

BECON  
10/25/21

We had one more morning of negotiating between the horse/cow trailers at the Fairgrounds to get to our breakfast meeting.

### Guests

- Rene brought in work colleague Krystal Kelly who is looking at the Club for possible membership.
- Our speakers were Kody Linton from the Downtown Billings Alliance and Officer Brad Mansur from the Billings Police Department.
- Leif brought in Austin Allery.

### Announcements

- Cavin and Bruce and the group discussed our recent hard time in finding workers for our events. Cavin mentioned that he was forced to schedule multiple people to work back to back, or even back to back to back for the NILE events. Several members echoed their frustrations with this indicating that it's hard to believe that with the number of members the Club has, that we are having a hard time finding 10 to 15 people to work events. It was noted that the 47 shifts for the NILE rodeos were staffed by 35 people. Cavin indicated that he would create a list that shows the number of times members have worked to date so everyone knows where they stand in this respect.

### Speakers

We had Kody Linton from the Downtown Billings Alliance and Brad Mansur from the BPD come speak to us again – they spoke to us last year.

They were there to advocate for the 2021 Public Safety Levy (although Officer Mansur is not allowed to publically endorse that) that, if passed, would provide resources for hiring new officers, medical response and mental health and substance personal; legal, court and code enforcement people and people for the local judicial branch – attorneys, judges, paralegals, etc.

They also discussed the levy with respect to the homeless and transient situation in Billings and included an update from the report they gave us last year, which included mentioning that no homeless or transients person died on the streets last year.

They elaborated on the staggering cost of how much many so few homeless and transients persons cost the City, hospitals and agencies who respond and ultimately are charged with caring for these individuals as was reported in the Gazette earlier this year. The speakers indicated that most of these people have no intention or desire to do anything to help their situation as what is required when someone goes to a “high barrier” facility like the Montana Rescue Mission, and that giving them money when they panhandle only enables them to continue in their ways.

As was mentioned by the speakers last time they presented at the club, they believe having an old fashioned drunk tank – a facility that has no barriers (ie - low barrier facility) for short-term occupancy,

would be extremely helpful in reducing the resources needed to deal with the great majority of homeless and transients, which typically are the same persons over and over again, 75% consisting of Native Americans.

The record was set straight in terms of rumors that other large towns in MT (Missoula, Bozeman, Butte) ship their problem children to Billings because we have the facilities, or more facilities, to deal with them – our speakers said that this is absolutely true. And frankly, I'm not sure these other towns have the best interest of the individuals in mind by shipping them here – they just want them out of their town - and even have privately funded accounts their PDs can draw off of to make that happen. The MT tribes also do nothing to help their own homeless and transient members who hand out in Billings as they don't want these people back either.

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Thanks to all the members that have worked the recent events. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

THANKS!