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Monroe County Democratic Party Officers Urge Commissioners to Delay Clearing of Thomson Property Encampment

The Monroe County Democratic Party Officers are calling on the Monroe County Board of Commissioners to postpone any action to clear the encampment located on the Thomson property until spring, citing public input, humane considerations, and the absence of a viable relocation plan for residents.

Following concerns raised at a recent Commissioners' meeting - and after several elected officials visited the site to directly assess conditions - we believe that proceeding with a clearance in the middle of December is neither practical nor ethical. Forcing residents out during the coldest months of the year would leave individuals with nowhere safe to go and would place them at significant risk as temperatures continue to drop.

There is no compelling reason to execute this action now rather than waiting until warmer weather. Any restorative or remediation work undertaken during the winter will be quickly undermined by snow, mud, and seasonal debris, rendering the effort both inefficient and costly. More importantly, displacing people with no alternative accommodations prepared is inconsistent with our community's values and responsibilities.

The City of Bloomington, facing similar issues, has been successful in establishing an official set of procedures that not only make the process more efficient, but also more humane and people-centered. We strongly urge the Board of Commissioners to delay the clearance until spring, use this time to coordinate necessary services and placement options, and ensure that any future action reflects both responsible governance and compassion for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Chrissie Geels, Chair

Rob Council, Vice Chair

Dr. Gloria Howell, Secretary

Susan Luther, Treasurer

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