

**Note: This is a listing, by date, of just some of the published news articles that reveal what Rich believes to be the underlying cause of our city's homeless problem. This document provides relevant excerpts and links to the complete article. We encourage you to take a look! Thank you.**

**1-12-20** MANCHESTER — The city hosts 50 to 60 loosely regulated sober living houses, which provide supportive situations for people battling drug and alcohol addiction, a top city official said. “We don’t want to close them down. We just want to make sure they’re safe,” Goonan said. The Manchester Zoning Board of Adjustment will likely take it up on Feb. 13, said Leon LaFreniere, the city director of planning and community development. LaFreniere said city officials discovered the sober living house when they were doing a scheduled three-year inspection of rental property. LaFreniere classified 70 Russell St. as a congregate living house because of its organizational structure. In 2001, the city changed the definition of family in its zoning ordinance. Family members do not have to be related. They only have to be in a structural relationship that constitutes an organized housekeeping unit, the code reads. “The trouble we run into is if they’re occupying the house as a family, under the definition in the zoning ordinance there’s not a lot we can do,” LaFreniere said. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/there-are-up-to-60-sober-living-houses-in-manchester-fire-chief-says/article\\_660e93e9-8410-5bcb-aabf-5a0df6e5ec3b.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/there-are-up-to-60-sober-living-houses-in-manchester-fire-chief-says/article_660e93e9-8410-5bcb-aabf-5a0df6e5ec3b.html)

**1-20-2020** On Monday, January 13, 2020, about 120 residents of a Ward 2 neighborhood met with city fire, legal and planning officials to discuss the surprise and illegal opening of two “sober homes” around the corner from each other; the first at **70 Russell St.**, the second at **296 Orange St.** Also present were **Jonathan Gerson**, Executive Director of [Blueprint Recovery Centers](#) and their attorney, as well as officials from **Liberty House**, the only homeless shelter specifically for veterans in Manchester, which announced it was moving into the **Bishop Peterson Residence** for retired priests, just a block away at 221 Orange Street. The meeting was convened by Ward 2 Alderman **Will Stewart** in the Community Room at **Mt. Carmel Nursing Home**. The audio of the meeting is posted at the

end of this article. <https://www.girardatlarge.com/blog/2020/01/20/sober-homes-and-sleight-of-hand/>

**1-24-20** The Concord-based Blueprint Recovery Center took me up on my suggestions to visit the home. It's been operating out of a two-toned Victorian house since October 2018. "I was living like an animal. You need to slowly walk your way back into society," said Tommy, 20. He was living under a bridge in Lawrence, Mass., and shooting fentanyl six times a day before joining the program. They wake in the morning, eat breakfast and travel to Concord for six hours of counseling at Blueprint. They return to Manchester. [https://www.unionleader.com/voices/city\\_matters/city-matters-i-feel-cared-about-here---recovery-home-resident/article\\_fadf0b01-9b5b-5b07-b865-6c5598f6a280.html](https://www.unionleader.com/voices/city_matters/city-matters-i-feel-cared-about-here---recovery-home-resident/article_fadf0b01-9b5b-5b07-b865-6c5598f6a280.html)

**2-17-20** "The business model is clear," Girard said. "Buy improperly zoned facilities in unsuspecting residential neighborhoods with out-of-state cash, do unpermitted work that enables a greater number of unrelated individuals to live in the dwelling, operate hoping not to get caught and, if caught, feign ignorance of the codes, then come to this body seeking forgiveness and permission to operate because of the opioid crisis." [https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/citys-zoning-board-rejects-sober-house-variance-request/article\\_b4439edf-a4b2-5f6f-9956-609e4a388fd6.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/citys-zoning-board-rejects-sober-house-variance-request/article_b4439edf-a4b2-5f6f-9956-609e4a388fd6.html)

**2-17-2020** *Girard at Large* has learned that **Kevin Paul**, convicted in conjunction with the murder of Epsom Police Officer **Jeremy Charron**, stayed at not one, but two Manchester "sober homes" under a court order before becoming a fugitive. Both homes appear to be operating in violation of the city's zoning ordinance and are likely in violation of housing and life-safety codes as well. 8-26-20 <https://www.girardatlarge.com/blog/2020/02/17/sober-homes-of-man-convicted-in-cop-killing-identified/>

**2-20-2020** Girard at Large has learned that **Kevin Paul**, the fugitive that disappeared from an illegal sober home operating at **151 Parkview St. in Manchester Ward 9**, didn't just live in a sober home, he worked for **Blueprint Recovery Center** (BRC) in Concord. BRC

provides treatment and services to recovering addicts and is affiliated with multiple so called “sober homes” in Manchester. **Jonathan Gerson**, who owns and or operates several illegally operating sober living facilities in Manchester, is the managing member of the limited liability company that owns BRC and its executive director.

<https://www.girardatlarge.com/blog/2020/02/20/kevin-paul-not-just-a-sober-home-resident/>

**08-26-2020** The state’s largest city has become the dumping ground for every social problem in New Hampshire, Manchester’s assistant police chief told the state parole board. Assistant Chief Ryan Grant delivered his stark assessment to the Adult Parole Board on Tuesday as it considered revoking the parole of Kevin Paul, a career criminal who violated his parole four months after being released to a sober house in Manchester.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/crime/assistant-police-chief-manchester-a-dumping-ground-for-state-problems/article\\_ade173f5-c39e-5e15-a570-23311aa087ba.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/crime/assistant-police-chief-manchester-a-dumping-ground-for-state-problems/article_ade173f5-c39e-5e15-a570-23311aa087ba.html)

**10-4-20** Mayor Joyce Craig has said the homeless are drawn to Manchester because the state has failed to adequately address social issues in local communities.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/state-official-options-being-created-for-homeless-on-courthouse-lawn/article\\_487604f9-fbad-5ac9-9744-ccf96e059aa9.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/state-official-options-being-created-for-homeless-on-courthouse-lawn/article_487604f9-fbad-5ac9-9744-ccf96e059aa9.html)

**10-11-20** WITH COLDER WEATHER arriving, Ward 3 Alderman **Pat Long** has come up with a plan to help try to connect more than 300 “unsheltered” people living on public property in Manchester — only about 27% of whom say they hail from here — with housing and other services.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/city\\_hall/aldermen-to-discuss-resolution-to-aid-unsheltered-people/article\\_0e8628cd-ae42-5835-8c9d-5d41a78b14f7.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/city_hall/aldermen-to-discuss-resolution-to-aid-unsheltered-people/article_0e8628cd-ae42-5835-8c9d-5d41a78b14f7.html)“

**10-20-2020** Every time there’s a problem in the city of Manchester, the mayor’s very quick to turn around and say, ‘Go talk to the state, go talk to the state, go talk to the state,’”

he said. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/local/mayor-state-doing-nothing-to-address-homeless-camp-on-courthouse-property/article\\_0aaad3ba-8570-5911-bc96-37f355c5794d.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/local/mayor-state-doing-nothing-to-address-homeless-camp-on-courthouse-property/article_0aaad3ba-8570-5911-bc96-37f355c5794d.html)

**10-22-20** As of July 1, city officials reported 173 people living in 31 homeless camps. This week, Goonan estimates there are 356 people living unsheltered in the city, with only one in four reporting they are from Manchester.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/state-denial-of-grant-request-for-manchester-homeless-outreach-a-massive-disappointment/article\\_b00f90fb-78ea-5f83-8c59-b5ec89568bb8.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/state-denial-of-grant-request-for-manchester-homeless-outreach-a-massive-disappointment/article_b00f90fb-78ea-5f83-8c59-b5ec89568bb8.html)

**11-5-2020** “The immediate problem at hand is the absolute decay of my neighborhood over the last few months that is growing worse by the day,” Scott Elliott, an underwriting consultant, said in an email. “They could build the Taj Mahal of homeless shelters down the street but the residents of the tent city have absolutely no interest in either help or by living according to the rules.” [https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/local/nh-mayors-to-sununu-address-homelessness/article\\_cd354b66-5305-5b35-9898-270f3e7a9e50.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/local/nh-mayors-to-sununu-address-homelessness/article_cd354b66-5305-5b35-9898-270f3e7a9e50.html)

**11-8-20** The signs say that camping is not allowed on the property, and cite NH RSA 236:58 Camping Restricted, which reads: “No person shall pitch a tent or place or erect any other camping device or sleep on the ground within the public right-of-way or on public property unless permission is received from the governing board of the governmental authority having jurisdiction over such public right-of-way or property.”

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/state-posts-signs-ordering-homeless-off-manchester-courthouse-property-by-nov-16/article\\_bedaff82-7e69-5b24-8db8-7f0b893d7694.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/state-posts-signs-ordering-homeless-off-manchester-courthouse-property-by-nov-16/article_bedaff82-7e69-5b24-8db8-7f0b893d7694.html)

**11-12-2020** “For the city of Manchester to say that they’re not aware of the state’s personal, one-on-one involvement on this issue is absolutely false,” Sununu said. “Of course they know we’re there because we’re talking to them virtually every single day.” This week, Goonan counted 42 tents on the courthouse lawns. He estimated that the camp has at

least 50 people. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/sununu-says-state-has-contact-with-manchester-homeless-on-a-daily-basis-fire-chief-hasnt/article\\_98da2464-3bdd-5da2-9a8c-e6290eef1a7d.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/sununu-says-state-has-contact-with-manchester-homeless-on-a-daily-basis-fire-chief-hasnt/article_98da2464-3bdd-5da2-9a8c-e6290eef1a7d.html)

11-15-2020 The homeless issues: City, state disconnect  
[https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/the-homeless-issues-city-state-disconnect/article\\_d1d3fbd0-ba96-5088-bb45-3bec3a4cf7d5.html](https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/the-homeless-issues-city-state-disconnect/article_d1d3fbd0-ba96-5088-bb45-3bec3a4cf7d5.html)

**11-17-2020** Mayor Joyce Craig said the city does not support involuntarily removing the Hillsborough County courthouse to another encampment, while state officials are saying the removal will go forward.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/coronavirus/manchester-mayor-says-she-opposes-clearing-courthouse-camps-state-says-evacuation-will-proceed/article\\_1167be49-e322-51ce-bcb6-2f506dfc7d0a.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/coronavirus/manchester-mayor-says-she-opposes-clearing-courthouse-camps-state-says-evacuation-will-proceed/article_1167be49-e322-51ce-bcb6-2f506dfc7d0a.html)

**11-19-2020** A buoyant Nicholas Crawford accepted the offer in the early afternoon. Crawford, 26, said he has been at the camp since the summer after getting kicked out of a recovery program for missing a urine test. “They complain about being in the cold, and then they don’t take the help to get out of it. It makes no sense whatsoever,” Crawford said. He described the camp atmosphere as hectic. “People here would steal from their own mothers,” he said. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/homeless-start-departing-courthouse-lawn-in-manchester-as-political-acrimony-builds/article\\_566892af-b24a-5909-afec-b84bd5202996.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/homeless-start-departing-courthouse-lawn-in-manchester-as-political-acrimony-builds/article_566892af-b24a-5909-afec-b84bd5202996.html)

**11-19-2020** While most attention has focused on approximately 70 people at the Hillsborough County courthouse, Goonan said his outreach workers have “eyes on” 200. He estimates as many as 400 may be living outdoors.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/strike-three-state-turns-down-use-of-national-guard-armory-for-homeless-tent/article\\_42233670-a4f8-5218-b435-bc68fe9a40c0.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/strike-three-state-turns-down-use-of-national-guard-armory-for-homeless-tent/article_42233670-a4f8-5218-b435-bc68fe9a40c0.html)

**11-20-2020** “They will kick us out of everywhere. There is nowhere to go,” said Manny, 23, who said he grew up in Hooksett. “This isn’t right. Something more permanent needs to

be done,” said Bobby Kean, 39, who is from Rochester and has been living on the lawns for three months. Another man, who city police identified as Joseph Castro Del Rio, of Watertown, Mass., was charged with criminal threatening and resisting arrest after police said he kicked in the general direction of two police officers. “This action from the state is inhumane, causing trauma to individuals with nowhere else to go,” Craig said. “For some their possessions were destroyed. They were displaced from their caseworkers, directly impacting their mental health and well-being.” He wasn’t sure where to go. He didn’t sign up for one of the vacant beds at a Granite Recovery Centers house in Derry on Thursday because he said he’s not ready to go into drug treatment. He’d rather stay in a tent until he is. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/tents-gone-fences-up-as-state-police-clear-homeless-from-courthouse-lawn/article\\_fbf38e03-4a29-5ee6-94c7-9b9adb5bfafd.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/tents-gone-fences-up-as-state-police-clear-homeless-from-courthouse-lawn/article_fbf38e03-4a29-5ee6-94c7-9b9adb5bfafd.html)

**11-29-2020** Legislation passed in June of 2017 allows syringe service programs to operate in New Hampshire and decriminalizes used syringes containing residual amounts of controlled substances. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/city\\_hall/needle-exchange-in-veterans-park-still-irks-city-officials/article\\_b95d2920-ceed-558e-b16f-2bf76b2236b0.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/city_hall/needle-exchange-in-veterans-park-still-irks-city-officials/article_b95d2920-ceed-558e-b16f-2bf76b2236b0.html)

**11-29-2020** Joyce Craig. She has been singularly ineffective, letting the problem spin out of control. After repeatedly urging the state to take action on the courthouse encampment, Craig then protested the cleanup, calling it inhumane. On the contrary, the state action prompted a number of those campers to accept shelter and service opportunities. [https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/young-democrats-joyce-craig-gets-a-pass/article\\_20e08b1f-52e9-521a-a340-6b82d7963d87.html](https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/young-democrats-joyce-craig-gets-a-pass/article_20e08b1f-52e9-521a-a340-6b82d7963d87.html)

**12-07-2020** According to data collected by the Manchester Homeless Outreach Collaboration, as of Oct. 30 the city has identified a total of 431 unsheltered individuals in the Queen City since January. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/safety/potential-spot-for-homeless-shelter-identified-investigation-into-death-of-man-in-tent-fire-continues/article\\_c555ec29-934b-5ea5-8713-8f775fbf1340.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/safety/potential-spot-for-homeless-shelter-identified-investigation-into-death-of-man-in-tent-fire-continues/article_c555ec29-934b-5ea5-8713-8f775fbf1340.html)

**12-07-2020** Goonan and Craig urged people not to donate materials such as clothing and blankets for the homeless because that only encourages people to remain in the encampments and out of shelters. “These funds are better spent with agencies,” Goonan said. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/two-shelters-opening-in-city-with-nearly-100-beds-between-them/article\\_9b83a404-1157-504d-bf7f-fb352c63d3ab.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/two-shelters-opening-in-city-with-nearly-100-beds-between-them/article_9b83a404-1157-504d-bf7f-fb352c63d3ab.html)

**1-10-2021** They bring gifts of hand warmers, coats and snacks. They even deliver prescription medicine to camp residents. As of late November, 32 homeless encampments have been identified, according to data provided by Fire Chief Dan Goonan. The big three are the Firestone, Fisher Cat stadium and Canal Street camps, the others are constantly changing, he said. Hickey said he doesn’t want to take away someone’s only source of heat. But with the visits they can make sure heating sources are used safely.

[https://www.unionleader.com/voices/city\\_matters/city-matters-the-purpose-is-to-get-eyes-on-someone/article\\_04ccdedb-b873-52af-8a5e-7f74d3fedd2d.html](https://www.unionleader.com/voices/city_matters/city-matters-the-purpose-is-to-get-eyes-on-someone/article_04ccdedb-b873-52af-8a5e-7f74d3fedd2d.html)

**1-13-2021** Panic in Needle Park: Law of unintended consequence  
[https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/panic-in-needle-park-law-of-unintended-consequence/article\\_b6d94dd8-94c3-5ec7-b3de-e8a97e791308.html](https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/panic-in-needle-park-law-of-unintended-consequence/article_b6d94dd8-94c3-5ec7-b3de-e8a97e791308.html)

**2-5-2021** Fire Chief Daniel Goonan said 10 propane tanks exploded in a fire late Wednesday night, damaging tents and incinerating personal belongings. No one was killed, Goonan said. But at least one resident of the camp had a close call that night, Goonan said. “If I don’t do something, and something happens, I would have a hard time living with myself,” Goonan said. People who had been living under the bridge, some for months, were given a day’s notice to pack up and leave the camp. On Friday afternoon, a few people were frantically packing their belongings, and sorting through the deluge of clothes and blankets dropped off in recent months by concerned people. There have been several fires at encampments this winter, Goonan said, including the fire on South Willow Street that killed Gary Silver, 64, during a snowstorm in early December. All the fires in camps have been related to people trying to stay warm, Goonan said.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/after-fire-manchester-asks-homeless-](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/after-fire-manchester-asks-homeless-)

[camped-under-amoskeag-bridge-to-leave-camp-go-into-shelter/article\\_9dbbeb2f-bda3-5ad7-93ee-88fcca0e382f.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/developer-withdraws-rooming-house-plan-on-pearl-street-in-manchester/article_9dbbeb2f-bda3-5ad7-93ee-88fcca0e382f.html)

**2-15-2021** Gamache said many building owners in the area wrote letters of support of the proposal. Ward 3 Alderman Pat Long spoke against the plan at Thursday's meeting. He didn't return a telephone call Sunday afternoon seeking comment. Gamache said the withdrawal was a business decision.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/developer-withdraws-rooming-house-plan-on-pearl-street-in-manchester/article\\_01769f46-71e4-5034-bf73-deb4e6e2c47f.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/developer-withdraws-rooming-house-plan-on-pearl-street-in-manchester/article_01769f46-71e4-5034-bf73-deb4e6e2c47f.html)

**3-3-2021** Contoocook-based NFI North plans to provide transitional housing to eight adults with behavioral mental health challenges. Services will include vocational training, meal preparation and budgeting. "It's smack dab in the middle of a residential area with a bunch of kids," he said. "If it was more in a commercial neighborhood, I could understand it." [https://www.unionleader.com/news/social\\_issues/neighbors-oppose-transition-housing-for-women-and-children-in-manchester/article\\_f3beb88c-7a56-56ea-a345-c6e7c8ea79a4.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/neighbors-oppose-transition-housing-for-women-and-children-in-manchester/article_f3beb88c-7a56-56ea-a345-c6e7c8ea79a4.html)

**3-21-2021** Safe Surroundings already exists. They are found across the city in sober houses, where people have made it through short-term treatment and now rely on one another to recover. [https://www.unionleader.com/voices/city\\_matters/city-matters-sober-homes---a-fit-for-manchester-or-not/article\\_9355838a-8b48-5bd1-b93c-fcf362d012bf.html](https://www.unionleader.com/voices/city_matters/city-matters-sober-homes---a-fit-for-manchester-or-not/article_9355838a-8b48-5bd1-b93c-fcf362d012bf.html)

**4-9-2021** "Here we go, right back to the same thing. They're pushing us out," said Calvin Atwood. Atwood had been living at an encampment on the Hillsborough County courthouse lawn until New Hampshire State Police cleared the property in late November. Nicholas Crawford, 27, was also evacuated from the courthouse last November. He said he went into drug treatment and moved into a sober house, then he relapsed. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/homes/homeless-camp-adjacent-to-firestone-to-be-cleared-thursday/article\\_1dea2912-26e6-5864-b14c-85e24b1658c5.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/homes/homeless-camp-adjacent-to-firestone-to-be-cleared-thursday/article_1dea2912-26e6-5864-b14c-85e24b1658c5.html)

**4-10-2021** Throughout the winter, city firefighters, police and workers with local social service agencies visited the camp on a regular basis, bringing food, warm clothes and gear, the homeless said. Nicholas Crawford, 27, was also evacuated from the courthouse last November. He said he went into drug treatment and moved into a sober house, then he relapsed. [https://www.unionleader.com/news/homes/homeless-camp-adjacent-to-firestone-to-be-cleared-thursday/article\\_1dea2912-26e6-5864-b14c-85e24b1658c5.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/homes/homeless-camp-adjacent-to-firestone-to-be-cleared-thursday/article_1dea2912-26e6-5864-b14c-85e24b1658c5.html)

4-15-2021 Homelessness and the mayor's race: Likely candidates weigh in

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/local/homelessness-and-the-mayor-s-race-likely-candidates-weigh-in/article\\_9e77de79-c1b6-5496-b89c-f5dd0458d8f6.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/local/homelessness-and-the-mayor-s-race-likely-candidates-weigh-in/article_9e77de79-c1b6-5496-b89c-f5dd0458d8f6.html)