously unhoused people have sanitary, secure and humane sanctioned shelter, with structure and support, they have the energy and time to access services and move their lives forward.

WHEREAS, when the scale of sanctioned shelter areas aligns with best practices, the likelihood of success increases for both residents and the project.

WHEREAS, when offering shelter areas to unhoused individuals, we will work with professionals and take the time necessary to help people relocate.

WHEREAS, we recognize that compassion without enforcement could create an unintended cycle of enablement and entropy.

WHEREAS, if a person refuses the option to move to a sanctioned shelter area, Missoula County will enforce existing laws, as applicable

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Missoula County Commissioners, will endeavor to create sanitary, safe and secure supported shelter areas for our unhoused population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we recognize this solution is imperfect, yet far preferable to the unsanctioned, unsanitary and environmentally destructive encampments now plaguing population centers across the nation.

DATED THIS 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY

Tyler Gernant, Clerk and Recorder

David Strohmaier, Chair



Josh Slotnick, Commissioner

Juanita Vero, Commissioner