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JOURNAL

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Lynn Editorials

Of soup kitchens and the homeless

By refusing to renew the lease for the city's downtown homeless shelter and the soup kitchen, Mayor Edward "Chip" Clancy has asked for a serious reevaluation that is badly needed regarding how and where the city should allow services to be provided to the homeless and those who are chronically hungry.

It is something long overdue and in tune with the direction the downtown is heading today.

Over the years, the homeless shelter has done more good than harm.

However, the times are changing downtown and the managers of the homeless shelter need to review their "business" model.

After all these years, it is a tired model and one that is out of step with the times downtown.

While the downtown is changing rapidly, the shelter isn't changing with it.

The shelter that was fine in a downtown that was desolate is no longer fine in a downtown brimming with new positive energy and millions upon millions in new investments.

The most derelict of the homeless, especially those who are alcoholic or mentally impaired with an affinity for violence and abuse, cannot be allowed to impose their lifestyle and persona on the downtown.

The behavior of the homeless who cause trouble inside the facility is another vexing problem for local police and health officials.

Mayor Clancy isn't trying to ban the homeless from Lynn.

Far from it.

He is attempting to have the homeless clean up their act, and for those who run the homeless shelter to take that lead.

Clancy is also suggesting the shelter consider another location, away from the downtown, where the homeless will be inclined to make less of a spectacle of themselves.

Clancy is reacting to the complaints of many new residents of the downtown who make the justifiable claim that they are quite often made uncomfortable when coming into contact with some of the homeless who have left the shelter and who are drunk or slovenly.

Others we have seen are aggressive and angry and often quite out of it as they strut down the street.

Inappropriate behavior is inappropriate behavior, and whether or not you're homeless, there are simple, civil standards that must be met or you simply won't be welcome.

We would urge the directors of the homeless shelter to find a new location, away from the downtown.

Part of this would be to insulate the general public from the bad behavior of some of the homeless while offering the homeless a place where they can be what they want to be without affecting others negatively.

This is all about harsh realities and changes that must be made.

Homelessness isn't pretty.

Homelessness isn't going to disappear.

Unless something dramatic changes about the way the homeless shelter and soup kitchen are managed, the homeless in Lynn may be forced to find another address.

Thank you, Senator McGee

We owe Senator Thomas McGee a high five, and probably more than that, for getting his senate colleagues to approve a supplemental budget addition of \$5 million for the new Manning Bowl.

This was achieved two weeks ago.

Shortly, the supplemental budget goes to conference committee and then the city must rely on the governor to put his signature on the bill.

The governor, of course, would be inclined to not give Lynn ice in the wintertime.

So we warn our readers not to be too surprised if the governor cuts the amount down or cuts it out altogether.

That's the price the city pays for being a Democratic stronghold.

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