

July 11th, 2025



Rev. Bill Roscoe, President/CEO of Boise Rescue Mission Ministries, Response to Statesman Article

Boise, ID – (July 11th, 2025) I find this story to have a contradiction. On the one hand, the Sanctuary will screen Guests, and select the people they think will cooperate with their policies, policies that promise peace and safety in the neighborhood. But Boise City Councilman Colin Nash says, “Interfaith is our only low-barrier shelter in the city. If we do not have a low-barrier shelter in this city, we are going to have serious problems.” The article further states, “Interfaith is considered a low-barrier shelter, meaning it has few qualifications. As long as guests do not steal, act violently or damage property, they can stay at Interfaith. The Rescue Mission is considered a high-barrier shelter. As Boise Rescue Mission Ministries President Bill Roscoe told the Idaho Statesman in 2022, there are more rules at his shelters, including ‘no drugs (or) alcohol, no foul language, no threats.’ Guests must remain drug-free and sober during their stays, or they may be told to leave. Guests also must follow habits laid out by the shelter, such as eating meals with the organization, changing clothes at night and turning the lights out at a certain time.”

It sounds to me like the "Barriers" attributed to the Rescue Mission are implied by the Sanctuary to be implemented but refuted by Councilman Nash. The Rescue Mission has 67 years of history serving homeless people. We have few police calls, few complaints from neighbors, and hundreds of "success stories." The only barrier anyone faces to staying with us at the Rescue Mission is to behave like a Guest, not an owner. I wish the Sanctuary well. But Councilman Nash should visit us and understand our policies from us, not a newspaper article.

Sincerely,



Rev. Bill Roscoe,
President/CEO
Boise Rescue Mission Ministries