

BOROUGH OF CARLISLE PRESS RELEASE
Public Meeting to Discuss Homelessness

*Carlisle Borough Council to Hold Public Discussion on the
Issue of Sleeping & Camping in Public Spaces*

Carlisle Borough Council will hold a public discussion on the issue of homelessness and public sleeping and camping in local areas. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4 at 5:00 PM at Borough Hall, 53 West South Street.

Recently, the issue of individuals sleeping and camping in public spaces has been the center of discussion on social media and highlighted by the Sentinel newspaper. At the September 4 meeting, Borough Council is planning to better understand the challenges and to seek options to address sleeping and camping in public spaces such as benches, sidewalks, and local parks.

The Borough of Carlisle currently does not have any ordinance or law that prohibits sleeping in public. “It is really important that we as a society do not criminalize homelessness,” stated Carlisle Police Chief Taro Landis. “In my opinion, we have to have a collaborative effort of citizens, mental health professionals, substance abuse professionals, and public officials to begin a very hard conversation,” Landis said.

Several local homeless, housing and continuum of care program providers have been invited to participate in this public discussion and share their perspectives on these issues. Borough Manager Armstrong stated, “Community members are also encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion as Borough Council and staff look forward to sharing perspectives and vetting the issue(s) publicly.”

The public discussion will begin at 5:00 PM and will be followed by Borough Council’s regularly scheduled monthly Workshop Meeting at 6:00 PM. Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Borough Manager Susan Armstrong at 717-240-6922 or sarmstrong@carlislepa.org.