

From: Tom Craig <motgiarc@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/7/2022 12:14:48 PM
To: Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Felony Littering Charges Fiasco

Thank you for your response. The problem of homelessness is only a symptom of a greater societal problem (or is it a design?) that involves how unequally materials and services are distributed in this society. I believe we are so far along the highway leading toward becoming a 3rd World empire with our democracy almost thrown out the window that it may require strong demonstrative actions to alert people of the dangers that are growing in our land. While you and I and City Council even with the NC Assembly are probably not able to put a serious dent in solving this problem, it is still there despite soup kitchens AND police raids. Possibly Franklin Roosevelt could solve it, cutting the military budget to the equivalent of the 5 next biggest spenders (instead of the 10 next spenders as it is today) AND refocusing that will and expenditure on a massive jobs program, including infrastructure,, healthcare and climate change modification efforts helping and enabling homeless people to live a more stable existence. Also I don't agree with just "going along with what the D says." He was fortunate to barely get by in his election efforts (I heard a 100 vote margin among thousands); maybe the charge was politically motivated to counter the criticism he had received for not being tough enough. In any case I think that it comes with the territory to at least question our authorities, especially in these volatile times. Sincerely,
Tom Craig

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 11:05 AM Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com> wrote:
Tom, Anne,

I know sometimes by the time media shares a story, there are lots of perspectives and statements shared that may not necessarily reflect what really occurred. I care tremendously for our unhoused and vulnerable. What happened in the park with this situation was nothing of the sort. Young activists from various states showing up to trash a place and make a statement they can use for social media manipulation or attention, or whatever it is, is not helping our unhoused people get the real help and resources they need. Instead, it detracts from the real work and the people that need help.

As to whether the level of the charge is appropriate, I leave that to our chief and DA, and will continue to listen in on what it all means. I do not, however, support what happened in the park. And it should not be continued, allowed, or celebrated in any way. Serving hot meals is one thing. This was not that.

Sage

On Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 7:29 PM Tom Craig <motgiarc@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor and City Council Members

To me it is outrageous that the participants in a support action for unhoused people in Aston Park are being charged with felony littering. At first I thought it was a pathetic attempt at a joke, but then I noted that the charge is usually aimed at those dumping more than 500 lbs of "litter" on an undesignated site. Still, that seems like it shouldn't be called littering but something like "Malicious Dumping" which this action was certainly not.

No this falls into the category of jailing people for offering water and nutrition to voters waiting in line or suing someone who helped someone else have an abortion. You know, the kind of thing our glorious GOP would back because they don't have a clue to really solve the problem at its core. Also I'm sure the avaricious developers are smiling smugly as they write their checks to politicians who also stand against the human street litter that affects tourism in our fading city. This is also legal manipulation of the most extreme kind, the kind George Orwell used to write about.

2+2=5, anyone?

Sincerely,

Tom Craig