

The Ourplace



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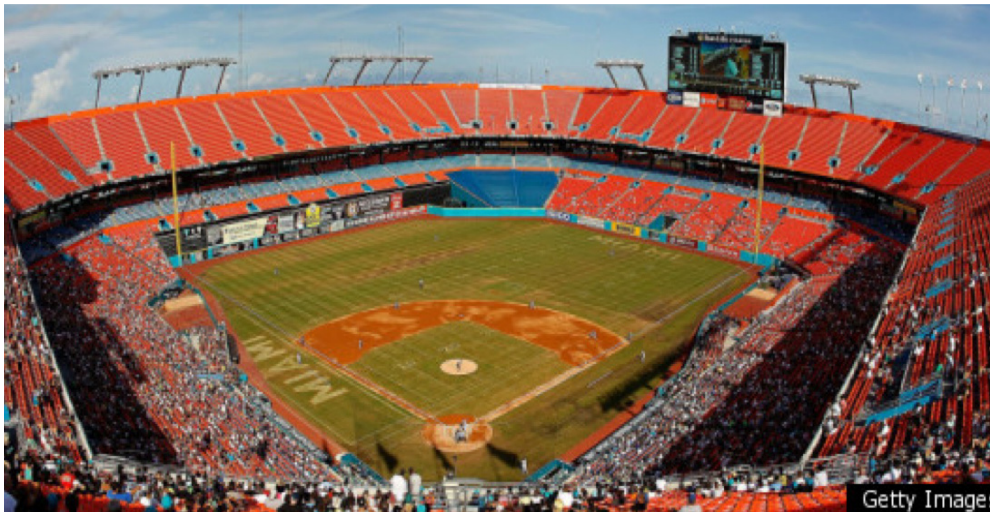
Bruce E. More - Editor

Our Place Society

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Volunteer

Put the Homeless in Stadiums?



As the presidential campaign rolls into Florida, Republicans may face the issue of homelessness on an unexpected front: ballparks.

A bill to force taxpayer-funded sports stadiums to double as homeless shelters is making its way through the Florida legislature this week. The bill, introduced by Republican state Sen. Michael Bennett of Florida, seeks the enforcement of a dormant 1988 law that said sports teams that accept public dollars to build their venues must shelter indigent people on off nights.

If teams can't prove that they're already complying with the law, Bennett wants them to repay the more than \$300 million that Floridians have forked over for facilities such as the Miami Dolphins' Sun Life Stadium and the Miami Marlins' new baseball stadium. The proposal aims going forward to make teams accountable for following the original law and providing care for homeless individuals.

The idea of sheltering homeless individuals where exorbitantly paid athletes such as the Miami Heat's LeBron James and the Marlins' newly acquired Jose Reyes play at least draws attention to the problem, say homeless advocates.

The coalition had written about the forgotten law before it re-emerged in the public eye. The letter noted that the stadiums would have to comply with the same safety standards as any other shelter. It also emphasized Florida's desperation, given its estimated 86,000 homeless and 9,000 available beds.

A homeless advocate in Miami echoed Donovan's sentiments. "It's a great idea, as long as there are wraparound services that are provided to address the needs of any homeless population, such as screening, mental health treatment and job training," said Ed McGowan, the CEO of Concept House in Miami.

But the taxpayers' burden could add up to victory for society's most ignored population. Said McGowan: "I think just our economic times over the last two or three years has made everyone look at homelessness."

The Huffington Post

Letter from our new Volunteer Coordinator

Hello Everyone,

My name is Rodrigo and I am the new volunteer coordinator at Our Place. In the past couple of days I had the chance of meeting (and working with) some of you in person, but we thought it would be a good idea to send an email introducing myself formally to everyone.



I'm originally from Mexico and I have lived in Canada for the last eight years. I have worked in the past as outreach worker assisting those in most need. Also, I have some experience working with volunteers in a variety of organizations ranging from social services to politics. Finally, I would like to say that I feel really lucky to have the opportunity of growing professionally with such a great organization as Our Place and also very privileged for having the opportunity of working with such an amazing group of volunteers.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time. My phone is (250) 388-7112 ext. 243 and my email address is rodrigok@ourplacesociety.com I look forward to meeting you all,

Rodrigo

Volunteer Absences

A friendly reminder that we appreciate knowing when you are going to be away, particularly for an extended period of time. And if you haven't already let us know, please take a moment to do so. Much appreciated!

Contact Rodrigo at:

(250) 388-7112, ext. 243

rodrigok@ourplacesociety.com

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, represents, in the final analysis, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, who are cold and are not clothed.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Ourplace: Hope and Belonging