

**MONROE COUNTY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION REGARDING POLICY TO  
CLEAR ENCAMPMENTS FROM SEMINARY PARK**

**Whereas:** Monroe County Trustees Association is committed to working hard to build positive relationships in our community and provide support for those in need;

**Whereas:** On March 6, 2020, Eric Holcomb, Governor of Indiana, declared a Public Health Emergency recognizing the presence of COVID-19;

**Whereas:** This recognition authorizes Indiana Governmental units to take actions *designed to lessen the threat of the contagion* for their employees and those who utilize the public services offered by that Unit; and,

**Whereas:** People experiencing unsheltered homelessness may be at risk for infection, the CDC issued guidelines that requires a “whole community” approach, “which means involving partners in the response plan” including “homeless service providers”;

**Whereas:** The City of Bloomington did not consult nor inform Trustees regarding a plan to remove tents from Seminary Park;

**Whereas:** The City of Bloomington ignored guidelines established by the CDC to “allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are because “clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread”;

**Whereas:** As all Monroe County Townships work to fight poverty in our community, removing an encampment from Seminary Park is not an acceptable approach absent appropriate safety and housing plans in place.

**Therefore now be it resolved:** Members of the Monroe County Trustees Association urge the Mayor of Bloomington to work in conjunction with township and county governments to inform decisions relating to people living in poverty in our community.

The Monroe County Trustees Association urges the Mayor of Bloomington to collaborate with other governmental units and related service providers to decriminalize homelessness, and to develop policy that is a positive approach to ending homelessness in this community.

The Monroe County Trustees Association urges the commitment of resources (federal, state, local governments, and private funders) toward the implementation of a Housing First model (*connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry*) for ending homelessness in this community.

Dated this 18th day of December, 2020.

SIGNED:

Michelle Bright, Benton Township Trustee  
Kim Alexander, Bloomington Township Trustee  
Dan Combs, Perry Township Trustee  
Marty Stephens, Richland Township Trustee  
Rita Barrow, Van Buren Township Trustee  
Barbara Ooley, Washington Township Trustee