

Mistretta, Susan

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Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:28 PM
To: City Council - All
Subject: Problems in Dover Ward 1 August 26 2020

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to address several problems that have become apparent in Dover Ward 1 in the last month.

1. Little attention is being paid to sweeping the streets in and around downtown, including residential and also the commercial area. I frequently see litter, leaves, and dirt strewn about. The city repainted the parking spaces on my street recently, and they didn't even bother to sweep the curb beforehand. There are also overgrown weeds and cans on and adjacent to sidewalks, particularly on Second Street where I live. I would do my best to clean the area myself, but I live in an apartment and I don't have access to such tools.
2. I have seen a sharp uptick in vagrants asking for money, loitering, and sleeping in public places, including around the train station, community trail and walking train tracks, and hanging outside the Holy Rosary Credit Union and surrounding. I called several times in to seek help for a homeless woman and her companion that were seen sleeping and staying outside Flight Coffee all day and all night for at least a week, and they are still there. They didn't appear to be harassing anyone, but they are bringing down the traffic to area businesses and making it undesirable to walk this part of the city, especially at night. Their presence seems to have attracted other people who are harassing pedestrians for change at all hours of the day now, including at least three men that approached me with vaguely threatening entitlement in the last week. Their hogging of the benches for sleeping or sitting for long periods also brings sanitary concerns and robs actual residents of places to sit. I used to sit on that bench and take in the traffic and sights on my walk to/from supporting local businesses. Now there's a woman with a shopping cart full of garbage who won't leave.
3. Dover is starting to turn into the big city that I left for similar quality-of-life and safety concerns. I assume at this point that the two individuals I mentioned have been contacted with Dover Police to refer to the homeless shelter, but their refusal of help needs to be followed by a vacate order so they can find another city to be. You need to put your foot down or it won't be long before there are tents on the sidewalks and used needles in the street.

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