Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, the Columbia, South Carolina, city council approved a plan to effectively evict the city’s homeless population from the downtown area. This action is an example of a national trend, documented in our report Criminalizing Crisis, in which cities criminalize the public presence of visibly poor people. In the New York Times coverage of the Columbia action, NLCHP Executive Director Maria Foscarinis calls the city’s plan extreme and highly disturbing. Read the Times story here.

Maria was interviewed on the Columbia plan by MSNBC on Tues, August 27, at 2.30 PM ET. You can watch the segment here.

As part of our national work to counter the criminalization of homelessness and poverty and to promote constructive solutions to homelessness, we are working in partnership with local groups in Columbia, SC, to fight that city’s disturbing new initiative. We’re heartened that the City’s police chief has expressed opposition to the plan. Please join us by supporting our work.

The Law Center is the only national legal advocacy organization dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness in America. It fights in the halls of power for laws and policies that protect homeless people’s rights and help them rise out of poverty.

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