

**Janzen, Heather**

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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Tamara Bowman - Metric Design - Submitting Employee Letters - Proposed Emergency Shelter - CK 4350-20  
**Attachments:** Letter from Tamara Bowman.docx; Letter from Trisha Hopkins.docx

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 12:20 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Tamara Bowman - Metric Design - Submitting Employee Letters - Proposed Emergency Shelter - CK 4350-20

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

Submitted on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 - 12:13

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 18, 2024

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Tamara

**Last Name:** Bowman

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** [REDACTED]

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Wall Street

**Ward:** Ward 6

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** Metric Design

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**Comments:**

Here are two more letters from my employees at Metric Design.

Thank you

**Attachments:**

- [Letter from Tamara Bowman.docx](#)14.92 KB
- [Letter from Trisha Hopkins.docx](#)13.81 KB

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

Dear City Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express a series of concerns regarding the proposed shelter on Pacific Avenue, which is situated very close to my downtown business. While I understand the vital importance of providing services to vulnerable populations, I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts this shelter could have on my business, my staff, and the overall safety and viability of downtown Saskatoon. Over the years, my business has faced numerous safety challenges. These include multiple break-ins and attempts, theft, vandalism, and frequent encounters with individuals trying to push their way in to the building, using drugs on our premises, finding used needles, and people hiding in our carport. My employees have also experienced unsettling interactions, such as being approached in unsafe ways in the parking lots nearby, so they are already scared to be downtown at times. While proximity to the police station might suggest increased security, I've found that law enforcement has limited capacity to respond promptly, which has not deterred criminal activity in the area. The proposed shelter raises concerns about the potential for increased incidents of loitering and drug use, especially in the empty parking lots near my business, where my employees park and that are right near the proposed shelter. These spaces are likely to become hotspots for loitering, which can create a sense of insecurity for both my staff and customers. The presence of such activity could deter foot traffic and discourage customers from visiting our business, as well as deter employees from wanting to work here, which would significantly impact our ability to operate. My fear is that, rather than helping to revitalize downtown, this decision will exacerbate the already growing challenges we face.

I recognize the need for shelters and social services in our city, but I believe there must be careful consideration of the shelter's location. Placing it in such close proximity to local businesses could have a detrimental effect not only on our operations but on the broader downtown community. The safety of my staff and my property is a top priority, and I worry that situating the shelter here will increase risks for employees, customers, and vandalism. I also believe that the fact that there are not many residents around in the evenings, will lead to more break-ins.

Moreover, as Saskatoon works to revitalize its downtown core and encourage economic growth especially in the entertainment district, I believe this location may hinder those efforts. We've worked hard to create a new vision, a welcoming environment, and a shelter in this location could detract from that goal, discouraging businesses and individuals from contributing to downtown's vibrancy.

I respectfully ask that the city reconsider this location and explore alternative areas where a shelter could be more beneficial to the community without negatively impacting downtown businesses. I believe that there are locations better suited to meet the needs of both the city's vulnerable populations and its business community.

Additionally, I encourage open dialogue between city officials, business owners, and the community to discuss these concerns in greater depth. It is critical that we find a solution that supports both the individuals who rely on shelters and those who work hard to sustain downtown Saskatoon's growth and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important issues. I look forward to further discussions on this matter and hope we can collaborate to find a solution that benefits all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Tamara Bowman  
Metric Design  
213 Wall St.

Dear City Council,

As an employee of Metric Design, I want to share my concerns about how the proposed shelter on Pacific Avenue could affect not just our safety but also the safety of our customers. We work closely with the public, and in recent years, we've seen an increase in concerning incidents such as theft, loitering, and individuals using drugs nearby. These issues have not only made it challenging for us to feel safe at work, but they have also impacted how customers view our business and the downtown area as a whole. The potential for increased crime and disturbances with the addition of a nearby shelter raises concerns about the future of our business. Customers may feel hesitant to visit if they perceive the area as unsafe, which could have long-term effects on our company's reputation and financial viability. We want our business to be a place where customers feel welcome and secure, and we are worried that this shelter will hinder that experience. I respectfully ask that the city consider alternative shelter locations that do not directly impact downtown businesses and their patrons, ensuring a safer and more inviting environment for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Trisha Hopkins

Employee of Metric Design