

## Hannah Politzer

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**From:** Alan Piombo  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Jim Wickham - Mill Valley mail; John McCauley; Sashi McEntee; Tricia Ossa; Urban Carmel  
**Subject:** FW: Christine Dickson & Homeless Petition

Council,

You may have seen a Nextdoor thread this weekend regarding a homeless person posted by Christine Dickson. It appears Ms. Dickson initiated her interaction with Mr. Minski, who was otherwise minding his own business while sleeping on the doorway at the Throckmorton Theatre, apparently with permission from the property manager. Ms. Dickson took exception to Mr. Minski being homeless and staying in Mill Valley and was further disappointed by her perceived lack of action on behalf of our officers. Our officers are trained to deal with people experiencing homelessness and can often steer them toward appropriate resources. It appears Mr. Minski is known in our community and is aware of appropriate resources but has opted to remain here, which is not illegal. In fact the Ninth Circuit ruled in *Martin v. Boise* on this very issue.

I attached information from Interim Chief Haynes blow, along with an email from a community member whi disagrees with Ms. Dickson's post/comments.

Alan

CM,

The ND posting that was passed along is referring to a gentleman by the name of Lawrence Minski (sp?) who is experiencing homelessness and frequents Mill Valley. He is well known downtown and certain businesses try and help him out. Some staff at Throckmorton Theater have given him "permission" to sleep in the doorway, and places like Equator give him free coffee.

Lt. Wrapp actually had coffee with Lawrence earlier today (prior to me knowing about the ND post) and Lawrence brought up an incident that occurred last night. Lawrence stated a woman woke him by yelling at him that he was not allowed to be sleeping there, further yelling this wasn't San Francisco, and telling him to leave because he didn't belong. He became upset and yelled back at her because she was so demeaning. She called the PD and Officer Schmidt responded. The RP was immediately upset and confrontational with Officer Schmidt to do something about Lawrence. Officer Schmidt said there were limits as to what we can do and told her that he would speak with Lawrence. Lawrence was not under the influence of drugs/alcohol and is a bit off but not 5150. Officer Schmidt tried to mediate the situation. Lawrence does not want assistance and refuses to go to a shelter as he believes them to be unsanitary.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thank you,  
Lindsay

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Melissa Gaherty [<mailto:mrgaherty@ucdavis.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 9:14 AM  
**To:** city clerk  
**Subject:** Christine Dickson & Homeless Petition

To whom this may concern,

I am a fairly new Mill Valley citizen and wanted to reach out about a woman named Christine Dickson. She wrote a post on Nextdoor about "feeling threatened" by a homeless man sleeping at the doorway of Throckmorton theater and felt compelled to call the police on him either Saturday night or last night. She did not give any details as to why she felt threatened, other than his mere presence. And she said the police told her that there wasn't anything they could do to prevent him from sleeping there. I wanted to express my happiness in the police's response to this situation. It's nice to know that we are not unnecessarily pushing out the very few homeless people in the area and certainly not arresting them. It is nice to know the police are responding to this situation respectfully and correctly. This woman said she wanted to create a petition to "stop the homeless from sleeping in our town," and intends to talk to the Mayor. This petition is awful and I am avidly against this woman's beliefs. I ask that my city council reject petitions like this and instead devote resources to social service responses and teams that can provide better resources to the homeless communities. I hope our goal is not to push those in need out, but to help and show compassion.

Please pass my feedback along to the appropriate people.

Best,

Melissa Gaherty