



How to Massively Reduce Homelessness

In thinking about homelessness, I think we have to agree on one single point before I make my case for its reduction: We are never going to eliminate it. Never. Why? Because regardless of our best efforts, some people actually prefer life on the street. I know this from firsthand experience. So my plan is not a solution because there are no solutions to anything, only trade-offs. As I always say, the enemy of good is perfect. What I am about to lay out is a good plan, not a perfect solution. Politicians use the absence of perfection to justify their doing nothing but pontificate, but for the rest of us who live in reality, we know all political speech is propaganda.

As with crime, my time in prison gave me a unique perspective to the homeless problem because I lived with so many homeless men. They are nothing like the mainstream portrays them.

Alcoholism and addiction put these men inside for the most part mixed with a big dose of mental illness. Often it was obvious like the guy in Yuma Prison who would sit on the asphalt in 110 degree weather and look up at the sky, talking, because he believed his dead parents and living brother were watching him on Google Earth. I am not making this up. He would even write things in the sand to communicate with them like Tom Hanks using coconuts and palm fronds to signal passing planes on the beach in *Castaway*. Another one that I knew at the same prison would violate the order to return to our "houses" and alone outside throw a softball against the medical and chow building shrieking at the top of his lungs enraged profanity targeted at all authority. The Corrections Officers never stopped him because they found the tirades funny as well as knowing that he really belonged in an asylum and punishment would do nothing to improve his mental state.

Armed with this unique perspective, I came up with my plan. Again, it is not a solution but it will take almost all of the homeless off of the street and out of our neighborhoods. Like all of my plans regarding crime, this is part of the entire, holistic formula that I have laid out in my other related White Papers. Therefore I will assume and make a prerequisite for this to work that drugs MUST be legalized. All drugs.

For this plan to work it is going to take some money, and as a Laissez-Faire Capitalist, I am never going to suggest a plan that costs us any more money than we are already spending (printing and wasting). The money for this solution will come from the ENORMOUS savings from ending the unwinnable Drug War. Between state and local police forces being able to wind down their enforcement divisions to shutting down the then unnecessary DEA and ATF, the largest part of the FBI, federal and state prison populations being reduced as a result, and lots more, I estimate that at a minimum we will save \$100 billion per year. We can therefore dedicate a small part of that to fund my plan to minimize to insignificance the homeless population. I call the plan RHP (Reduce Homelessness Permanently). Let's dive in.

First, let me define the makeup of the homeless. All of them are either drug addicts or severe alcoholics which are really the same thing, a distinction without a difference. Half of those use drugs and alcohol to blunt their self-loathing and the other half who are truly mentally ill or impaired use them to self-medicate because they detest how traditional psych drugs make them feel. They know that there are shelters and places to eat but they avoid them because they want to be free to do their drugs and alcohol without being bothered by, for lack of a better term, do-gooders. They know who they are and have no expectation of improving their lot. It is simply not a goal. We need to resist the urge to live their lives for them. They will not respond en masse to any sort of reeducation, treatment, or religious preaching.

I am deliberately not including in the generalizations I make those unfortunate people that find themselves living out of their cars or vans

often-times with their children. For those folks specifically, I break them down into two categories: Unlucky and Self-Destructive. The unlucky, those that have lost their jobs and through likely incredibly poor decisions that led to their current situation, in most cases they will work themselves out of homelessness themselves. This is particularly true when children are involved as a catalyst to get busy.

Today, business is fleeing urban areas in particular for safer locales and thereby adding to the homeless population. After instituting The 1964 Plan's ideas, life and jobs will return to our cities helping these folks more than any government program ever could.

As an aside, cities could go a long way to eliminating homelessness and economic decline simply by eliminating most zoning. This is a much larger discussion and is economic. I am not going to try and teach Econ 101 here. If you already grasp the basics of how an economy works, then you recognize that the reason rents have risen so high as to cause much of the homelessness we see today in urban areas is zoning specifically designed to shut out the "undesirables" from neighborhoods. It works but at the same time results in such a limited supply of new construction that we get what we have. However, as high rent does not cause crime per se, I am going to leave this point for you to learn more about on your own.

As for the self-destructive, nothing is going to change that and this is why the homeless will always be among us. They will simply not be present in numbers large enough to cause the kinds of problems that they generate today. No more dodging tents, excrement, and needles on the sidewalks of cities across the country.

Second, there has never been a federal program to fight poverty or homelessness that has actually worked. Oh, they have great names, stated goals, and mission statements, but inevitably they turn to poop. Bureaucracy is simply incapable of effective management of anything, therefore in this plan what federal funding there is should be provided ONLY to assist private service providers like The Salvation Army, church

and other religious groups, and private charities. Across the board, they do a great job with the resources they can muster. Properly funded, they will excel in comparison to any bureaucracy.

Now I know the objection to this idea is that many if not most organizations dedicated to saving the wretched are religious organizations, so how does that square with the separation of church and state? We all think we know about the separation, but I doubt many have thought about what it really means:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

The Constitution clearly states that the state shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion but it says NOTHING about separation of church and state. That is a repeated misunderstanding that has taken on the appearance of truth but isn't. **Government is free to give money to religious organizations so long as they are not promoting or coercing anyone to join.** So, no problem with this part of the plan.

The bulk of the responsibility to execute this program should fall entirely to the states and local governments. Another truth is that our country is obviously not homogeneous as our modern descent into tribalism proves. Every state is like a little country unto itself with open trade and travel with the other 49. They are each unique and so the homeless plan in Wyoming is not going to resemble the needs of Los Angeles or New York. One size fits all simply makes no sense.

Here is the plan's outline, customizable by each state:

1. Once drugs are legalized, not decriminalized to be clear which is just a codeword for adding expensive and useless bureaucracy, the price will plummet. For example, I share this as an acquaintance inside to many men who worked for the cartels and who taught me, the

production cost plus a 100% profit of heroin is less than 5% of its street price. The other 95% is the cost of avoiding interdiction, transport, and dealing with the law under the table (bribe) as they say. All of that could be eliminated if drugs were legal and further, if you think about it, **the government is currently the protector of the cartels**. Think. By making it so expensive to transport the product because of interdiction efforts, the little guys cannot compete as they don't have the organization or resources. Price and quality as a result suffers as it would in any business. Therefore as a result of legalization, the homeless addicts would not have to steal, hustle, and deal to support their own addictions. A part time job at a fast food restaurant would be enough to fund their habit.

2. Some of the funds that free up because of ending the drug war can be redirected to provide first class care and the facilities to house the mentally ill now roaming our streets by legally committing them. These people likely will never recover, at least not as a result of our current knowledge of psychiatric treatment, but they can be made safe, comfortable, properly medicated and live quiet and pleasant lives as much as possible. Now we will have the money to do it.
3. Of the other half that are not mentally ill, just addicted, most of them, the vast majority, have no desire to end their addictions. They enjoy how they feel and it allows them to escape their plight of which they are well aware. They are not nuts. They avoid current shelters and such because they don't like rules and public housing has been across the country an expensive disaster. Plus, let's be honest, nobody wants them in their neighborhoods and justifiably so. Therefore, outside city limits large manufactured home communities could be built, single wides or tiny homes, modern and clean. There and away from the sober and productive, these lost souls could take their drugs to their hearts' content and will have a clinic in each facility ready to intervene when an overdose inevitably happens. The door will always be open for them to seek treatment, but if not rather than turn their plight into a crime, we can leave them to it. This is the

trade-off for safe streets, the acceptance that some people cannot and do not want to be helped. Escape is their overriding goal, not longevity. Finally regarding the communities, they will not be prison and the residents can come and go as they please. They will mostly stay because the community will meet their needs comfortably and safely.

4. 1 through 3 on this list are all palliative in nature and will calm the current intolerable situation, but they do nothing to reduce it in the future. While I am all for leaving adults free to do with their own bodies and lives what they want so long as they don't affect others, I am not bereft of desire to reduce this scourge once and for all. Therefore, I propose the federal **Poverty Prevention Program (PPP)**. It's simple. First, the federal government will pay the cost for anyone in jail or prison from the ages of 16 - 40 to have either a tubal ligation or vasectomy as the case may be. Most homeless sooner or later end up incarcerated if for nothing else, vagrancy. Second, the surgery then entitles them to \$5000 cash, tax-free, and put into their prison account which they can cash out after release and use while inside. You can take it from me, the shot-out, addicted, mentally challenged, and just plain socio/psychopathic will line up for the money happily trading their fertility for easy cash. Voila, these overwhelmingly products of single parent households who now breed like amoeba and spread their seed like ebola will no longer produce more and more broken children. Broken children inevitably become broken adults. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree and an apple tree can only make apples.

Now, I hear you. Right now you are likely asking yourself about PPP. *Isn't it racist?* Here is where you have to be smarter and wiser than the mainstream which surely will attack the plan on this basis, but I ask you, where is anyone's race mentioned? Like the Florida Law prohibiting sex education to children before the 4th Grade being labeled the "Don't Say Gay Law", not a word regarding sexuality is in the bill. Not a word. Yet, that didn't

stop the mainstream and progressives in particular to just make up their baloney. Imagine how their heads are going to explode over PPP. Since unless you are brain-dead you know that the majority of folks who take advantage of the \$5000 offer will be black because they are disproportionately represented in the prison population, if you are a lazy thinker, race hustler, or professional politician, it will be easy to make the accusation of racism.

To this I answer that I am throwing the red bullshit flag (pardon the expletive). The reason that more blacks than other races will take the money is that more black people are in a bad way as a result of 70% of their community being raised by single parents. There is just no getting around this fact. That said, I think a major and unrepresented constituency of the black community are those completely innocent, hardworking, church-going African Americans who live in drug and homeless overrun neighborhoods and have their children sleep in the tub at night lest they be hit by a stray bullet. They are not going to make the racist accusation because they will for the first time in their lives in all likelihood be able to look forward to a life free of fear where their children can play safely on the street.

Another predictable consequence will be that among the Lesbian/Gay Community in particular, a lot of folks will go for the money because they have no intention of procreating in the first place. For the gay couples that I know personally, adoption is the way they most often go for making a family. My reply to this objection is "So what?". Yeah, we are going to pay money to some people for pretty much nothing, but to this I reply that Gays/Lesbians make up a small percentage of the population and I can say without fear of ever being contradicted that every single large scale government programs wastes a ton more than we will on this group in PPP. Besides, after the closeting that gays and lesbians have taken over the years, I cannot think of a better group to waste a little money upon. Just saying.

Also, there will be a small number of heterosexuals who never want to have children who will also go for it. Again, so what?

Finally and this will be a big objection, what if later the person who took the money regrets it? Aside from being adults and making adult decisions means that you take responsibility for what you decide, both of these surgeries are reversible. Not free to reverse, but them's the breaks when you make an ill thought out decision. Again, the enemy of good is perfect. PPP is not perfect, but the trade-offs are minor in comparison to what we gain.

Part of PPP will be the ***Fresh Start Option***. For those former criminals who took the money and had the surgery but regret it later, if they can prove that they have gotten and maintained a job for a minimum of 12 consecutive months for the same employer, have a physical address that can be confirmed, have had not other run-ins with the law since release, and who a psychologist can examine and certify that they believe no addiction is present, or perhaps we could make it as simple as presenting a 12 month Chip from AA or similar, the government would fund the reversal of the original operation. Merit ought to be rewarded and the redeemed are exactly the kind of people we need to have children. Their apples will be sweet.

To summarize, by doing the things that I lay out in this paper, we will for all intents and purposes eliminate the homeless from our streets. In cooperation with states and private agencies, there will be safe options for the sane and insane. Mostly the plan benefits those pulling the cart of our society, the decent people who work hard and expect their cities, towns, and parks to be open and safe. Nobody likes either what homelessness looks like nor how these people are treated now. Do what I suggest, and it will all be a thing of the past and we will be able to genuinely feel good about ourselves. We will be doing something decent and smart for a population that will always be with us as well as making our lives much more pleasant. A win-win.

