

To Mayor and Council, the Welcome Center, and Chief of Police,

I am writing to raise a concern regarding restroom accessibility and resource support for individuals experiencing homelessness at Avalon Park.

Over the past year, there has been a noticeable presence of individuals experiencing homelessness at the park. I want to be clear that homelessness itself is not my concern. In my early twenties, through a series of unfortunate circumstances, I personally experienced homelessness and stayed in a shelter for approximately two weeks. Because of that experience, I approach this issue with compassion and understanding.

My concern is specifically related to one individual who has repeatedly occupied and locked herself inside the public restroom during park operating hours, making it inaccessible for others. I witnessed this firsthand this past weekend while attending a graduation celebration at the park. Guests, including out-of-town visitors, children, seniors, and families, were unable to access the restroom facilities. Compounding the issue, another restroom was already inoperable, leaving no options for park visitors.

I also want to acknowledge that my experiences with other individuals experiencing homelessness at Avalon Park have been largely positive. During a neighborhood celebration I hosted September 2025 with more than 100 attendees, several of the homeless men who frequent the area helped clean before, during, and after the event. My family has built relationships with many of them and has supported them with food and clothing over time.

**This concern is not about removing people from public spaces.** It is about ensuring public resources remain accessible while also recognizing that if someone has been living in or around park facilities for over a year, there may be larger unmet needs that require intervention and support.

I respectfully ask for consideration of the following:

- *What resources and outreach efforts are currently available for individuals experiencing homelessness in this area?*
- *Is there an opportunity for coordinated outreach to connect this individual with housing, mental health, medical, or supportive services?*
- *What steps can be taken to make sure public restrooms remain accessible to park visitors during operating hours?*
- *Is there a plan to address situations where restroom facilities become unavailable due to maintenance issues or extended occupancy?*
- *How can the City continue balancing compassion for vulnerable populations while making sure public spaces remain accessible and safe for everyone?*

Avalon Park is one of the community spaces many residents and visitors enjoy. I believe we can approach this issue with both compassion and accountability while making sure the park remains welcoming and functional for all.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Respectfully,

Let's keep building a better McDonough, together.

Montina Young Fraiser  
Community Advocate | McDonough

