

Ruth Stellmacher

From: LAURIE J LA BRASSEUR <luckylaurie25@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:59 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Opposed to Cascade Gateway Park homeless camping

December 14, 2020

Salem City Council Members:

My name is Laurie LaBrasseur, and I live at Paradise Island 55+ Park. I am opposed to the extension of unregulated homeless camping in Cascade Gateway Park (CGP). There has been an increase of thefts in the park. I personally have approached vehicles that were cruising the streets of Paradise Island with 4 to 5 riders casing homes. When I asked what they were doing, they sped off. My neighbor had the fuel line of her RV cut and the fuel siphoned out. I no longer feel safe and secure here, which was a big factor in my choice of homes when I purchased. Why are you ignoring the welfare of taxpayers for the City of Salem?

It is my understanding that the city is not conducting patrols or providing supervision of the 300+ homeless camping outside of the parking lot of CGP. I no longer feel safe walking for exercise in CGP. Garbage and refuse has increased in CGP having a negative impact on the prolific wildlife in the park, and it is disgusting. WHY ARE YOU ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN? Park trees were cut down by the homeless for firewood and building shelters.

I also understand the city has no plan to move campers out of CGP at any time in the future. Just a few days ago, there were explosions and fires in CGP caused by the homeless campers. It may be wet now, but what if that would have happened a few months ago? It only takes a few embers in a manufactured home park to cause another fire catastrophe like we witnessed this past summer. Doesn't our safety matter to you?

I have also witnessed cars exiting CGP onto Turner RD SE running the stop sign numerous times. Just 3 days ago, a car pulled right out in front of me. He didn't stop at the stop sign and didn't even look my way before pulling onto Turner RD SE. Luckily, I was able to avoid a collision.

A neighbor living next to our RV storage was up in the wee hours of the morning recently, heard noises and saw 2 men with a crowbar and bolt cutters. These people are getting more brazen as time goes on due to the lack of police monitoring and city oversight. Is this what our Salem City Council wants for the elderly members of the community?

DO NOT EXTEND HOMELESS CAMPING FOR ANOTHER 6 MONTHS OF HELL FOR US! Support the people who put you in office.

Enough is enough!

Laurie LaBrasseur
Paradise Island Park resident
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