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Council OKs ordinance addressing homeless camps

Trevor J. Mitchell
Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sioux Falls City Council approved its controversial “dwelling ordinance” Aug. 19, of which city officials say is needed to address issues with homeless encampments in city parks, including along the Big Sioux River.

The ordinance passed 7-1 at the third reading of the proposal, with Councilor Miranda Basye casting the

lone vote against the proposal, reiterating her earlier concerns that she did not feel as though enough had been made clear about what the next step in the city’s efforts to address homelessness would be.

As at previous meetings, multiple residents stood up to discuss the proposal during public input, with several expressing support.

State Rep. Kadyn Wittman, who has criticized the proposal in the past, said she had been pleased to watch the discussions and feedback that the ordi-

nance drew. She said city leaders had shown “a genuine willingness” to listen to those affected by their decisions.

Wittman added, however, that truly addressing homelessness would mean looking beyond enforcement measures. The city had “an extremely powerful opportunity” to use federal, state and local funds alongside private donors to look toward housing first

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Mato Wayuhi will headline the All My Relatives music festival on Aug. 23 at The Levitt. PROVIDED BY THE LEVITT AT THE FALLS

Mato Wayuhi will perform at All My Relatives festival

Angela George
Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

Oglala Lakota multi-disciplinary artist Mato Wayuhi returns to his home state to perform Aug. 23 at The Levitt at the Falls.

The third annual Mitakuye Owás’in * All My Relatives * Mitakuye Oyás’in Festival is an all-day celebration of Native American music and art and will also feature performances by The Samson Brothers hoop dancers, Isanti, Dakotah Faye and Native hip-hop musicians Night Shield and Friends.

Wayuhi is a composer for the award-winning FX TV

series, “Reservation Dogs.” He also composed music for the feature-length film “War Pony,” which won an award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022. He has received national attention for his influential story and music.

Wayuhi’s latest album, “Stankface Standing Soldier” released in 2023, is entirely self-produced and is a nod to his given last name “Standing Soldier.” The rap music is of Lakota influence with contemporary sounds.

“When you’re first making music, you want to have

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Same-sex marriage appeal worries LGBTQ+ community

Legal expert says the challenge is a ‘long shot’

Greta Cross
USA TODAY

Exhausting and terrifying. That’s how Jeremy Atherton Lin described the recent appeal that seeks to overturn Obergefell v. Hodges, the 10-year-old Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in the United States.

On July 24, former Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court about \$100,000 she was ordered to pay to a gay couple to whom she refused to issue a marriage license in 2015 because of her religious beliefs.

“The High Court now has the opportunity to finally overturn this egregious opinion from 2015,” Mat Staver, head of conservative legal group Liberty Counsel, which is representing Davis, said in a statement.

But experts like Kenneth Gordon, a marital and family lawyer in Florida, say the potential to overturn Obergefell is a “long shot.” Obergefell is sound, from a legal perspective, Gordon said, and same-sex marriage is widely accepted by the general public.

Even if Obergefell was overturned, same-sex marriages would likely remain protected in the United States. In 2022, former President Joe Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law, which, at the federal level, protects same-sex and interracial marriages.

This means a couple who gets married in a state like California, where same-sex marriage is legal, would have the same rights in a state like Tennessee, even if that state outlawed gay marriage.

Regardless of the likelihood of Obergefell being overturned, some in the LGBTQ+ community remain fearful about the future of their rights, especially in the wake of the Supreme Court’s willingness to overturn Roe v. Wade and effectively end affirmative action in college admissions in recent years.

“These regressions feel like ... a horror movie, where the killer just makes this one more revival and the audience gasps because you thought everybody was safe,” Atherton Lin said.



Atherton Lin

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