

COVID-19 and the other intractable problem

by Phillip W. Weiss

While government directs its attention to the COVID-19 crisis, another crisis continues unabated. It is a crisis that to date has defied solution yet demands a resolution. It is possibly the most intractable social problem confronting us in our time. That problem is homelessness.

The homeless are ubiquitous. No one can fail to notice them. They are on public sidewalks, and in train stations, public conveyances, and parks. Nobody knows what to do with them. Various solutions have been proposed and tried; all have failed. Yet, we cannot afford to ignore them, especially during a public health crisis. Their presence on the street makes a mockery of current efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus, and places the health and safety of all of us, including the homeless street people, at risk.

By now it is obvious that New York City lacks the resources needed to decisively solve the homeless street population problem. That leaves us with a choice: either do nothing and let the homeless remain on the street, with all the challenges that poses, or, as with the COVID-19 virus, take whatever measures necessary to resolve the problem, regardless of the expense.

This is a urgent matter. We can no longer afford the luxury of letting this problem continue. It is unfair to expect the public to comply with COVID-19 containment regulations while permitting people to remain on the street. Below are pics of homeless street people. All pics were taken in or near midtown Manhattan in 2020.

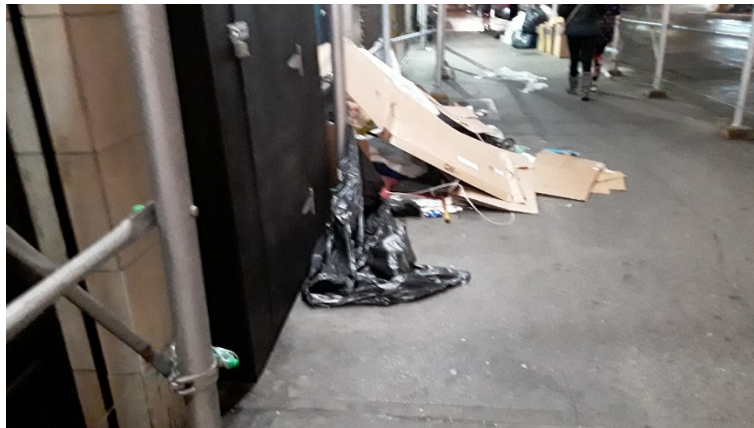




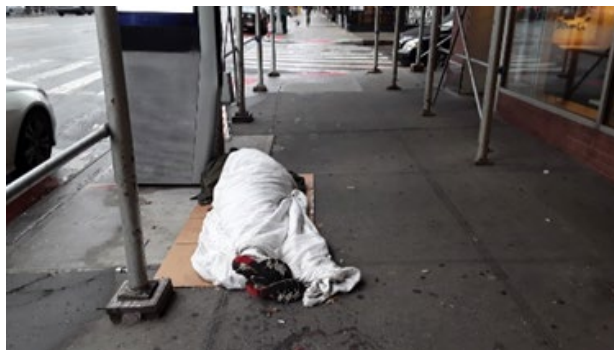
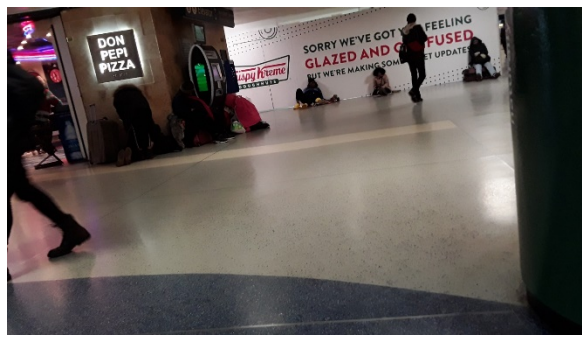




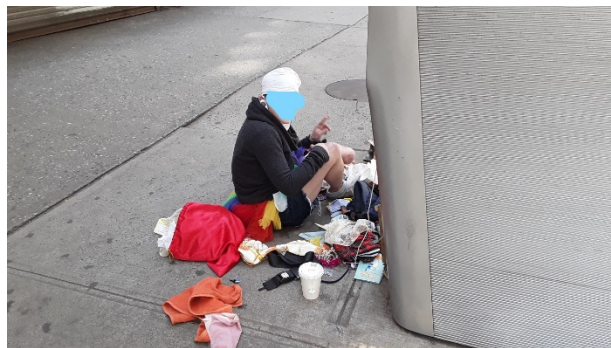




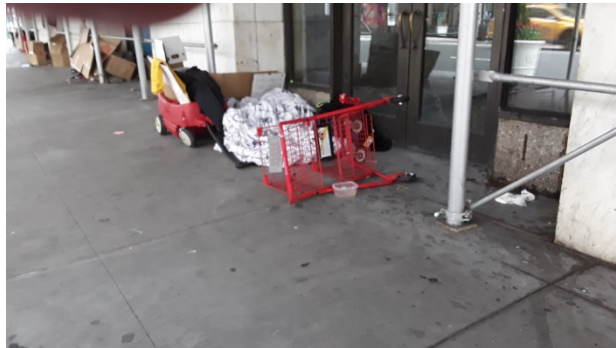


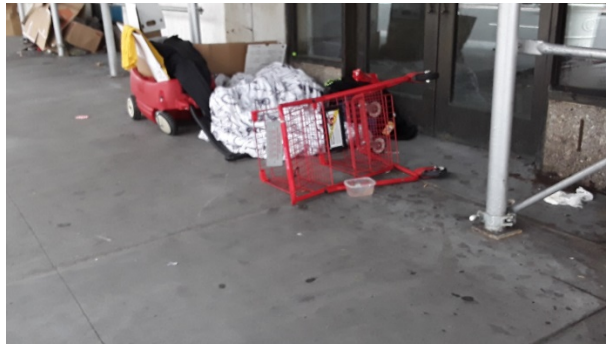


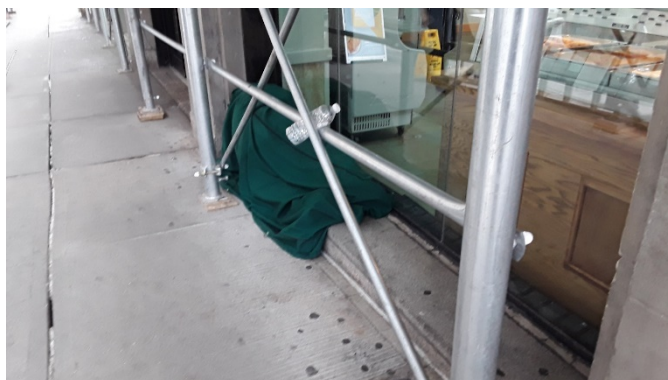




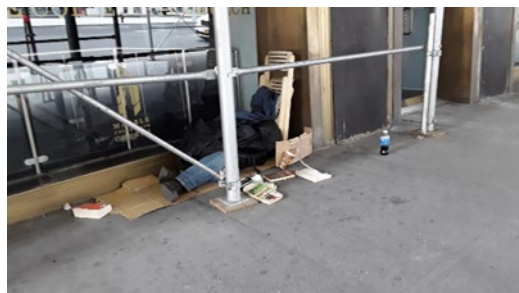














All pics photographed by Phillip W. Weiss

