

AWC Conference Homelessness Session

Nancy Backus, Mayor of Auburn



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[Insert Presentation Title]

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Compassion

It's meeting people where they're at and talking about what's happening now and what they want for the future.

It's providing shelter and access to available resources including food, clothing and bedding.

It's providing an opportunity for people to help themselves.



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What Compassion Is Not

Just a simple handout.

Enabling dependency on the system.

Creating institutional habits.

Underestimating: People are capable of accessing what they need.

Withholding: There should be tools for independence available.



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Accountability

Everyone in Auburn is a member of the Auburn community, and the rules apply to everyone. We are accountable and the expectations are the same, regardless of whether you are housed or not.

The City is accountable to the residents – to remove the barriers and provide avenues for success. We should help residents have their basics needs met.



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Community

In-House Efforts

Bringing the work in-house: we fund certain providers to fill the gaps.

The city controls the funding and the way we want the city to look and feel.

Nonprofits do great work, but they're not always fully coordinated.

In-house outreach workers have a goal and define the work and can pivot more easily than a nonprofit with a specific mission.

The work is more flexible and broader.



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Community

Panhandling

It is not a homelessness issue – it is a community issue.

We have control over whether people panhandle by our own actions.

Do we roll down our windows and give someone money, or do we choose to fund resources that are truly helping resolve the issues?



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When You Give

When you give people "stuff":

- As taxpayers, you are already funding the resources that people need.
- When you give money to a panhandler, you're telling them that they don't need to access the services you're already paying for; it keeps people on the corners



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The Cost of Giving

The Real Cost of A Dollar

- Fentanyl pills cost \$1.
- Spare change can fund the dose that kills. It sounds brutal, but it's true.
- It's not expensive to die, but the cost to the community is almost immeasurable.



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A Three-Pronged Approach

It's a three-pronged approach for a reason - it must be balanced:

Compassion: We don't arrest you if you are simply outside. But we also don't accept if you're not willing to be part of the community and work with us.

Accountability: We should expect the same type of responsibility from everyone. How would you want your family to be treated. Set boundaries.

Community: We want the community involved, and doing what is right doesn't always feel good, but it's necessary.



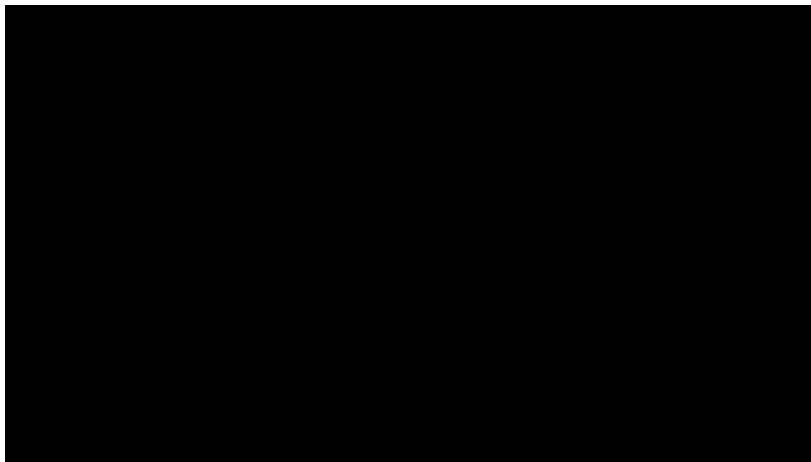
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Aaron's Story



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Aaron's Story



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Continuum of Care

We can't expect someone to be successful without follow up and follow through.



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Thank you



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