

# Homeless Underground challenge to Mayor Megan Barry

*The Tennessean, by Howard Allen, July 4, 2017, 5:00 a.m.*

The Fourth of July is a day of celebration for this great country, but I want to focus on the "it" city.

I want to let it be known that Nashville is a very beautiful place to call home. However, it is very sad that the leaders of this country and this city value land more than people, especially its homeless population.

People think that homelessness occurs because of mistakes we have made, while in reality homelessness often occurs because we lose a job, can't afford rising costs of rent, or are sick.

I stay in a tent on a piece of land because some people don't want people like me in their backyard – because we are considered "homeless."

Our mayor wants a change by urging neighbors to say: "Yes, in my backyard." I embrace this idea as I am an advocate for social justice and for issues surrounding homelessness and poverty.

After all, we are known as the Volunteer State and living in the capital city, we should set the example.

As someone born and raised in Nashville, a solution for the homelessness epidemic must occur for our city to become truly great.

Sometimes people need to see something different before a change is made, which is why I have three challenges for our mayor:

- 1) Move to James A. Cayce Homes with your husband and your security team for one month. While at Cayce Homes you should live on the income that most residents there live on, meet people that cannot come to your office, and get some good recipes while you're at it.
- 2) Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. there is an outreach dinner at War Memorial, and now we have a "Shower Up" truck that comes as well. I challenge the mayor to come one Monday night to take a shower.
- 3) Instead of naming a day after another celebrity, let's name a day "Happy Speaking Day." This would be a day that everyone speaks to each other, no matter who you are.

On this 4th of July, it is important for us to remember what President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

We all need to come together. My spiritual mentor, Father Charles Strobel, once said: "We were all born naked and dependent on a woman."

My objective is to have a revolution of radical love in Nashville – this would turn this "it" city into a great city. For those that who and empathize with what I have written, thank you.

*Howard Allen Jr. is co-founder of Nashville Homeless Underground.*

**Subject:** Spamalot schedule July 5-12

**From:** Joey Mahoney (joeymahoney1217@yahoo.com)

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**Date:** Tuesday, July 4, 2017 10:13 PM

Hi everyone and WELCOME!!!

Here's a short schedule of what's happening for the next few days. It's important that you check your email for updates of weekly schedules so that we can prepare for a great show!

Wednesday, July 5th  
6:30 read-through for everyone

Sunday July 9th  
6:30 begin rehearsal for Finale (everyone)  
Always Look On the Bright Side / John, Greg, Ulysses, Joseph, Nick, Jarrod, Darin, Nicholas, Rick (Matt is gone tonight)  
Monks / Greg, Jarrod, Nicholas

Monday July 10th  
6:30 Fish Slap Song / Jarrod (Mayor solo), Brent, Renee, Lisa, Nicholas, Jennifer, Ruby, Nick, Darin  
7:30 I Am Not Dead Yet and Not Dead Playoff / Casson, John, Brent, Nick, Darin, Rick, Joseph, Jarrod

Tuesday July 11th  
6:30 Brave Sir Robin and Where Are You? / Casson  
7:30 Whatever Happened to My Part? / Christi

Wednesday July 12th  
6:30 POTLUCK SUPPER FOR CAST!! Please come at 6:30 so we can share good food and mingle a bit. Bring whatever you'd like! Marc will sell us refreshments and I'll supply plates and forks. CTC potluck suppers are world renowned! It's important that you all come because our fantastic costume crew will be there to measure you for your totally FAB costumes.

Bring a pencil. Scripts and music will be there for you!

I'm so happy that you've all accepted your roles. This will be a blast (hard work but a blast!)

Joey