

Aurora homeless camp resolution moves forward

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In Monday night's Aurora City Council study session, the council moved forward with a resolution that, if passed at a future regular council meeting, would formally require a 72-hour notice before homeless encampment sweeps.



In February 2025, Aurora lawmakers got rid of requirements to provide shelter options and a 72-hour notice before sweeps.

The 2025 decision followed a U. S. Supreme Court ruling that the Eighth Amendment's cruel and unusual punishment clause does not prohibit the enforcement of a rule prohibiting camping on public property, according to the language of the ordinance.

Councilmember Rob Andrews' resolution would add the notice back. However, the notice is already a practice for homeless abatement officials, City Manager Jason Batchelor said. The resolution would simply inform people of that practice.

If the encampment presents an imminent public health or safety risk or is on CDOT property, the notice is not required, the resolution said.

Essentially, the resolution would not change Aurora's homelessness laws.

The resolution from Andrews also adds a section on adverse weather, stating that camp abatements can be postponed or canceled due to extreme adverse weather conditions or other "extraordinary circumstances."

Under the previous City Council, Aurora officials moved forward with what the mayor has called a "tough love" approach to homelessness, enacting a camping ban, alongside starting a court system to address low-level offenses by homeless people.

The city's "tough love" approach measures success by employment and self-sufficiency, rather than how many people are taken off the streets, city officials have said.

The approach included the creation of a Regional Navigation Campus, 15500 E. 40th Ave., which opened as a "one-stop shop" for homeless services in November.

Several of the council's conservative members spoke against the resolution Monday, saying it is a "slow repeal" of camping laws put in place by the previous council.

Councilmember Stephanie Hancock said she has heard positive feedback on the current abatement laws and does not want to see them get rolled back.

"The fact is we have a problem on our streets that our residents have asked us to resolve," Hancock said. "When we incrementally chip away at the ordinance ... we send a message to people that they can do whatever they want."

Several of the council's progressive members, on the other hand, supported the resolution, saying giving people notice is a "humane right."

"That 72 hours gives them time to gather their personal belongings to take with them to the navigation center so they don't start out at a negative," Councilmember Amy Wiles said.

Councilmember Francoise Bergan pointed to a recent incident in which an encampment was swept and found to contain drugs and people with warrants.

Giving a notice ahead of sweeps is a safety concern in cases like that, Bergan said.

"When we give 72-hours notice, it's basically a notice to run," she said.

Note

Batchelor said the resolution reflects what homeless officials are already doing and would not impact situations like the one Bergan mentioned, in which safety concerns are involved. In such situations, a notice does not have to be given, he said.

The matter will come before the council for an official vote at the next meeting.