

Janzen, Heather

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

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:44 AM
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 - 11:38

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:

Please see the attached letters from myself and my staff at Metric Design about our concerns with this upcoming emergency shelter.

Attachments:

- [Letter from Amber Blue.docx](#)14.05 KB
- [Letter from Karen Palibroda.docx](#)14.21 KB

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

Dear City Council,

As an employee of Metric Design, I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed shelter location on Pacific Avenue, which is in close proximity to our workplace. Many of us at Metric Design, a company primarily comprised of female employees, have personally experienced several unsettling incidents in the downtown area that have left us feeling unsafe. These incidents often occur while commuting to and from work, and have ranged from verbal harassment to uncomfortable or threatening interactions with individuals. Being a petite female, I have felt particularly vulnerable in these situations, which has caused significant anxiety and helplessness. On occasions when only one of us is in the office, these feelings are even more pronounced.

While I understand the importance of providing shelter for those in need, I am concerned that placing a shelter so close to our workplace may lead to an increase in these types of encounters, which could further compromise our sense of safety and security. Additionally, there is a growing concern that the shelter's proximity might worsen existing issues, such as loitering and unsafe behavior in the nearby parking lots, potentially escalating safety risks for myself, my colleagues, and other businesses in the area.

A safe and secure downtown environment is essential for those who live, work, and visit the area, and I hope the city will take our concerns seriously when considering the placement of this shelter. Employee safety must be a priority, and I urge the council to explore alternative locations that would better serve the community without negatively impacting local businesses and workers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Amber Blue
Employee at Metric Design

Dear City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the staff at Metric Design, to share some concerns about the proposed shelter on Pacific Avenue. As employees, we take pride in our work and enjoy being part of the downtown community. However, the recent increase in crime and safety concerns has hurt our work environment. Incidents of theft, vandalism, and aggressive behaviour from individuals in distress have already made it challenging for us to focus on our work and feel safe. We are worried that situating a shelter nearby could lead to an increase in these incidents, further affecting the atmosphere of the workplace.

A safe and positive work environment is essential for maintaining productivity, job satisfaction, and the overall well-being of employees. Our ability to feel secure while working directly influences our performance and the customer service we provide. The presence of the shelter could create an unpredictable environment, making it more difficult to concentrate on work, and possibly leading to higher stress levels for staff. We hope that the city will weigh these factors carefully and consider alternative locations that won't exacerbate the current challenges we face in our work environment.

I am deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of the children and young adults at the dance studio across from the proposed shelter. Given the already tricky parking situation in the area, I worry about children waiting for their parents and young adults walking to their cars alone at night, especially in a neighbourhood that becomes quiet and isolated after business hours. While I understand the importance of providing temporary solutions for individuals in need, I believe this location is not suitable and could create more safety issues. Furthermore, I feel there is a deeper, underlying issue that needs to be addressed to truly help those who would utilize the shelter and placing it here would be a short-term fix that could lead to further complications for both the community and the individuals seeking assistance. I urge consideration of alternative locations that better balance the needs of everyone involved.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Karen Palibroda

Employee at Metric Design