

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Derek Danchak - [REDACTED] - Proposed Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter - Pacific Avenue - CK 4250-20
Attachments: Proposed Temporary Emergency Residual Shelter.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 5:35 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Derek Danchak - [REDACTED] - Proposed Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter - Pacific Avenue - CK 4250-20

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 - 17:33

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Derek

Last Name: Danchak

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] 24th St E

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Proposed Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Proposed Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter

Comments:

Please see attached and confirm receipt of same

Attachments:

- [Proposed Temporary Emergency Residual Shelter.docx](#)16.7 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

To the esteemed members of the City Council of Saskatoon, a city I was born in, raised and have lived my entire life in, I am writing to you about the notice I received concerning the recently announced proposed temporary emergency residential shelter at 210 Pacific Ave.

I understand that at this point it is just a proposal and as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] directly adjacent to this proposed location, I would like to provide a perspective of someone in the local community and also ask some questions about the decision to build this emergency residential shelter at this location.

The first concern I have is that of safety. If the past is to predict the future, it is safe to say that many of those who will be accessing this shelter will have addiction and/or serious mental health issues. As someone who lives directly across from the proposed location, I have concerns about the safety of the local community in placing this shelter here. I, and others in the community frequently work late hours and would like to feel safe entering and exiting our building at any hour and several of my neighbours who have pets have expressed concerns about walking their dogs later in the evening to 'do their business' before they retire for the night. Are you aware there is a private school and dance studio directly across from this proposed location and the businesses on the main floor of the the Rumley building (directly beside your proposed location have mostly children as their clientele. Can you please reassure me how you intend to protect the local community in the face of introducing this monumental change here.

Please be very sure this letter is not a slight against anyone who does suffer from addictions/mental health issues, however, as you well know, the problems these individuals face can result in very unpredictable actions and reactions and I am curious as to what measures you are intending to put in place to protect our community- the current residents, the children who attend local schools and the local businesses. No one in the current community should have to feel intimidated, scared or imprisoned in their own areas because of this unpredictability.

I have nothing but the utmost empathy for the homeless, however as a property owner and taxpayer, as a home/ business owner, I have concerns. If property is damaged, who is responsible? In the past when these shelters have been set up, the local community has experienced unconscionable issues such as dirty needles, debris and damaged property left in their wake with marked increase in vandalism in the area. Who exactly is going to manage that?

Also, as taxpayer, I have a concern as to where my tax dollars are being spent. I am curious as to why are we spending a large amount of money on a temporary shelter when that money could be spent building something appropriate, helpful and long term for these individuals. I believe funding of this magnitude should not be used just because the building is convenient because it is vacant.

These people need and deserve our help. In order to obtain that help they do need positive reinforcement from the public and I strongly believe that placing the shelter in such a populated area is going to create a negative public opinion (due to the issues I have listed above). If the community feels unsafe, those feelings can and likely will lead to a stigmatization of the homeless and their needs.

This would ultimately hurt the care that these people deserve to have. To that end I am very curious as to what experts in the field of mental health or psychology have approved your choice of location.

These are my concerns as a local resident, and to be honest after watching how Cynthia Block recently evaded many of these questions on the news and has not returned multiple phone calls left by individuals in the community, I feel it is your duty and our right to give us the answers asked above. We have the right to feel safe in our homes and workplaces. We have no problem involving the media in all its facets to ensure our concerns are no longer ignored or dismissed. We deserve and expect answers.

After polling many local residents the following suggestions have been made should you decide to move forward with this proposal - all of which sound fair and reasonable to me to protect the community and all who live here:

- 1- A guarantee that fencing be constructed to limit access to the back lane
- 2- 24 hour perimeter security personnel and exterior continuously monitored security cameras
- 3- A guarantee of daily exterior cleanup by the clients of the shelter
- 4- Being a city owned building there should be no smoking on the property according to the bylaw
- 5- Public intoxication or consumption of drugs or alcohol will result in immediate arrest
- 6- There must be adherence to the city noise ordinance
- 7- There must be no public solicitation

- 8- Given the number of children in the area and the high percentage of those that are occupying the shelter do have addiction/ mental health issues, a special police constable should be onsite 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- 9- Any and all tents should be removed immediately

Thank you very much for hearing my petition and I look forward to your speedy response.

Sincerely,

Derek Danchak