

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Jason Aebig - Proposed Temporary Shelter - CK 4350-20
Attachments: Proposed Temporary Shelter - Letter to City Council- FINAL copy_JA.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 2:59 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Jason Aebig - Proposed Temporary Shelter - CK 4350-20

--- Replies to this email will go to margot@saskatoonchamber.com ---

Submitted on Friday, September 20, 2024 - 14:58

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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: Friday, September 20, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Aebig

Phone Number : [3066640701](tel:3066640701)

Email: margot@saskatoonchamber.com

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: 536 2nd Ave N

Ward: Ward 1

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: September 25th - City Council Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 10.3.2

Comments:

Good afternoon,

Please find the attached letter from the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed Pacific Avenue temporary shelter.

Attachments:

- [Proposed Temporary Shelter - Letter to City Council- FINAL copy JA.pdf](#) 215.86 KB

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

September 20, 2024

Saskatoon City Council
City Hall
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Proposed Pacific Avenue Shelter – Managing the Impact

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

As you consider extending a lease to the province to establish a shelter at 210 Pacific Avenue, we urge you to push for measures that will address the needs of all stakeholders, including those living, working or operating a business in the vicinity.

When shelters are located in densely occupied areas, and buildings are ill-equipped to deliver their services, the result can be devastating for all involved, particularly those who need shelter and related services. There are no easy solutions to this challenge. There are, however, opportunities to mitigate the negative impact of facilities on area businesses and residents while safeguarding the dignity and safety of those who require them.

We appreciate your careful consideration in selecting the site for this temporary shelter and for taking action on several of our previous shelter-related recommendations. Your decision to provide a secure outdoor gathering space, along with limiting the shelter's maximum occupancy to 30-40 individuals, creates a more manageable and supportive environment for those in need while also minimizing the impact on surrounding businesses.

As the Landlord, and local authority responsible for bylaw enforcement, community safety and protective services, we urge you to consider these additional recommendations:

1. Shorten the permit period

Revise the current development permit for emergency residential shelters to a period of 9 months, rather than the proposed 18 months. This timeframe would (1) address immediate shelter needs through winter and spring; (2) prompt a timely review of the shelter's operations and its community impact; and (3) provide enough lead time to identify and develop a suitable permanent location before winter 2025. As part of the change, clarify how input from area stakeholders would be gathered and considered as part of any renewal application, if required.

2. Enlist private security

With the opening of this facility, there will be increases in incidences of vandalism, property damage and incivilities in the area. Given that police resources are stretched, we urge the City to compel the province and operator to establish a strong and visible security presence in the vicinity of the shelter. The City of Calgary's pilot project in its East Village employs private security guards to patrol the area and serve as a deterrents of crime. In addition, a "Safety Hub" is centrally located in the neighbourhood. This space serves as an outpost for city police officers, private security and community support workers to utilize while patrolling the area. By engaging private security, our police officers can focus their efforts elsewhere to keep our city safe.

3. Enforce the rules

Beyond “Good Neighbour Agreements,” develop and actively enforce existing bylaws to ensure the operator maintains the outside of the building, including sidewalks and public rights-of-way, so they are free from tripping hazards, bio-waste, needles and garbage.

4. Mandate community involvement

Any lease agreement should mandate the creation of a Community Advisory Board, established and supported by the operator, to ensure area stakeholders are involved in addressing the impacts of the shelter’s operation. This Board should be comprised of area residents, representatives from the Downtown Business Improvement District, representatives from Saskatoon fire and police services, City Council, and the Province. We believe that convening all relevant stakeholders, on an ongoing basis, would foster better communication, joint problem-solving, and operator responsiveness to the community.

5. Rebate property owners

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the City to develop a rebate program to compensate property owners within 250 meters of the shelter to offset the costs of vandalism, property damage and crime prevention. A property tax rebate to commercial owners, for instance, would assist with the direct and indirect costs of keeping our downtown clean, safe, accessible and open for business. A similar program has recently been launched in BC to support small businesses in recovering expenses due to property damage, crime and vandalism, and to recoup expenses related to crime prevention. Closer to home, Regina City Council recently passed a motion directing its administration to consult with stakeholders and businesses within 250 meters of their shelters to develop a “neighbourhood maintenance compensation program.” This program would support businesses affected by shelter operations and determine eligibility for compensation for expenses incurred.

We value your continuing effort to address homelessness in Saskatoon. We believe that by working together – and addressing the concerns and vulnerabilities of people both inside and outside shelters – we can support the safety and vibrancy of Saskatoon’s neighbourhoods and main commercial districts.

Sincerely,



Jason Aebig, CEO
Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Everett Hindley, Minister of Health
Hon. Paul Merriman, Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Hon. Gene Makowski, Minister of Social Services
Hon. Tim McLeod, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health
Chief Doug Wegren, Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services
Chief Cameron McBride, Saskatoon Police Service
Blair Chapman, Board Chair, Downtown Saskatoon
Tara Faris, Director, Downtown Saskatoon