

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Brian Beuker - Proposed Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter - CK 4350-20

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 1:23 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Brian Beuker - Proposed Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter - CK 4350-20

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

Submitted on Thursday, September 19, 2024 - 13:23

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: Thursday, September 19, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Beuker

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: BRI-an BI-ker

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: Yes

Address: [REDACTED]

Neighbourhood: [Downtown Core](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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

Comments:

RE: proposed temporary emergency residential shelter

I recommend to NOT go ahead with this temporary shelter at 210 Pacific Avenue.

The whole process did not involve input from stakeholders

- I'm extremely disappointed in the fact that the city made a decision to place a homeless shelter right next to where I and many others have made significant investments in properties, in homes and lifestyles, in downtown revitalization, in businesses and careers that serve Saskatoon and our province and that have clientele that include thousands of our most vulnerable children and elders among others, and the list goes on. The City of Saskatoon did not even consult with stakeholders and those that would be affected by this hasty decision about to be made, which, if passed, would mean two of these types of shelters downtown. We all know how the first one is working out. This will decimate the downtown and everything that has taken decades to establish. This is irresponsible! After attending the two informational meetings on Sept 16 at city hall, it became clear to me, that as far as the city manager was concerned, the decision was already made and was to be presented to council for vote on Sept 25. We, as stakeholders, residents, investors, business owners and their clientele, etc, all found out only one week ago via media, and eventually by a mailed letter. Unacceptable!

Thousands of vulnerable patients and students will be affected

- Again after hearing stakeholders speak on Sept 16, it became clear that even though Jeff Jorgensen said he was aware of and familiar with the businesses in the area, he clearly did not have a good, in-depth understanding about the level of services provided and the types of clientele that some of these businesses deal with on a day to day basis. Within the proposed 18 month timeframe, over ten thousand extremely vulnerable children (some with physical or mental disabilities and disorders, some even with their own addictions, most being very fragile individuals), will have to navigate their way to their doctor's offices by passing through and around the homeless scene, which can be scary and even terrifying for most normal grown adults. There will also be thousands of elderly folks, most with their own challenges, who would have to do the same to see the Cardiac specialists next door. There is also a private school across the street that has hundreds of students(children and teenagers) that would also be affected daily. How can this situation be any less significant than a public or separate school, of which a shelter like this has to be at least 250 meters away from? How can the fact that the site meets all the technical specs be more important than protecting our children and our elders? Time to seriously rethink this before it's too late! Councilors, please think this through carefully before you decide.

Downtown revitalization efforts will be reversed

- Over the past many years, there has been significant investment and effort put into trying to revitalize the downtown and revive the warehouse district. Just when things are starting to turn around and there has been significant progress towards this goal, by allowing a shelter here, it will totally reverse this. Because of challenges mentioned above, among many others not mentioned here, businesses will be forced to shut down or move due to clientele not comfortable with being in the area, residents will exit the area, property values will plummet(and taxes likely continue to go up), investors will no longer invest, etc. I know, as we are told repeatedly that this is only a temporary location, but in 18 months after the doors close to the shelter, the damage will have been done, and things don't just bounce back to the way they were before. It may take decades again to recover from the damages that can be created in 18 months. Is it really worth it?

Increase in crime and all that goes along with that

- This is a given and shouldn't need any more explanation, however, I will voice my concerns. A shelter like this becomes a hub, that hub being the property housing it. I have no doubt that Mustard Seed will do a great job of managing it, but the problems all occur outside of that property. Clients have to get to and from the shelter and will wander and loiter within a radius of the shelter on an ongoing basis. This is where problems become most prevalent and challenging for everyone. According to Mustard Seed, there will be no drug or alcohol use permitted on the premises. Since a good percentage of the homeless population tend to be users, this would mean they will have to go off property to get their fix, and herein lies the problem that the residents and businesses and public have to deal with. Homeless people looking for warmth or a place to get their fix, wandering, loitering, break-ins, theft, etc, etc. Crime is already high in this regard in the area, so this is destined to only make it exponentially worse. The panel that spoke on the 16th did not talk about how they would deal with all this, but only focused on the shelter itself.

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