

December 6, 2019

Mayor Jim Bouley
City Council Members
City of Concord
41 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: Affordable Housing, Homeless Citizens, Refugees, and Potential Tax Increase.
City Council Meeting December 9, 2019.

Mayor Jim Bouley:

Bless your compassionate heart Mayor Bouley and everyone else who is sensitive to the needs of the plight of the Refugees.

However, BEFORE you let your hearts run away with confirming previously published decisions regarding accepting additional Refugees into Concord, I plead with you to view the COMPLETE picture by getting more input.

Affordable Housing.

There is an apparent shortage of affordable housing in our area. One result is employees of local businesses are required to live outside the City of Concord.

Homeless Citizens.

People erroneously believe that the homeless community is exclusively made up of alcoholics and drug addicts as well as people who do not want to work.

There are at least two categories of people who are living homeless. One category is people who work (or want to work) but cannot find affordable housing.

On Sunday night, December 1, 2019, the TV program, 60 Minutes, broadcast their program "*Rent is Obscene Here: The issues forcing people in Seattle onto the street.*" (Series 52 Episode 10)

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homeless-in-america-the-issues-forcing-people-in-seattle-onto-the-street-60-minutes-2019-12-01/>

The program highlights the growing National problem of people (including U.S. Citizens) wanting to obtain affordable housing but cannot find it. As a result, they become part of the homeless population.

The 60 Minutes program did not mention the complication of U.S. subsidized Refugees taking more affordable housing out of the market.

However, those of us who were in Concord, NH in 2010 and beyond can observe how many apartments were occupied by Refugees as a result of compassionate care people.

Refugees.

Local U.S. Citizens cannot compete with Refugees subsidized by the U.S. Government in any way. This is especially true when it comes to obtaining affordable housing. Therefore, we can only expect the affordable local housing market to be even further diminished for non subsidized U.S. citizens.

Therefore, we can anticipate the result will probably be a increase in the homeless community.

Compassionate Care people pushing for the rights of non U.S. Citizen Refugees will probably have unintentionally pushed U.S. Citizens into a longer and more hopeless homeless scenario.

Potential Tax Increase.

1. Please consider the following and be kind to the City of Concord property owners.

In the last fourteen years, property values have depreciated in our area while the City of Concord TAX BILL has almost doubled.

2A. I ask you to get more information from the Police Department #1.

I ask you to get more information from the Police Department as to whether the Police Department has had to be increased over the past nine years as a result of other Refugees coming into a new territory. If so, taxes will probably need to be increased again due to the need for additional police staffing. Please get Police Department input BEFORE inviting Refugees to live in Concord..

2B. I ask you to get more information from the Police Department #2.

Will accepting more Refugees result in an increase in alcohol and/or drug addiction?

3. I ask you to get more information from the Concord Education Department and the individual Concord Schools.

Past history indicated that there was an increased work load on teachers.

Educating Refugee children who do not know how to speak or read English results in an additional work load on teachers and support personnel.

Will this require additional special education personnel and thereby increase the overall school costs resulting in greater tax liability on property owners?

If so, Concord property owners can anticipate another tax increase should you decide to invite another round of Refugees.

Thank you for your compassionate understanding of potential problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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