


Joe Steckler



Homelessness and What to Do About It

The Florida legislature recently approved a measure barring homeless people from sleeping or camping on public property. The bill urges local governments to create homeless camps with security, sanitation, and access to mental health services. Cities and counties could be sued if they do not comply with the new restrictions. WOW—now all we need is something similar for affordable housing.

I have lived in Brevard for 36 years, and the homeless problem has been with us the whole time. For years, we have assembled volunteers to count the number of homeless people over a two-day period. What have we done with the statistics? Has any action been taken to resolve the problem? Daily Bread is now gone; who serves the homeless that we have in all Brevard cities?

Governor DeSantis's bill is a step in the right direction and may prevent Brevard from becoming a homeless mecca like San Francisco, New York City, Chicago, and Denver. Brevard County Commissioners will be forced to meet the law's requirements. Why wait for a law to be passed when something could be done now?

It is time for the staff of the county government, who all work for us, to do something to develop a plan to build and

manage a homeless facility. There are federal grants available to help fund it. We can turn our homeless into productive citizens. That 25 million dollars of COVID money could have been used to start the ball rolling. A one-penny tax could be aligned with federal and/or state money to do the same.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at www.HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.



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