



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

October 10, 2019

The Honorable Steve Adler
Mayor
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mayor Adler:

Austin's homelessness crisis continues to pose substantial public health and safety problems that must be addressed by the City Council. The severity of the problem was demonstrably exacerbated by the repeal of the camping ban earlier this year.

The consequences of repealing the ban are manifested daily on the streets of Austin: human feces, hypodermic needles, mounds of garbage, and people living in unsanitary and inhumane conditions that could lead to an outbreak of communicable diseases. As you know, Hepatitis A and Typhus are resurfacing in West Coast communities that struggle with the homelessness crisis.

After my prior letter, you publicly assured Austin Police Chief Manley that if the police needed anything, "just tell us what it is and we will do what we can to facilitate." Among other things, the Chief has suggested a reinstatement of the camping ban. I agree.

Reinstating the camping ban is not a total solution, but it is an essential part of demonstrating consequential improvement in the Austin homelessness crisis and the danger it poses to public health and safety. Absent steps like reinstating the camping ban, the State will have no option but to use state agencies and resources to achieve a similar result. I remain resolute in using state agencies to address this task if action is not taken by Austin by November 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:jwk