

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Kevin Giles - Provincial Approach to Homelessness - Timeframe for Emergency Residential Shelter – 210 Pacific Avenue - CK 4350-20 x 750-6

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 9:36 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Kevin Giles - Provincial Approach to Homelessness - Timeframe for Emergency Residential Shelter – 210 Pacific Avenue - CK 4350-20 x 750-6

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

Submitted on Monday, September 23, 2024 - 08:37

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: Monday, September 23, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Kevin

Last Name: Giles

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] 23rd St East [REDACTED]

Ward: Ward 6

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: September 25,2024 City Council Regular Business Meeting

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

Comments:

My primary concern with a homeless shelter down the street from me is not the shelter itself per se. People living on the street need safe refuge for the night and food when they are hungry regardless of the reasons of how they ended up in such a situation to begin with. I am concerned more about how the City will manage the "street scene" outside of the shelter. I am originally from Vancouver and I visit Vancouver frequently. The Downtown Eastside which has the highest concentration of homeless shelters in the city also has a massive community of people camped on the streets amidst piles of garbage and filth all around them. I just went through this area again a week ago while visiting Vancouver. I saw this same situation when I rented an apartment in downtown Victoria a few years ago. Call me selfish and trite, but I prefer not to see such a situation everytime I walk out of my door. And I believe if the City manages this homeless shelter properly, then we won't have to experience this kind of scene outside of our homes. The best approach is for a city to find a way to manage the homeless situation so that this situation doesn't occur in the first place rather than try to "fix" it after the fact. This is what I would ask the City of Saskatoon to consider and to come up with ways to prevent it from getting out of hand. I believe that the shelter in our neighbourhood is going to happen and I am not at all considering standing in the way of it happening. I just want to see it managed properly.

The City has designated this area of downtown to become the new "entertainment district" but I assure you if the streets became a homeless encampment, people will think twice about coming to our area to support the new and existing businesses that will make up this new entertainment district. Let alone the negative effect on resident/businesses property values if such a situation was to entrench itself outside our doors.

I live in the downtown core and so I expect to come across homeless people in my neighbourhood. And I do, daily. I have never felt threatened by them and I often acknowledge them and them me. There is a basic level of respect for each other. Having said that, other residents at the [REDACTED] Lofts may have had a different experience than I have had regarding the homeless in our neighbourhood. I have no problem with encountering homeless people in the streets as the situation exists now. The City needs to assure us area residents/businesses that the shelter will be managed properly so as to protect our neighbourhood from becoming a permanent homeless encampment with tents and garbage strewn about the streets as I have experienced in other Canadian (and American) cities.....Kevin Giles, September 23, 2024

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