

**From:** [Jim Bouley](#)  
**To:** [Bonenfant, Janice](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: City Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2019 12:44:31 PM

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "David and Monique" <[dsmsbs@aol.com](mailto:dsmsbs@aol.com)>  
**Subject:** City Concerns  
**Date:** August 11, 2019 at 12:25:20 PM EDT  
**To:** <[zricehawkins@concordnh.gov](mailto:zricehawkins@concordnh.gov)>, <[mcoen@concordnh.gov](mailto:mcoen@concordnh.gov)>, <[agradys Sexton@concordnh.gov](mailto:agradys Sexton@concordnh.gov)>, <[chamby@comcast.net](mailto:chamby@comcast.net)>, <[jpbouley@comcast.net](mailto:jpbouley@comcast.net)>, <[bosgood@concordpolice.com](mailto:bosgood@concordpolice.com)>

Good evening Mayor Bouley, Chief Osgood, and Councilors:

I am writing to express my concerns about the increased frequency of violent crime in Concord, the increasing opioid epidemic, and the expanding homeless/transient population.

I struggle with my personal feelings about this topic because I like to think that I am a caring, compassionate individual who supports services and opportunity for all populations. I believe in providing treatment for those suffering with mental health issues and substance use disorders, affordable housing for the needy, job opportunities and higher minimum wages. Clearly, we cannot as a society turn our backs on the needy and mentally ill.

And yet, I increasingly find myself discouraged and worried by the recent number of violent crimes, which are stretching police resources, as well as the number of transient individuals congregating in groups throughout the downtown area. The City worked so hard to redesign Main Street. The changes have been positive, and the downtown area is really thriving. Unfortunately, when I walk by Eagle Square, the State House or other downtown areas, I feel more uncomfortable. I heard one report of a former colleague being grabbed while walking at lunch. Another colleague went out at lunch to discover a number of police officers in the alley by Bicentennial Square (presumably looking for a suspect). A third person went to an ATM and noticed that several people were watching her closely as she left. Today, I hear the reports of SWAT teams surrounding the Holiday Inn. These crimes now seem to be weekly, almost daily occurrences.

I don't know if there is a direct correlation between the increase in the homeless population, the opioid epidemic and the increase in crime, but it seems a reasonable conclusion.

A friend of mine recently referred me to a video called "[Seattle is Dying.](#)" I recommend

it to all of you; it is alarming and sobering. In 2017, Seattle had the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest property crime rate per 100,000 people in the nation. The only city with a higher crime rate in San Francisco, and I have seen first-hand the extent of the homeless population in San Francisco. We recently visited the city as tourists, and I remember coming home and thinking that I wouldn't visit again because it was dirty and depressing

One Seattle resident interviewed for the documentary compiled a list of the top 100 repeat offenders in the city of Seattle. 100% of them were homeless, 100% of them had a substance use disorder, and 50% were evaluated for mental health issues. Each of these individuals had 36 offenses on average. Very few of them ever served time. They were simply out on the street to re-offend.

Police morale is very low because they can't enforce the law they have on the books, and the laws are being watered down. Individuals can now possess up to 3 grams of narcotics without it being a criminal offense. Misdemeanors are no longer being enforced. One police officer was quoted as saying "... in a misguided attempt to help this population, the city has allowed the streets to be essentially taken over." Shoplifting is rampant. One shop owner called 911 599 times in a 19-month period, and only 8 of those calls resulted in prosecution. These individuals are emboldened because they know nothing will happen to them. These are just a few examples of how a once-beautiful city has significantly deteriorated, and people are angry.

The movie eventually goes on to suggest that enforcement and intervention are absolutely essential; that is, these offenders must be arrested, incarcerated and must receive mandatory treatment, and they cited a program in Rhode Island that seems to be working. I am not an expert in these fields, and I don't know if what this movie suggests is the solution to these problems. However, I am asking all of you to seriously consider how you as a group and we as a city can make sure that Concord continues to be a place that we can all be proud of and feel privileged to live in a year from now, five years from now, and beyond. I hope we can find some answers, and get a handle on this before it becomes too big to handle.

Thank you.

Monique Scharlotte  
39 Oakmont Drive  
Concord